

Tell Me About It (This station requires two people.)

Part 1: Experiment

- Put two identical sets of blocks on either side of the divider.
- Partner 1: Build a structure with the colored blocks. (Be sure that Partner 2 cannot see the structure.)
- Partner 1: Describe the structure you have built to Partner 2 giving only verbal directions how to build it.
- Partner 2: Use Partner 1's directions to build a copy of the structure.
- When finished, look at each other's structure to see if you have made a match. (Partners can then switch jobs)

Questions

- What areas of the brain are involved with this activity?
- Why is this activity hard to do?
- Partner 2: What did you want to do really badly during this procedure? Why?

Part 2:

With your groupmates, brainstorm how you might evaluate how accurately partner 2 copied the structure built by partner 1. Would this performance number reflect the performance of partner 1 or partner 2? Why?

Want more information? Here are some keyword suggestions you can use to find more information on this subject, use one of them when describing your test: mirror neurons, empathy, working memory. Name some other situations in which mirror neurons might be operating.