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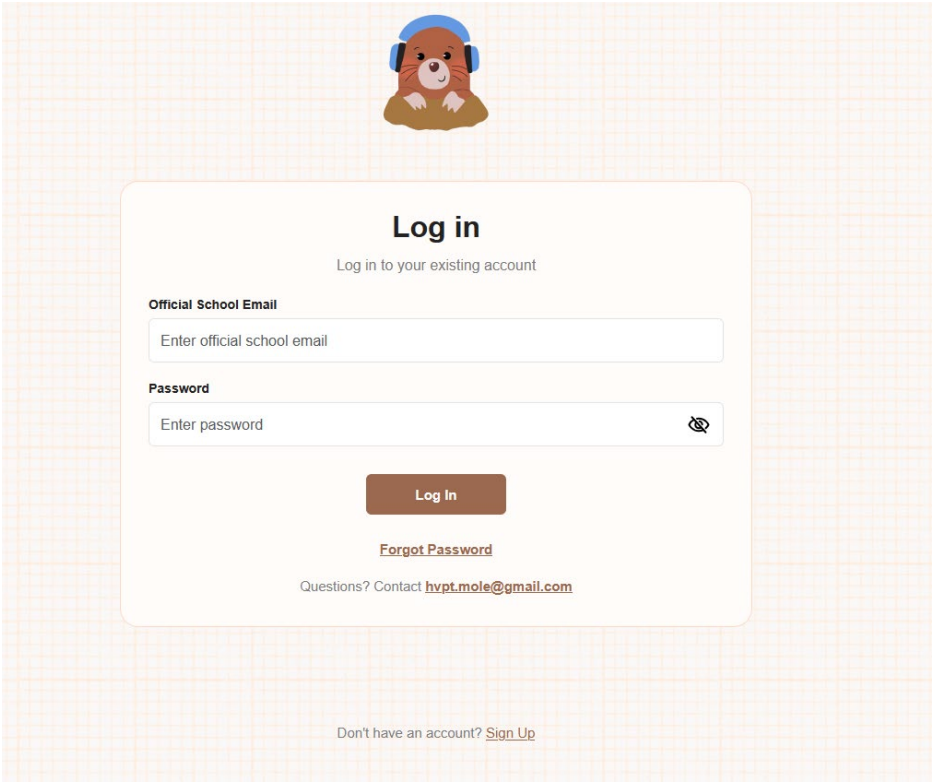
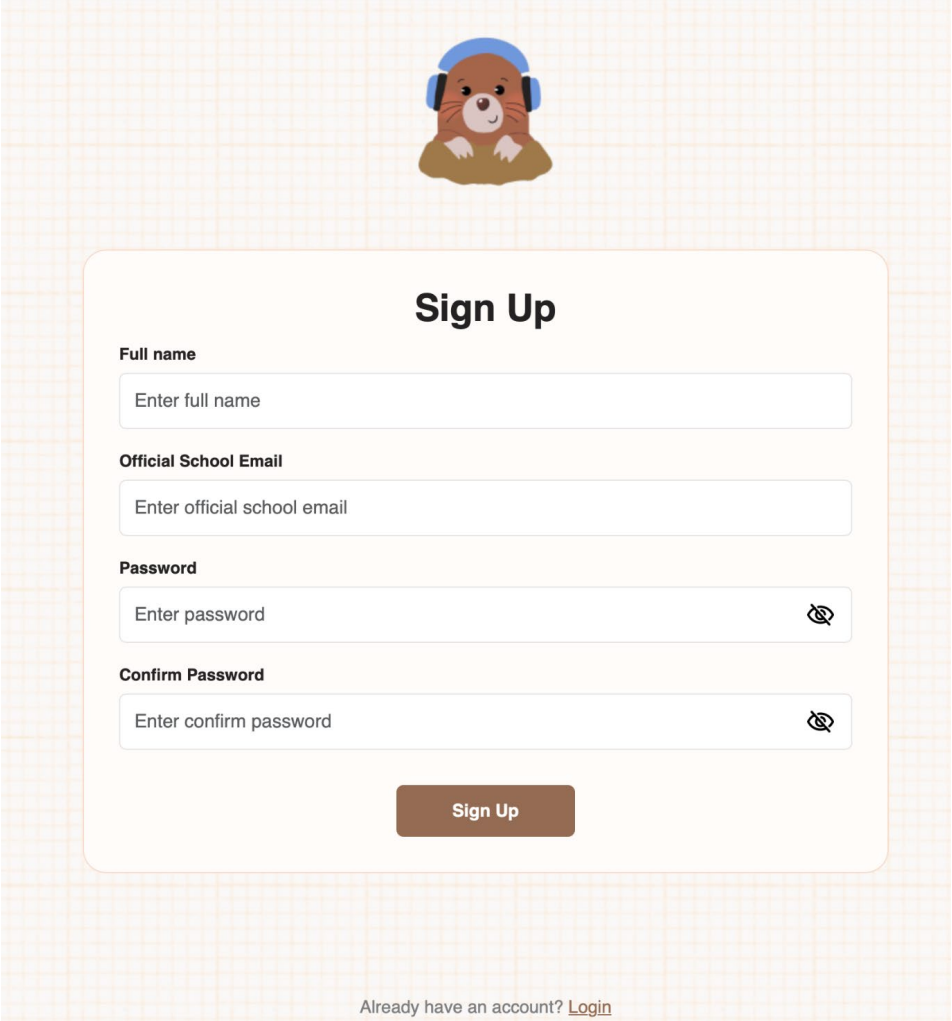
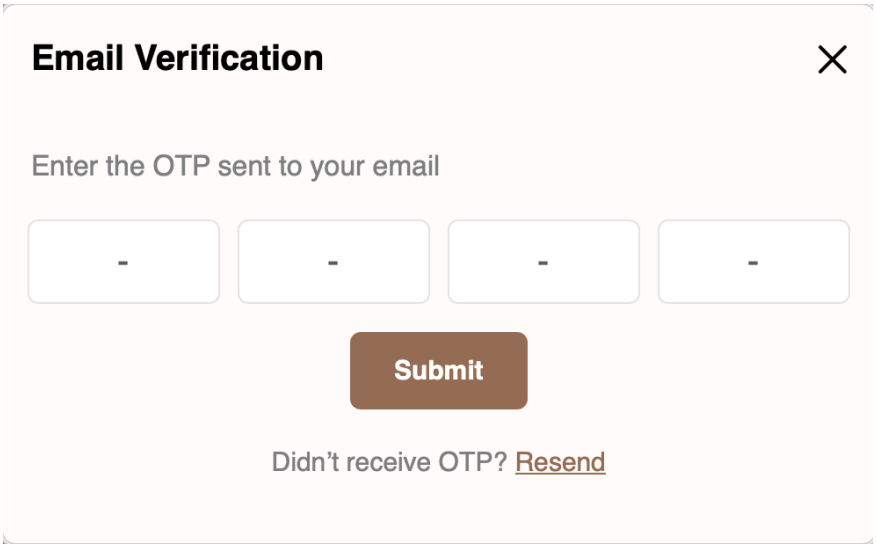
CREATING AN ACCOUNT

1. Click the link sent to you by your teacher. This will take you to the MOLE Homepage. At the bottom of the screen, click the link to “Sign Up” and complete the required fields.

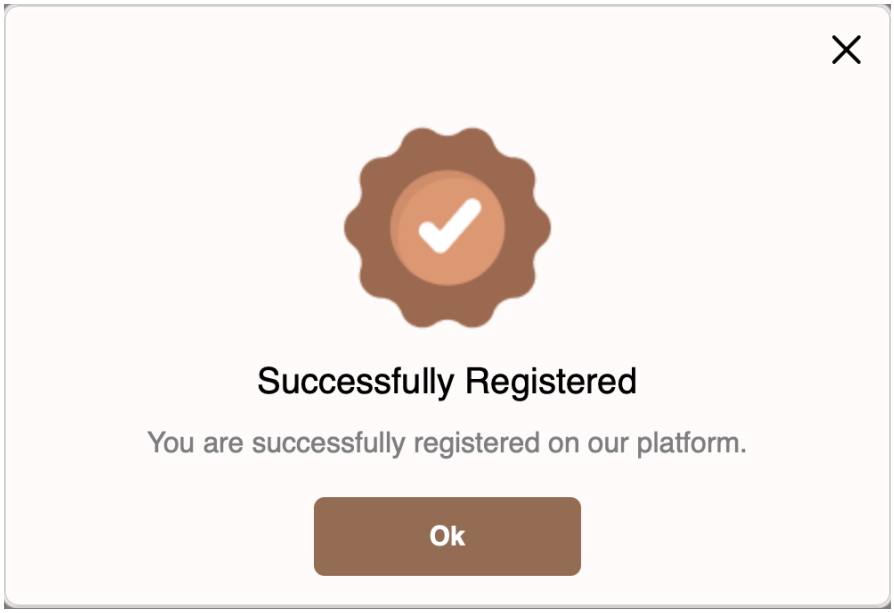




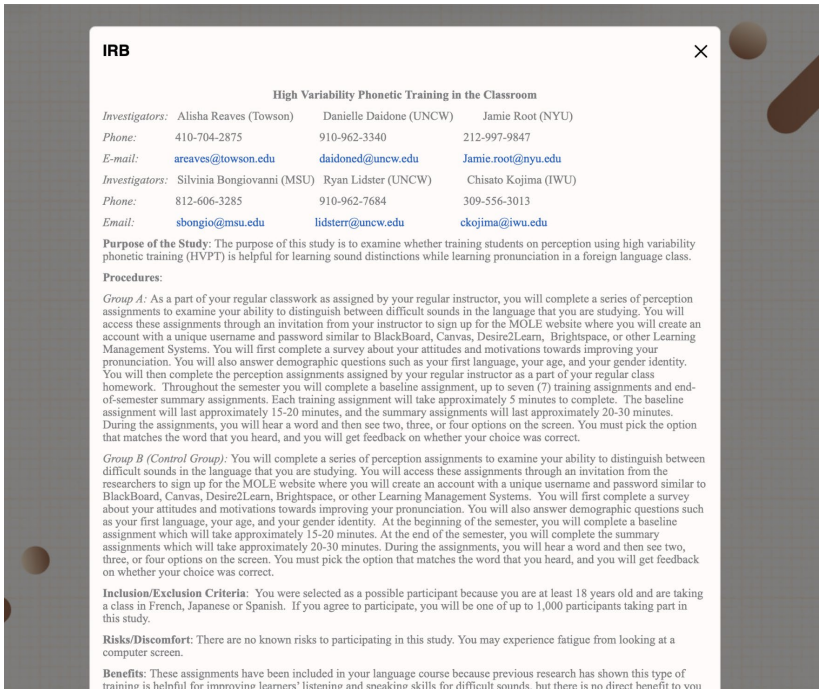
2. You will be asked to verify your email with a “One-Time-Password” (OTP), which you will receive from “Towson Team” (no-reply@molehvpt.org).



3. Once you have input your OTP and clicked “Submit”, you will see the following “Successfully Registered” screen.



4. You will then be prompted to read a document entitled “IRB”, which explains that your anonymized data from the tasks you complete platform may be used for research purposes. You will click “Yes” or “No” to give or withhold your consent.



IRB

High Variability Phonetic Training in the Classroom

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Purpose of the Study: The purpose of this study is to examine whether training students on perception using high variability phonetic training (HVPT) is helpful for learning sound distinctions while learning pronunciation in a foreign language class.

Procedures:

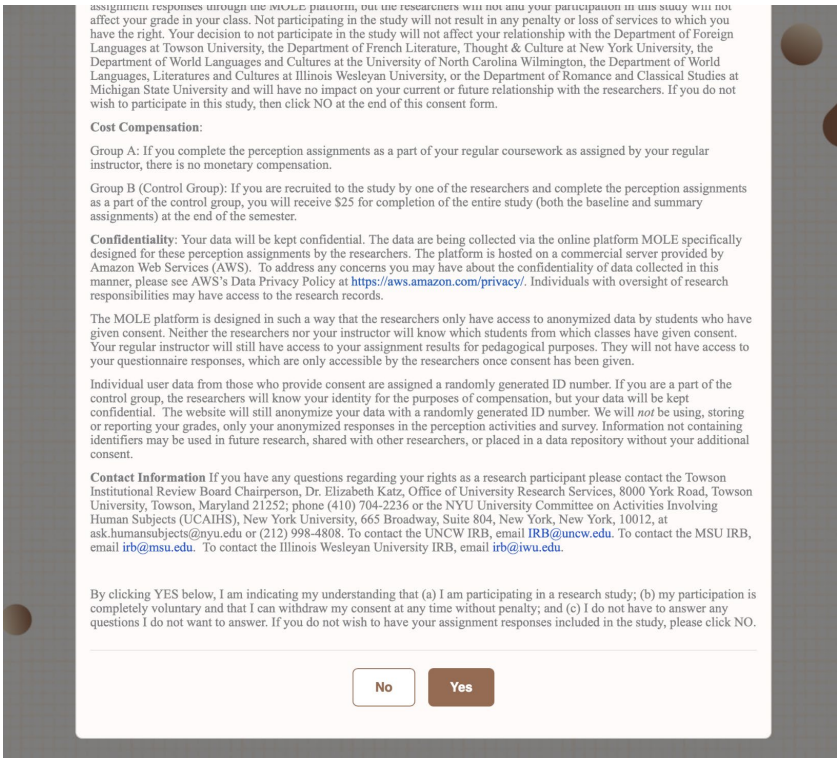
Group A: As a part of your regular classwork as assigned by your regular instructor, you will complete a series of perception assignments to examine your ability to distinguish between difficult sounds in the language that you are studying. You will access these assignments through an invitation from your instructor to sign up for the MOLE website where you will create an account with a unique username and password similar to BlackBoard, Canvas, Desire2Learn, Brightspace, or other Learning Management Systems. You will first complete a survey about your attitudes and motivations towards improving your pronunciation. You will also answer demographic questions such as your first language, your age, and your gender identity. You will then complete the perception assignments assigned by your regular instructor as a part of your regular class homework. Throughout the semester you will complete a baseline assignment, up to seven (7) training assignments and end-of-semester summary assignments. Each training assignment will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. The baseline assignment will last approximately 15-20 minutes, and the summary assignments will last approximately 20-30 minutes. During the assignments, you will hear a word and then see two, three, or four options on the screen. You must pick the option that matches the word that you heard, and you will get feedback on whether your choice was correct.

Group B (Control Group): You will complete a series of perception assignments to examine your ability to distinguish between difficult sounds in the language that you are studying. You will access these assignments through an invitation from the researchers to sign up for the MOLE website where you will create an account with a unique username and password similar to BlackBoard, Canvas, Desire2Learn, Brightspace, or other Learning Management Systems. You will first complete a survey about your attitudes and motivations towards improving your pronunciation. You will also answer demographic questions such as your first language, your age, and your gender identity. At the beginning of the semester, you will complete a baseline assignment which will take approximately 15-20 minutes. At the end of the semester, you will complete the summary assignments which will take approximately 20-30 minutes. During the assignments, you will hear a word and then see two, three, or four options on the screen. You must pick the option that matches the word that you heard, and you will get feedback on whether your choice was correct.

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria: You were selected as a possible participant because you are at least 18 years old and are taking a class in French, Japanese or Spanish. If you agree to participate, you will be one of up to 1,000 participants taking part in this study.

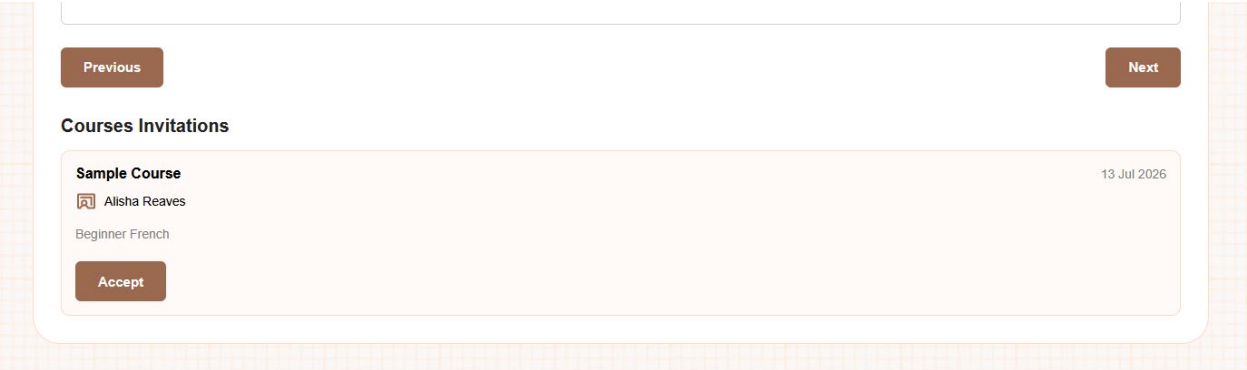
Risks/Discomfort: There are no known risks to participating in this study. You may experience fatigue from looking at a computer screen.

Benefits: These assignments have been included in your language course because previous research has shown this type of training is helpful for improving learners' listening and speaking skills for difficult sounds, but there is no direct benefit to you



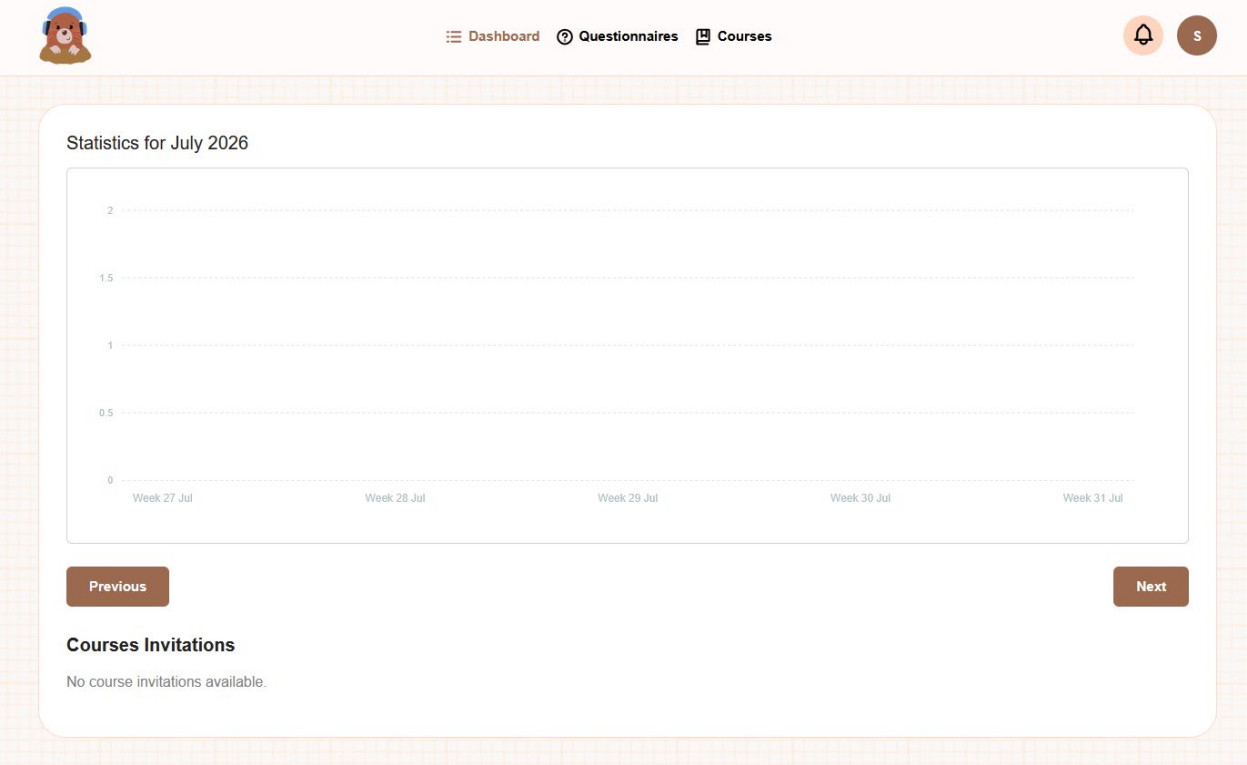
ACCEPTING A COURSE INVITATION

Once you are logged in on your dashboard, scroll down to 'Course Invitations' and click "Accept". You will see your teacher's name and the name of the class.

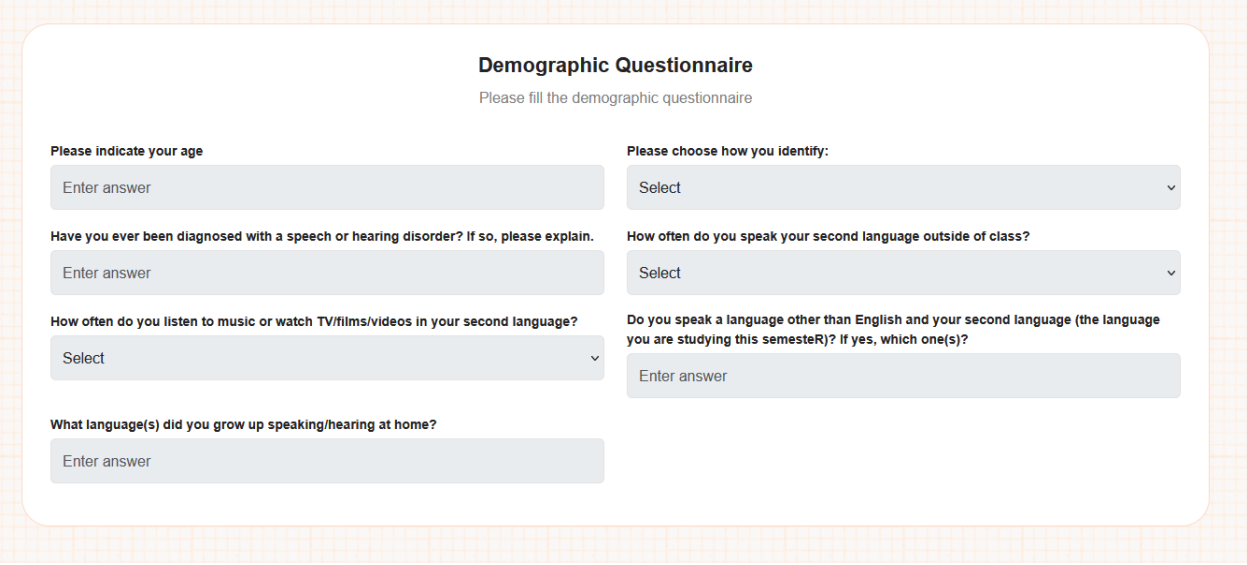


COMPLETING THE DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONNAIRE

1. On your first login, you should complete the demographic questionnaire.
2. Click on "Questionnaires" at the top center of your screen.

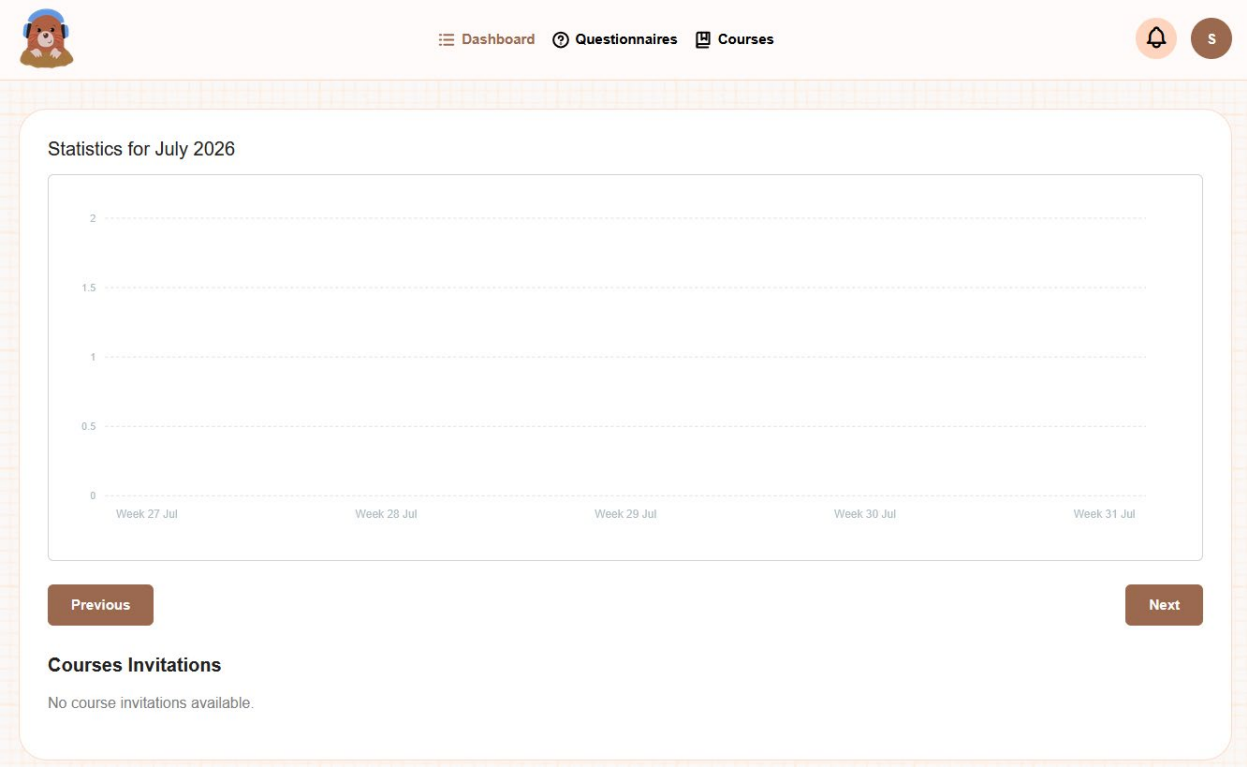


3. Complete all the fields with the requested information. This will be stored on the website and will not be visible to your teacher. It will only be used if you gave your consent to have your scores used for research purposes.

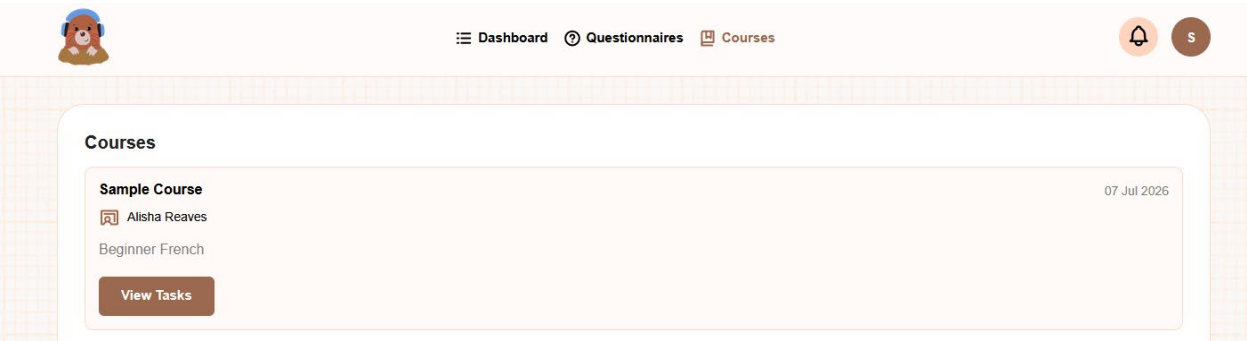


VIEWING TASKS IN A COURSE

1. Click on ‘Courses’ in the top center-right of your screen.

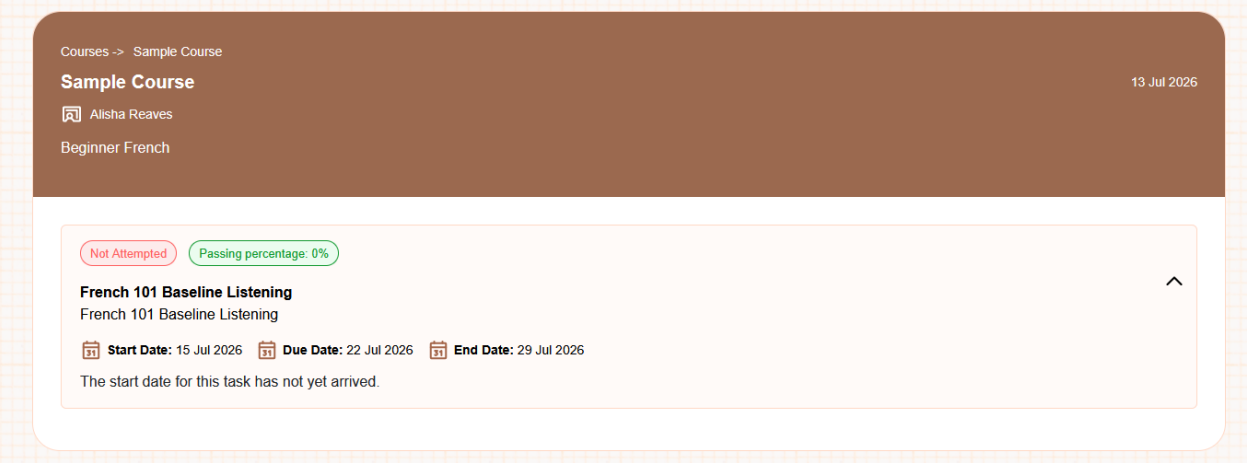


2. You should see a list of the courses you are enrolled in. Choose your course and click ‘View Tasks”. Your teacher’s name and the name of the course will be listed.



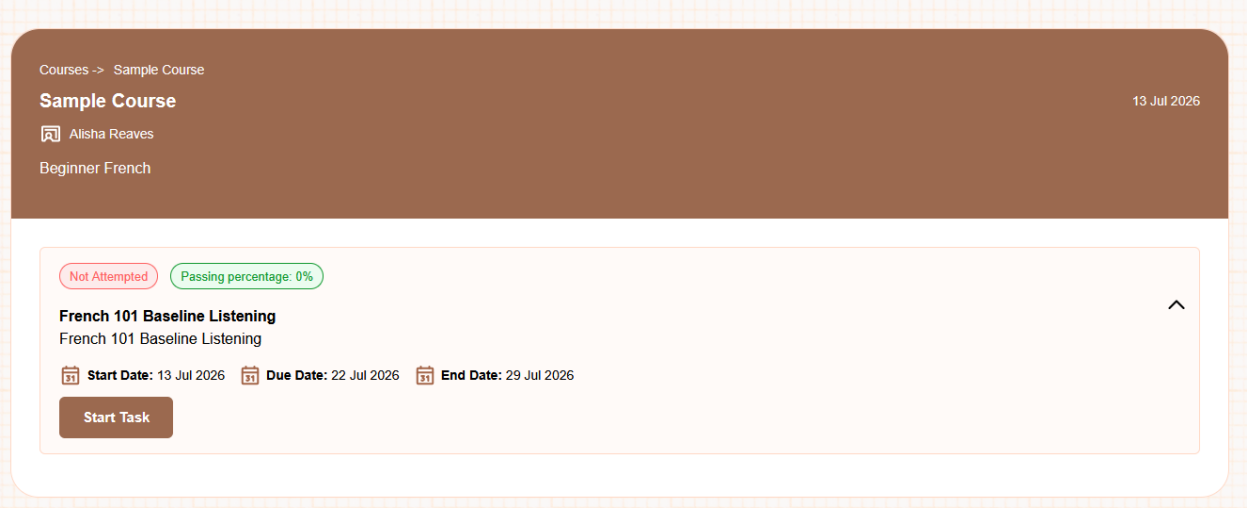
3. Once you are inside the course, you can see your list of tasks. In the task summary you will be able to see:
    a. Attempted/Not Attempted – Whether you have attempted this task or not.
    b. Passing Percentage – The minimum passing score your teacher has assigned.
    c. Start Date – The date when the task is first available to be completed. You will not be able to access a task before its start date.

d. Due Date – The date when your teacher has designated the task should be completed.
e. End Date – The last date on which you can access the task.

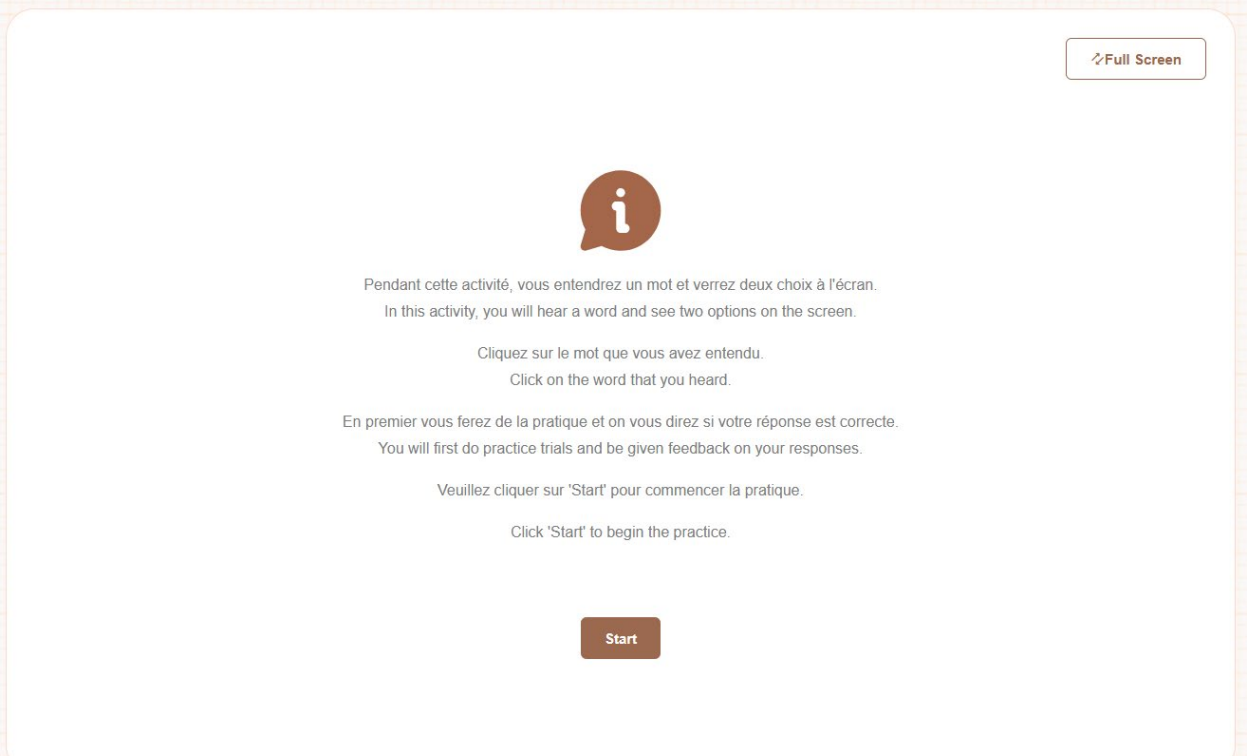


COMPLETING A TASK

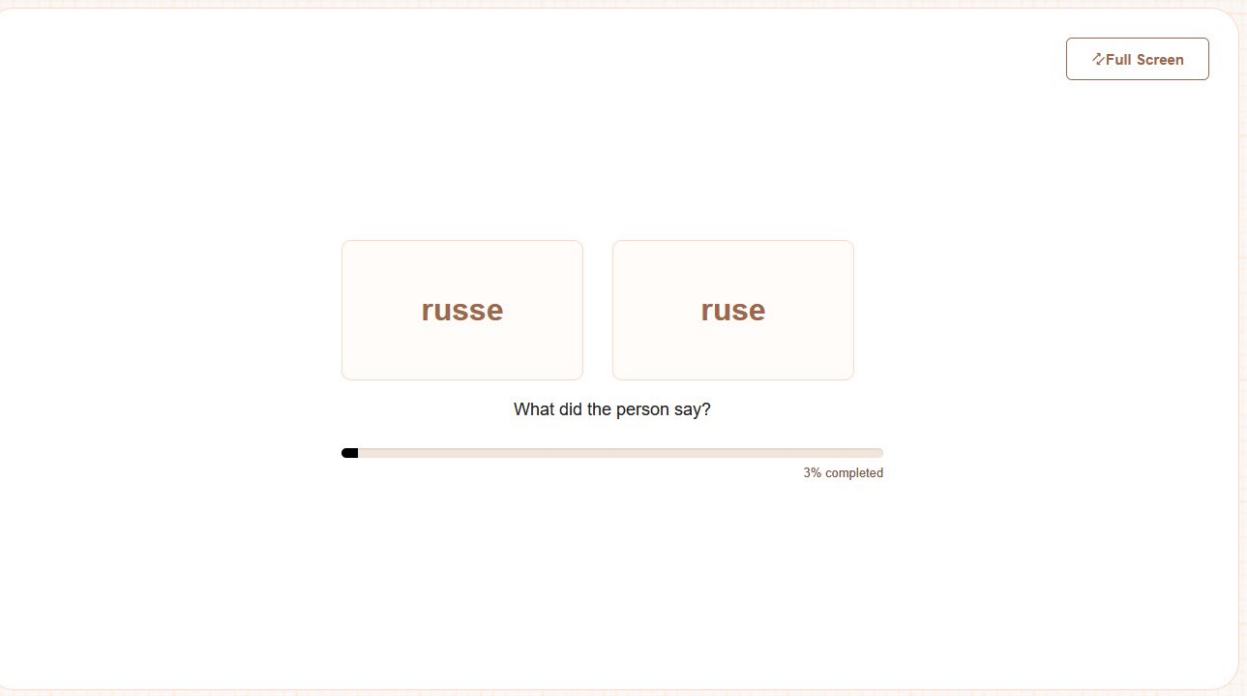
1. When the start date has arrived, click “Start Task”. Be sure to use a computer (not a phone or a tablet) and headphones.



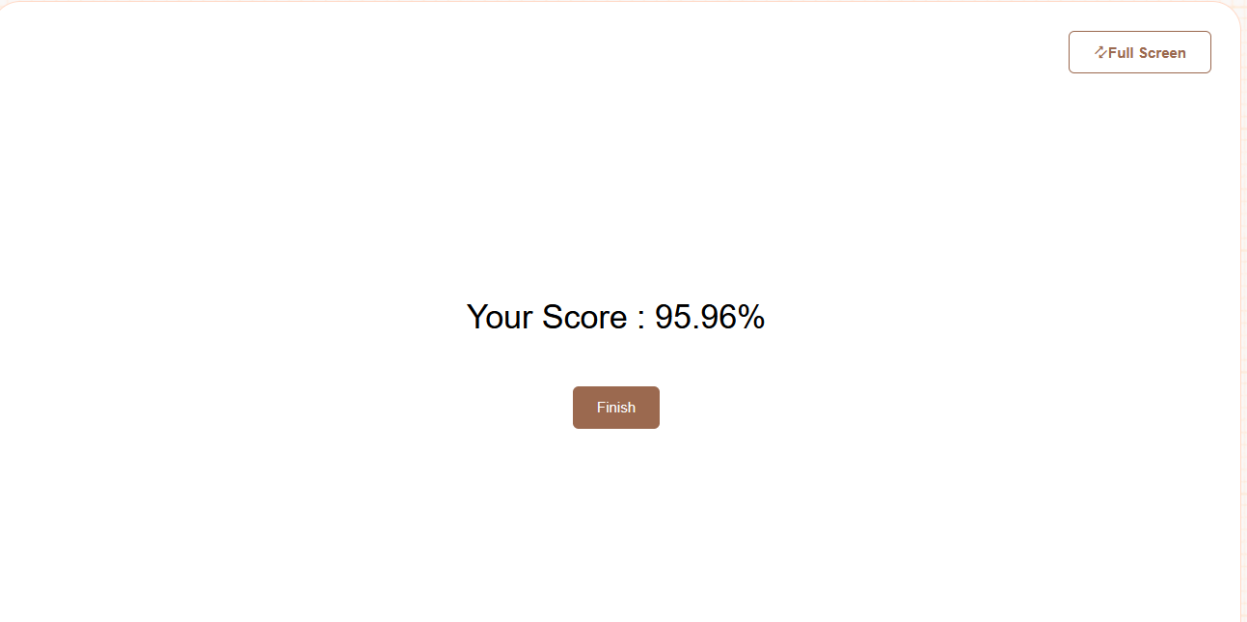
2. The screen will load and you will see the instructions for your task in English and your second language. You can optionally open the window in Full Screen mode (recommended).
3. Click “Start” when you have read the instructions and are ready to begin.

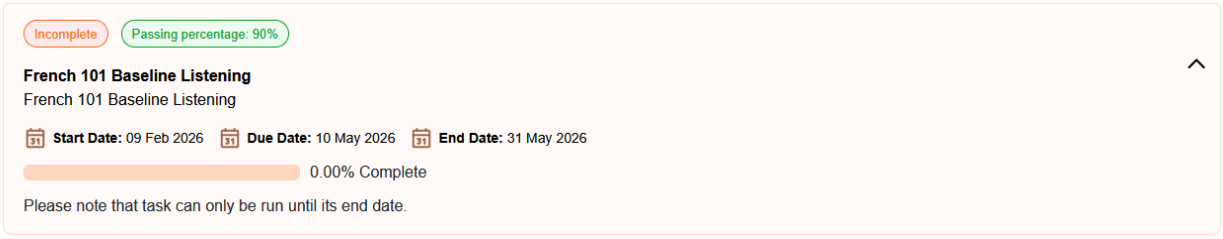


4. As you complete the task, the progress bar at the bottom will tell you how much you have remaining.



5. When you complete the task, you will see your score. Click ‘Finish’.



6. If you met the passing percentage, the words “Not Attempted” will change to “Completed”. If you did not meet the passing percentage, you will be able to take the task again. Your score will be displayed in the task summary.

7. If you start a task and do not finish it, “Not Attempted” will change to “Incomplete” and a progress bar will display the percent completion.