

Blocks task instructions verbatim

We will describe your task in the experiment using a couple of training trials.

[The experimenter starts the training, which consists of the two trials of the blocks task; both illuminant-constant condition.]

On each trial three rooms will be presented on the screen, each containing a set of blocks. *All of these blocks are the same size and orientation although some might look slightly smaller than other blocks if they are farther or slightly larger if they are closer.*

The room on the left will contain four blocks. We will refer to their arrangement as **the target arrangement**.

The room on the right will contain eight blocks. We will refer to this room as **the source (of blocks)**.

Your task is to choose blocks from the source and recreate, as closely as possible, the target arrangement. You'll do this by replacing the four blocks in the middle room with four that you choose from the source. You'll do this block-by-block in any order you prefer.

To choose blocks from the source, you will use the mouse. The mouse cursor is drawn as a small black dot and at the beginning of each trial it appears in the center of the screen.

Click on the block in the source that you want to choose.

To indicate which of the blocks in the middle room you want to replace with the chosen block, bring the cursor to the center of that block and then click the mouse.

When you click, you will hear a “thump” sound and the block will be replaced. Then you can move on to the next block. This “thump” sound you hear each time you select the source block as well as the location in the middle room is the feedback acknowledging your choices. Only after you hear this sound you should move to selecting the next block or to indicating where to place the selected block.

Once you replaced all the blocks, move the cursor anywhere within the room with the target arrangement and click the mouse. You will hear the voice asking you to “wait for the next trial” and after a short while the new trial will start.

[On the 2nd trial of the training, after the subject selects and places one block into the workspace, experimenter explains that that blocks can be replaced.]

In case you make a mistake and either choose the block from the source you did not intend to, or move the chosen block to the location in the middle room you did not want to move it to by accident, you can always correct for this in your next “move”. The only limitation is that once you choose the block from the source you have to put it down in the middle room first. Then you can replace it by choosing a new block from the source. You can make such corrections as many times you need in order to recreate the target arrangement as closely as possible.

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There are 30 (25, depending on the experiment and condition) trials within a block.
Today we will try to do 4 or 5 blocks of trials.

Try not to make breaks within a block of trials. You can take as much time as you need to rest between the blocks.

Do you have any questions?