



## Lesson 1: Research methods 7.1 Experimental method

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Learning objective</b> | To gain knowledge and understanding of experimental methods  |
| <b>Lesson objectives</b>  | By the end of the lesson, learners will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define the features of an experiment</li> <li>• Explain the independent and dependent variable</li> <li>• Apply knowledge of the experimental method to novel scenarios</li> </ul>                                |
| <b>Vocabulary</b>         | <p><b>Experiment:</b> a method of investigating the effect of one variable on another variable under controlled conditions</p> <p><b>Independent variable:</b> the variable that is manipulated; may have two or more conditions or levels</p> <p><b>Dependent variable:</b> the variable that is measured</p> |
| <b>Previous learning</b>  | Learners may be familiar with the experimental method from named studies or other science subjects, but this is not required for the lesson.   |

### Plan

| Activities                | Resources   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Beginning (5 mins)</b> | Independent and dependent variable resource:<br><a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tHGH3G8Zj8SxDXMPeVMtC45-qDUn5QMsyYxd1J-OPNs/edit?usp=sharing">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tHGH3G8Zj8SxDXMPeVMtC45-qDUn5QMsyYxd1J-OPNs/edit?usp=sharing</a> |
| <b>Middle (50 mins)</b>   |   |

Learners complete the starter activity – ‘what is an experiment?’

- Discuss the words learners have written down using their prior knowledge. Address any misunderstandings or questions.
- Provide learners with the definition of experiment for their notes / glossaries.
- Facilitate a class discussion using the questions provided on why psychologists use the experimental method.
- Explain what is meant by independent and dependent variables.
- In pairs, ask learners to check their ability to identify independent and dependent variables using the scenarios provided.

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**End (5 mins)**

Learners can self-assess their understanding of experiments and IV and DV by submitting the reflection exit ticket sentence.

### Reflection and evaluation

**Reflection:**

**Summary evaluation:**

What two things went really well? (Consider both teaching and learning.)

- 1.
- 2.

What two things would have improved the lesson? (Consider both teaching and learning.)

- 1.
- 2.

What have I learned from this lesson about the class or individuals that will inform my next lesson?

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