

## [First Screen: General Instruction]

Dear participant,  
thank you very much for your participation in this psychological experiment.  
We guarantee that your data will be treated anonymously and used exclusively for scientific purposes. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact Sarah Placi ([sarah.placi@unitn.it](mailto:sarah.placi@unitn.it)).

In this study, we investigate how people reason intuitively. In particular, we want to find out how people, in the absence of any guidance, reason about causes and effects. It is very important for us that you *read all the instructions thoroughly*.

Again, thank you very much for your help in this research project.

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*This research is conducted under the scientific direction of:  
Dr. Sarah Placi  
Animal Cognition and Neuroscience lab – Center for Mind/Brain Sciences,  
University of Trento, Italy*

### **Before you start, please:**

- **maximize your browser window;**
- **switch off phone/e-mail/music & anything else distracting**
- **and please enter your Prolific ID:**

## [Second Screen: Attention Confirmation]

**For the scientific utility of the results, it is very important that you provide complete and careful responses.**

### **How seriously will you take your participation in the study?**

- I confirm that I will take my participation in this study seriously.
- I confirm that I will not take my participation in this study seriously.

## [Third Screen: Detailed Instructions]

*Please read the following instructions:*

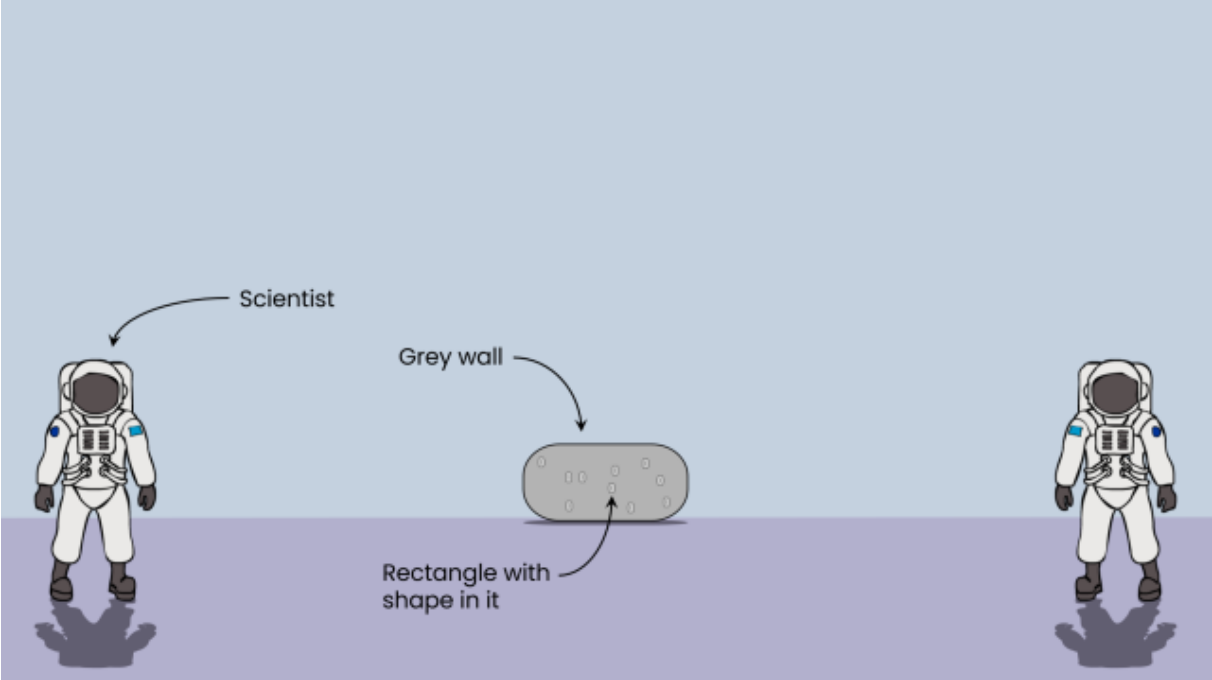
In this experiment, you will be asked to read a fictitious scenario and then make a causal judgment based on the information that will be provided in the description. The scenario you will see was constructed such that you can intuitively understand the relevant aspects. Please assume that everything is exactly as described in the scenario, irrespective of how plausible it sounds to you.

*If you have understood everything accurately and feel prepared to start, click "Continue" to start the experiment.*

### [Fourth Screen: Scenario]

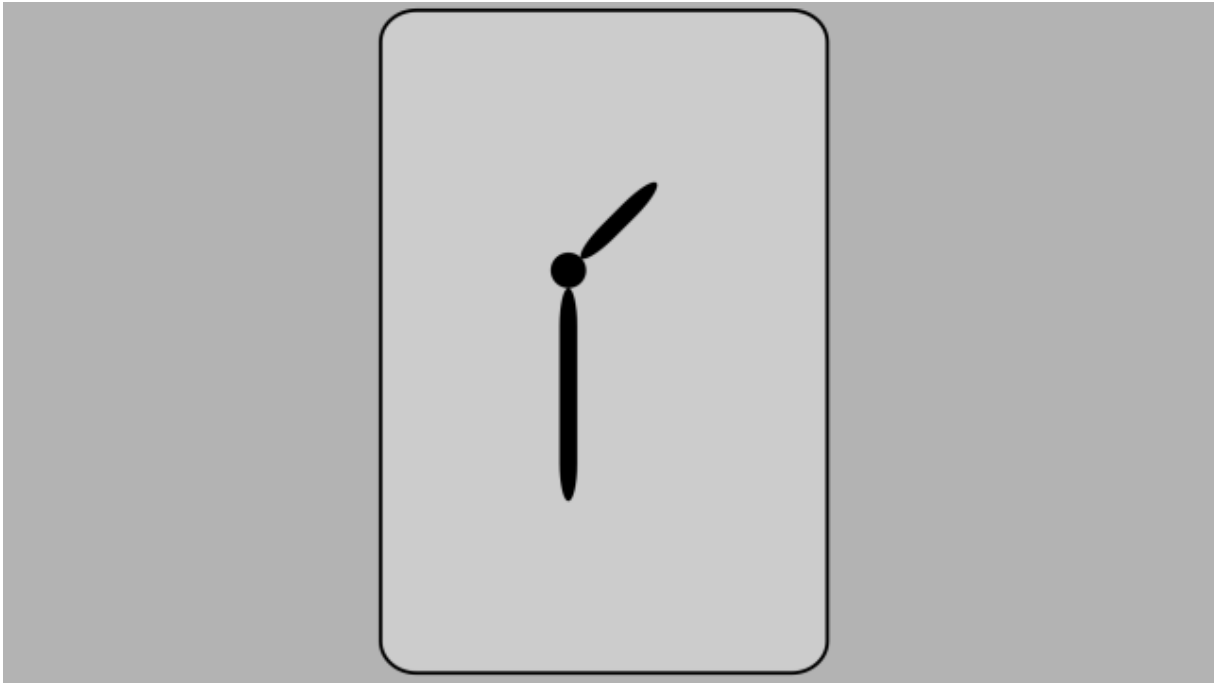
Scientists on an extraterrestrial mission have landed on a foreign planet not so different from planet Earth.

They start exploring their surroundings and soon spot a grey wall with small rectangles on it. In each of the small rectangles, there seems to be a black shape. However, the scientists are too far away to identify the shapes.



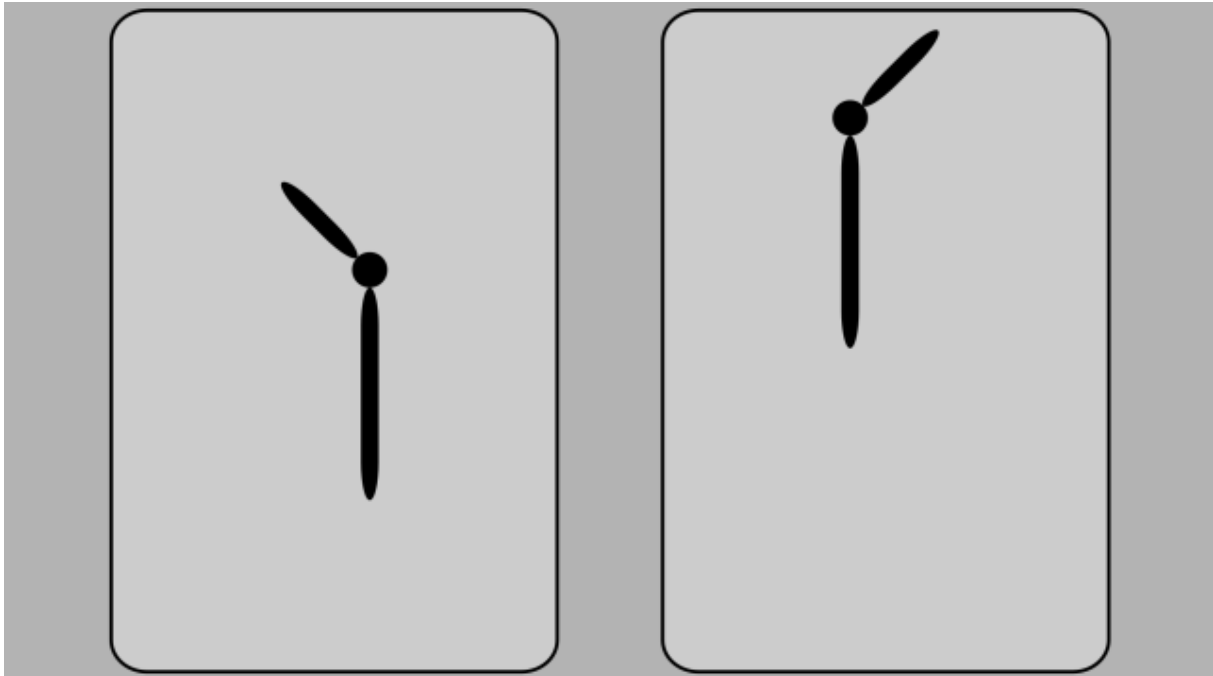
### [Fifth Screen: Initial object]

The scientists approach the wall and inspect the black shape in one of these rectangles (below you can see the photograph they took). As they touch the shape with the tip of their radiation detector, the detector starts buzzing. It tells the scientists that the shape is emitting alpha rays.



**[Sixth Screen: Initial object; example here shows Y-Translation]**

Later on, the scientists inspect the shapes of two other rectangles (below you can see the photograph they took). One of these shapes emits the same intensity of alpha rays as the shape you have seen on the previous screen. The other shape emits a different intensity of alpha rays.



**Which shape do you think is emitting the different intensity of alpha rays?**

- The left shape
- The right shape

## [Seventh Screen: Demographics]

The experiment is now finished.

Before you leave, please answer the following questions:

**How old are you?**

**Please indicate with which gender you identify.**

- male
- female
- other
- prefer not to say

## [Eighth Screen: Debriefing]

Thank you for taking part in this study!

The aim of this experiment is to find out more about how people make causal judgments.

If you are interested in further details or if you have any questions or comments

concerning the experiment, feel free to contact me (Sarah Placi) under

sarah.placi@unitn.it

**To ensure you receive your reward**, please click on the following link to return to the Prolific website: