

11. Intermittent reinforcement - Instructions for the baseline treatment

We thank you for participating in this experiment on decision-making. You will receive a show-up fee of 4 Euros. This session consists of several independent parts. We have distributed the instructions for the first part; you will receive later the instructions for the next parts.

At the end of the session, your earnings from the various parts will be added. You will be paid individually and in cash in a separate room.

Throughout the session, it is strictly forbidden to communicate with the other participants. Your earnings only depend on your own decisions and never on the decisions of other participants.

Part 1

On the attached form, we will present you successively with two urns that contain each ten balls, either yellow or blue.

For each urn, you must make 20 successive choices between drawing a ball from the urn with replacement or earning a certain amount of money. **If you draw a yellow ball from the urn, you earn € 5; if you draw a blue ball from the urn, you earn € 0.** We propose you **20 certain possible amounts, from € 0.25 to € 5.** For each urn, you must make a decision for each of the 20 proposals. Only one of these decisions will matter for determining your earnings in this part, as explained below.

Please indicate on the attached form for each proposed choice and for each urn if you prefer receiving the certain amount or drawing a ball from the urn.

How do we determine your earnings in this part?

At the end of the session, in the payment room, you are requested to flip a coin to determine which urn will be actually used to determine your earnings. If the side has a tail on it, the first urn will be used. If the side has a head on it, the second urn will be used.

Next, for this urn, you will randomly draw a number between 1 and 20 to determine which of your 20 decisions will matter for determining your earnings.

For this decision, if you have ticked "I choose the certain amount", we will add this amount to your other earnings from the experiment. If you have chosen to draw a ball from the urn, you will draw the ball from the selected urn. If you draw a yellow ball, € 5 will be added to your other earnings from the experiment.

If you have any question regarding these instructions, please raise your hand and we will answer your questions in private. Once you have indicated all your responses on the attached form, please raise your hand and the experimenter will bring you the next instructions.

Name of your computer: _____ Date : _____

1) The first urn contains 10 balls: **5 yellow balls and 5 blue balls**. Please indicate for each of the following decisions if you prefer receiving the certain amount or drawing a ball if this urn is selected for payment at the end of the session.

1	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 0.25	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
2	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 0.50	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
3	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 0.75	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
4	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 1	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
5	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 1.25	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
6	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 1.50	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
7	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 1.75	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
8	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 2	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
9	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 2.25	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
10	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 2.50	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
11	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 2.75	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
12	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 3	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
13	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 3.25	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
14	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 3.50	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
15	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 3.75	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
16	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 4	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
17	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 4.25	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
18	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 4.50	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
19	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 4.75	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
20	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 5	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball

2) The second urn contains 10 balls, **both yellow and blue balls, but you do not know the proportion of balls of each color**. Please indicate for each of the following decisions if you prefer receiving the certain amount or drawing a ball if this urn is selected for payment at the end of the session.

1	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 0.25	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
2	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 0.50	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
3	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 0.75	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
4	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 1	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
5	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 1.25	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
6	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 1.50	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
7	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 1.75	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
8	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 2	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
9	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 2.25	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
10	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 2.50	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
11	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 2.75	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
12	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 3	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
13	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 3.25	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
14	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 3.50	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
15	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 3.75	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
16	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 4	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
17	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 4.25	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
18	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 4.50	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
19	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 4.75	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball
20	<input type="radio"/> I choose the certain amount of € 5	<input type="radio"/> I choose to draw a ball

[The following instructions were distributed after the participant had completed the first part]

Please do not touch your computer before having read these instructions carefully.

During this part, earnings are calculated in points, with **5 points = 1 Euro**.

Description of each period

In each period, we propose that you perform a counting task. A paragraph of several lines will be displayed on your screen. This paragraph, randomly generated, consists of French words but is meaningless. The task consists of counting the occurrence of a particular letter in this paragraph. You will be able to count the occurrence of four letters successively during the period.

In each period, you have 2 minutes to perform the task. A counter indicates continuously the remaining time. The paragraph changes in each new period and the letters can also differ.

Determination of the results

Your earnings for this part depend on the number of letters that you have counted correctly. An answer is considered as correct if it corresponds to the actual occurrence of this letter, plus or minus one. If the computer indicates that your answer is not correct, you cannot change it and you proceed to the next letter.

However, all periods are not paid. You do not know how many periods in total are paid and you do not know in advance which periods are actually paid. You are informed only a posteriori at the end of a period whether this period gave rise to payment or not. The fact that a period gives rise to payment or not is independent of your outcome. If the period gives rise to payment, **each correct answer increases your earnings by 1 point** [3 points in the two intermittent reinforcement treatments].

Moreover, **starting a new period costs you 1 point**. This means that as soon as you start a new period, one point is deducted from your earnings, whether this period gives rise to payment or not. In the first period, the cost of starting this period is deducted from your show-up fee.

Training

Before starting the first period, you can practice during two periods to familiarize yourself with the task. These practice periods are not taken into account in the calculation of your earnings. At the end of the practice periods, the first period will start automatically.

End of part 2

You are required to complete the first 15 periods. Thereafter, **it is you who decide when to stop this part**. In other words, there is no automatic start of a new period and the next part will start if you decide to stop the current part. At each new period, you must click either on “start a new period” or on “stop definitively”. If you choose to start a new period, 1 point is deducted from your earnings and you can perform the task. When you decide to stop, you must confirm your decision. If you confirm your decision, you cannot restart the current part and you proceed to the next part.

Part 3 and end of the session

When you decide to stop part 2, the instructions for part 3 will be displayed on your screen. This part consists of several questions to which it is important to answer sincerely. Your answers are anonymous and confidential.

At the end of the session, you will be informed when you can leave the room to get paid. THANK YOU FOR REMAINING SILENT IN LEAVING THE ROOM AND NOT COMMUNICATING WITH OTHERS. Please give back the instructions to the experimenter before leaving the room.

If you have any questions regarding these instructions, please raise your hand and we will answer your questions in private.

When ready, you can start the first practice period by clicking the button “Continue” on your screen.

Thank you for not communicating any information about this experiment.