

PRACTICING A PROCEDURE TO TEST REACTION TIMES

Soon you will be testing your own **hypothesis** about **reaction** times. But before that, let's practice a **procedure** that is used to test how quickly a person can **react** when a ruler is dropped without warning.

1. Get a 30 cm ruler.
2. The person testing holds the ruler at the 30 cm mark and lets it hang vertically.
3. The person who is being tested for their **reaction** time (the subject) places his or her thumb and index finger at the 0 cm mark ready to catch. His or her fingers should not touch the ruler.
4. Without warning the subject, the person holding the ruler lets it go and the subject tries immediately to catch the ruler. *Hint: To prevent guessing, vary the wait time of each drop.*
5. On the data table below, record the distance the ruler fell before being caught. You do this by reading where the ruler was caught by the subject (record the number mark just above the fingers).
6. Do the test a second time with the same person and then average the two distances.
7. Switch roles and repeat steps 1–6 so you're the subject and your partner is the experimenter.



Name of the person being tested	Drop #1 Distance of the fall (cm)	Drop #2 Distance of the fall (cm)	Average