

When better seems bigger: ESM 4

Complete text read by participants in Study 3

All participants were shown a black and white picture of a morphed male rated as averagely attractive (used with permission from Braun, Gruendl, Marberger, & Scherber, 2001).

Underneath it was the text: “You have been assigned to: HOMETOWN TEAM.

The picture above is one of the players of Hometown Team.” This was followed by: “Imagine that you are a big fan of football (soccer) and your favorite team is Hometown Team. You watch all their matches and regularly go see them play. They will soon have to compete against their greatest rival, Visiting Team.”

“The player you just saw is an attacking midfielder, which is an important role within the football team as he is responsible for creating goals. A good attacking midfielder needs good passing abilities, vision, the ability to make long shots, and solid dribbling skills.

Midfielders are the players who typically travel the greatest distance during a match.” Next, participants in the HP condition read the following text: “This player has been performing **very well** this season. Both his number of achieved goals and his assistance in goal making were **above average**. Expert raters gave him **8 out of 10** points.”, while participants in the LP condition read this text: “This player has **not** been performing well this season. Both his number of achieved goals and his assistance in goal making were **below average**. Expert raters gave him **5 out of 10** points.”