

Hello!

If your native language is German and you are a learner of English and you are between 18 and 40 years old, the Penn State Center for Language Science (PA, USA) invites you to participate in our research!

We're trying to better understand how we learn a foreign or second language in a virtual environment, and we need research volunteers to help us out. Participating in a study involves four remote sessions (online, via Zoom) in the fall of 2021 as detailed below; the entire study will last approximately 3-3.5 hours.

We are looking for:

- Participants whose native language is German and who are foreign language learners of English. You should be learning/have learned English in school (elementary school, high school and/or university) but you should not have grown up hearing or speaking English at home in your childhood.
- *We're especially looking for English learners who are below the C1/C2-level (ideally around B1 or B2).*
- You should currently be living in a German-speaking environment (e.g., Germany, Austria, etc.).
- You should have a computer with reliable internet access and a web-camera. (If you don't have a web-camera and would like to participate, please contact us nonetheless.)
- You are eligible and invited to participate if you have the required language background and are between 18 and 40 years old.

To participate in the study, you'll be asked to participate in 4 sessions (each will be scheduled to be about 1-2 weeks apart):

- One virtual (group) English lesson of approximately 60 minutes (on Zoom, this will be video- and audio-recorded, participants will use code names) with other study participants and a member of our research team. Multiple dates and time options will be provided.
- Three individual interviews (approximately 30 minutes each, except the first one as described below) between you and a member of our research team with the following tasks (in English, *a-c* will be video- and audio-recorded, participants will use code names):
 - a. you will be asked to read a list of words;
 - b. you will be asked to describe pictures;
 - c. you will be asked to speak freely about general, given topics.
- The first interview will last approximately 90 minutes (instead of 30 minutes) as it includes the following additional tasks (in addition to *a-c.* above, all in English):
 - d. a questionnaire about your language background;
 - e. your own ratings of your English proficiency/skills;
 - f. a brief spoken English language test (this part will be audio-recorded).

The study takes place online (remotely, via Zoom) in the summer of 2021 (October-December 2021) and lasts about 3 to 3.5 hours in total for the entire study.

You will receive electronic gift cards (usually Amazon.de) in the value of 8.00 EUR per hour of participation.

You can see a list of possible appointment times and sign up for an appointment online at this link [here](https://calendly.com/tristan-pire/interview-1): <https://calendly.com/tristan-pire/interview-1>.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You are free to decline to participate in this study without any penalty, *and it will not have any effect (adverse or otherwise) on your course grade. Your course instructor will not be informed about who participates in the study or not.*

If you're interested in participating and would like more information, and/or to set up an alternative meeting time that's more convenient for you, please contact us at psu.speechlab@gmail.com.

If you know anyone else who meets the eligibility requirements listed above, we would greatly appreciate it if you could forward this email to them to help us with our recruitment process.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Dr. Katharina Schuhmann