

### Tips for stimulus recording:

- Use a quiet room. The eye-tracking room (323) is usually quiet enough. Use the door sign (“Experiment in progress”) so people know the room is in use.
- Read the stimuli at least 2 times each into the digital recorder, saving them as one big file. It’s easier and the recordings are more consistent if you get a few options for each stimulus in one recording session, rather than go back and re-record things later if some stimuli sound weird.

### Stimulus editing:

- Open the file in Audacity
- Use the “Noise Removal” feature to get rid of some background/white noise
  - Highlight a section of “silence” (i.e., anything when you are not speaking)
  - Click on Effect > Noise Removal
  - In the window that pops up, click Get Noise Profile
  - Then highlight the entire file
  - Again go to Effect > Noise Removal
  - Slide the bar to desired amount of noise removal. In general, one notch away from the leftmost (Less) position works well. Too much noise removal gives the stimuli an artificial, “robot-y” quality.
- Save each individual stimulus as a separate file
  - Highlight what you want, go to File > Export Selection as WAV
  - If you recorded multiple versions, name them car1, car2, etc.
  - This step obviously isn’t necessary if you’ve recorded stimuli individually and they already exist as separate files. However, if that’s the case, you may need to do the noise removal step individually for each file. It’s possible that Audacity will allow you to do some sort of batch processing.
- After all stimuli are saved as separate files, go back and listen to them all and make a decision about which versions sound best.
- Inspect the selected versions for any oddities (chirps, clicks, etc.) and cut off extraneous silence at the beginning/end of the file.
- When all of the final stimuli selections are together in one folder, match them on loudness (amplitude). We do this in Praat using a script called Normalize Intensity:
  - Create a new (empty) folder where the normalized files will go
  - In Praat, go to Praat > Open Praat Script and select the appropriate script
  - In the window that pops up, click Run > Run
  - Enter the appropriate input directory (folder with original files) and output directory (new empty folder). Make sure to include forward slashes at the beginning and end of the file path
  - Choose a decibel value for the new files. I usually use either 60 or 70
  - Click OK. You should have new copies of all the original files in the new folder, and they should all be at roughly the same volume