

# Interview Protocol: Perception of objects' features with the mouth in adults that have blindness or visual impairment (BVI)

Question 1: *Some adults who have visual impairment report that sometimes they put objects in their mouths to perceive them better. By mouth we mean any of its components, that is, lips, tongue, teeth, gums; or a combination of these components, for example lips and teeth or tongue and gums. Are there objects that you put in your mouth to perceive them?*

If answer to question 1 is “no”:

Probe question A: *I understand from your response that you don't commonly explore objects with your mouth, have there been times, even if just once, that you used your mouth to understand an object better.*

Probe Question B: What about when you were younger?

If answer to probe questions A and B is “no”, skip to question 7.

If answer to question 1 is “yes”:

Question 2: *Which objects do you put (or have you put) in your mouth? Again, by mouth we mean any of its components, that is, lips, tongue, teeth, gums; or a combination of these components, for example lips and teeth or tongue and gums.*

If answer to question 2 does not include all of the following: household, work, community (e.g., shops), and unfamiliar objects:

Probe question C: Interviewee will be asked about categories of objects not mentioned spontaneously in his response to the above question. *Besides the objects you mentioned do you*

*ever explore with your mouth household objects, objects at work, objects when out in the community (e.g., restaurants, shops, gym), unfamiliar or new objects? Then, ask question 3.*

If answer to question 2 includes all of the following: C1. Household, C2. Work, C3. Community (e.g., shops), and C4. Unfamiliar objects:

Question 3: *What features of the objects you mentioned do you perceive with your mouth. What do you learn about these objects by exploring them with your mouth?*

If answer to question 3 does not include all of the following: texture, temperature, the type of material the object is made off (e.g., plastic versus wood), shape, edges:

Probe question D: Interviewee will be asked about object features not mentioned spontaneously in his response to question 3. *Besides the features you mentioned, do you think that by exploring objects with your mouth do you perceive: D1. Texture, D2. Temperature, D3. Type of material the object is made off (e.g., plastic versus wood), D4. Shape, D5. Edges?*

If answer to question 4 does include all of the following: texture, temperature, the type of material the object is made off (e.g., plastic versus wood), shape, edges:

Question 4: *What is it about exploring an object with your mouth do you think leads to perceiving the object features you mentioned? How do you think using the mouth allows you to perceive those futures?*

If answer to question 4 does not refer to all of the following parts of the mouth: lips, tongue, teeth, gums, moving the jaw, saliva:

Probe question E: Interviewee will be asked about components of the mouth not mentioned in his response to question 3. *Besides what you mentioned, do you think, and if*

*so how, the following components of the mouth allow you to perceive the features you mentioned: E1. Lips, E2. Tongue, E3. Teeth, E4. Gums, E5. Moving the jaw, E6. Saliva?*

If answer to question 4 does refer to all of the following parts of the mouth: lips, tongue, teeth, gums, moving the jaw, saliva:

Question 5: *How does perceiving the features you mentioned with the mouth compare to exploring them with the hands?*

If the response to question 5 does not make comparisons based on all of the following: speed, types of information gathered, amount of information gathered, accuracy of information gathered:

Probe Question F: The interviewee will be asked about comparisons not mentioned in her response. *How does exploration of objects with mouth versus hands compare in terms of: speed, types of information gathered, amount of information gathered, accuracy of information gathered?*

If the response to question 5 does include all of the following: speed, types of information gathered, amount of information gathered, accuracy of information gathered:

Question 6: *In your experience, is one of the methods, mouthing compared to exploring with hands more efficient than the other, why or why not?*

Question 7: *Are there other reasons you would put objects in your mouth? If so, tell me about it.*

If the response to question 7 did not include as a reason soothing:

Probe Question G: *Some people who have visual impairment report that they sometimes put objects in their mouth as a way to soothe themselves. Have you experienced that? If so, tell me about it.*

If the response to question 7 did include the reason of soothing:

Question 8: *How did you start using your mouth in the ways you have described? Where you taught by your parents, teachers, friend, did you discover this use of the mouth on your own?*

Question 9: *Do you know about other adults who have visual impairment using their mouth to explore objects, to soothe themselves, or for other reasons?*

If answer to question 9 is “yes”:

Probe question H: *Tell me about it, let me know how did you learn about this, did you observe it, were you told, did you read about it?* Then, ask question 11.

If answer to question 9 is “no”:

Question 10: *Is there anything else, based on your own experience or what you know about other people who have visual impairments, you think is relevant about what we have talked about? If so, tell me about it.*

Background Questions:

11. *Gender*

12. *Age*

13. *Education level*

14. *Profession*

*15. Ethnicity*

*16. Visual diagnoses*

*17. Time since Blindness or Visual Impairment onset*

*18. Visual levels*

*19. Co-morbidities*

*20. Training in Braille (i.e., code system for reading using touch)*

*21. Braille usage yes/no*

*22. Braille usage how often?*

*23. Training in low vision equipment (i.e., devices to enhance vision)*

*24. Low vision equipment usage yes/no*

*25. Low vision equipment usage how often?*

*26. Training in Orientation and Mobility (i.e., strategies/equipment to move in space)*

*27. Orientation and Mobility usage yes/no*

*28. Orientation and Mobility usage how often?*

*I will go through a list of places, for each one please tell me: a. How often do you travel to it by yourself? b. How far away are they?*

*29. Grocery store: how often do you travel to it by yourself?*

*30. Grocery store: how far away are they?*

*31. Mall: how often do you travel to it by yourself?*

32. *Mall: how far away are they?*

33. *Church: how often do you travel to it by yourself?*

34. *Church: how far away are they?*

35. *Doctors' office or other professional offices: how often do you travel to it by yourself?*

36. *Doctors' office or other professional offices: how far away are they?*

37. *To see friends and neighbors: how often do you travel to it by yourself?*

38. *To see friends and neighbors: how far away are they?*

39. *How often do you navigate new environments?*

40. *How confident do you feel in your ability to navigate new environments with 1 being the less confident and 5 the highest confident?*