

Psyc 2111, Homework 2

Name: _____ TA: _____ Lab Day and Time: _____

Please fill out all three lines above. Otherwise we can't easily record your scores.

Write whether each of the following is an experiment (yes or no).

1. Monkeys with and without their prefrontal lobes removed are compared on a working memory task.
2. Monkeys and humans are compared on a working memory task.
3. Humans with and without prefrontal brain injuries are compared on a working memory task.
4. Men and women are compared on a working memory task.
5. Performance on a working memory task is compared between people who do and do not have to perform a concurrent complex motor task.

6. Describe an example of self-selection.

In an experiment testing whether dogs can count, the experimenter places two buckets in front of the dog, drops several biscuits one at a time into the left bucket, and then does the same with the right bucket. The number of biscuits in each bucket is varied from trial to trial. The experimenter records which bucket the dog goes to.

7. What is the independent variable?
8. What is the dependent variable?
9. The results show dogs consistently go to the bucket with more biscuits. Unfortunately, the researcher always put more biscuits in the second bucket, and it turns out dogs just like to go wherever they saw food most recently. What kind of problem is this?

Two-year-olds are shown movies of billiard balls colliding. Some movies are real, and others show impossible events like the second ball moving before the first one hits it. The researcher records how long the subject looks at each movie. Write whether each of the following is a datum, descriptive statistic, estimator, inferential statistic, or parameter.

10. The average amount of time a typical child will look at one of the impossible events.
11. The amount of time the 3rd subject looked at the first movie.
12. The researcher finds a difference in average looking times between possible and impossible movies. She then computes a number that indicates how likely that difference is to be real, as opposed to having happened by chance.