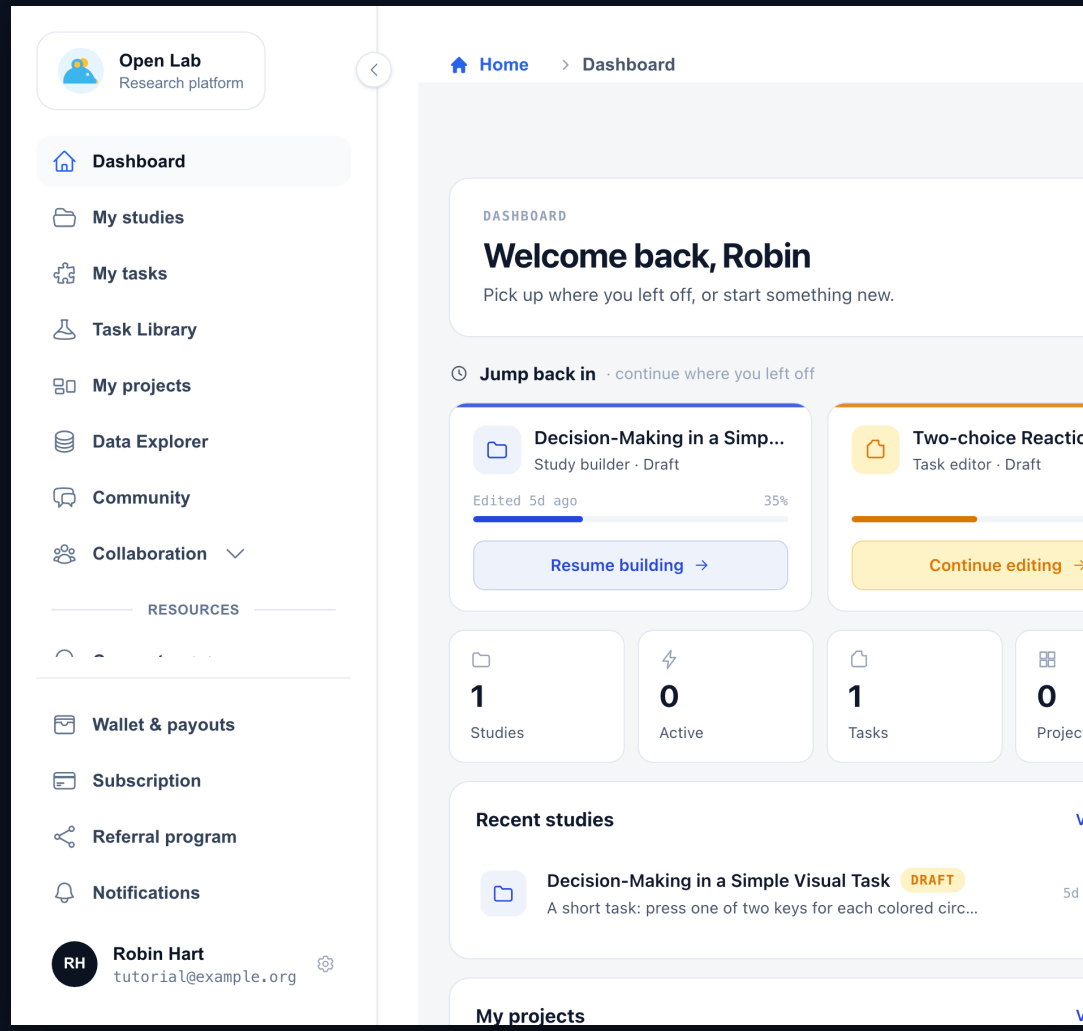
Open Lab

Running an online study with Open Lab

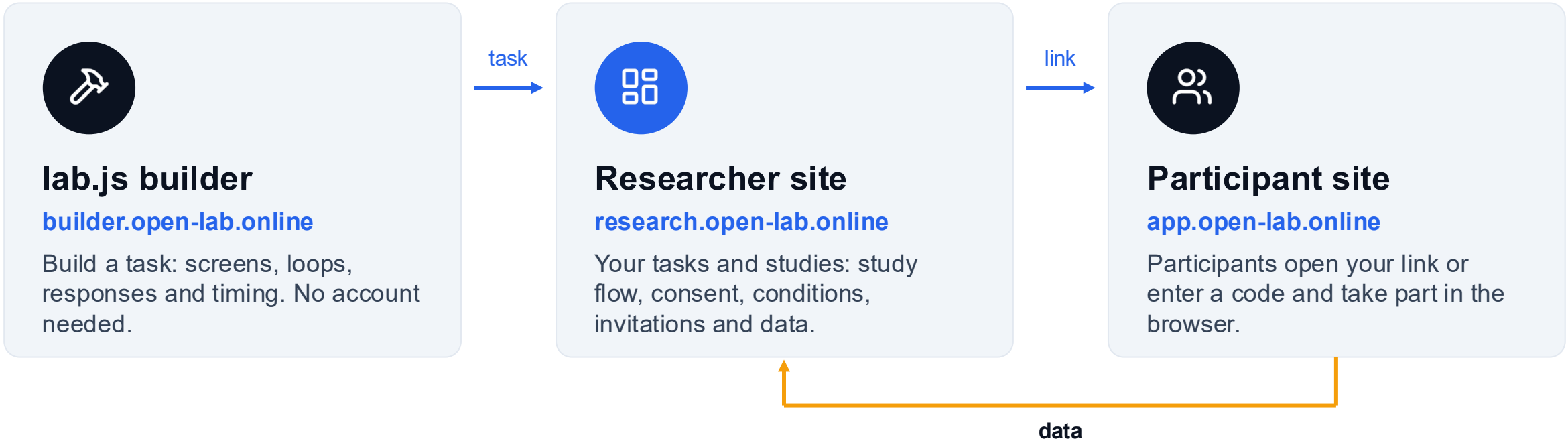
A walkthrough of the researcher platform: account, task, study, participants and data



Screenshots from November 2026 · research.open-lab.online

How Open Lab fits together

lab.js provides the experiments and surveys; Open Lab adds the study, brings in participants and keeps the data.



Task
One lab.js experiment or survey. A task can be used in several studies.

Study
What participants take part in: a landing page, consent, your tasks and an ending page, in order.

Five steps from an idea to your data

01

Create an account

Sign up and save your recovery code.

02

Get a task

From the Task Library, the lab.js builder or a file.

03

Build the study

Landing page, consent, tasks, conditions, ending page.

04

Open it to participants

Set it to Active and share a link, code or QR code.

05

Collect and download data

Follow sessions, check them and download CSV files.

The sections of this deck follow the same five steps.

01

Create an account

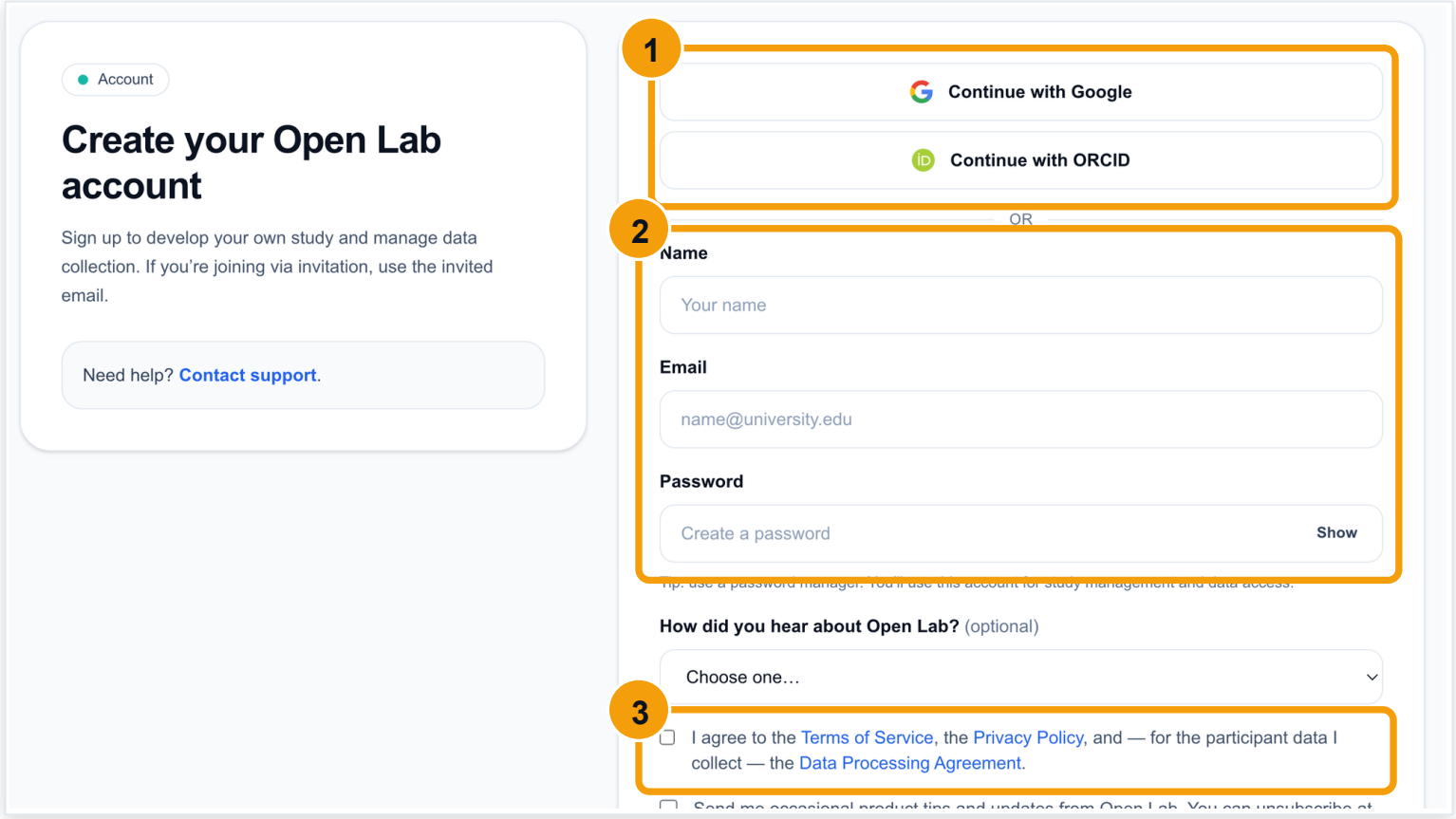
Sign up, save your recovery code, and find your way around the dashboard.

- **Create an account**
- Get a task
- Build the study
- Open it to participants
- Collect and download data

Sign up as a researcher

research.open-lab.online/signup

1. **Quick sign-up:** continue with Google or ORCID.
2. **Or fill in** your name, email address and a password. Use your university address if you have one.
3. **Agree** to the Terms of Service and Privacy Policy, then click Create account.



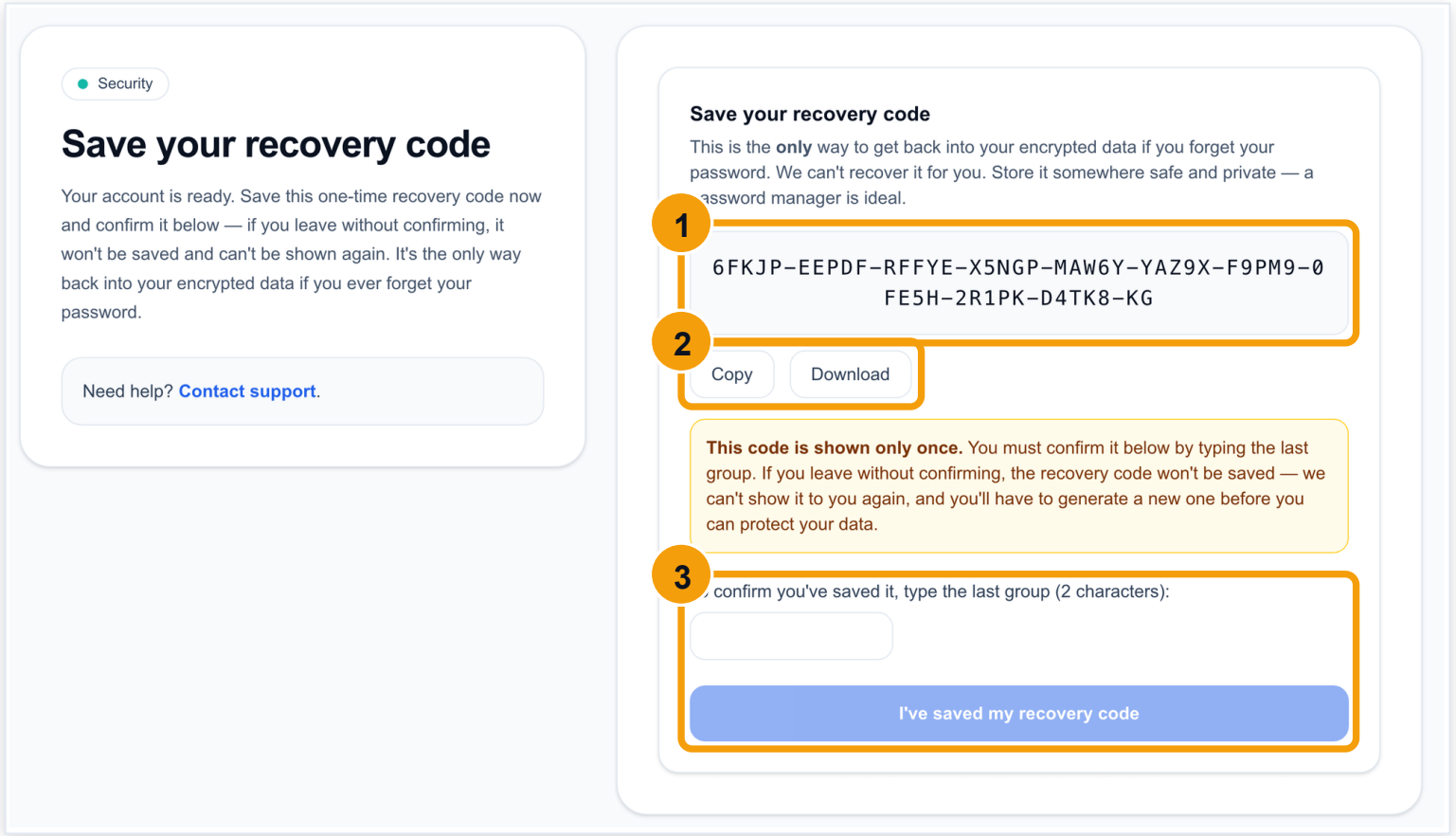
research.open-lab.online/signup

Tip Confirm your email address with the link Open Lab sends you. The link is valid for 24 hours.

Save your recovery code

Shown once, right after you sign up

1. **Your recovery code** appears on the screen right after sign-up.
2. **Copy or download it** and keep it somewhere safe, for example in a password manager.
3. **Confirm** by typing its last group, then click I've saved my recovery code.



The code in the picture belongs to an invented demo account.

Tip If you forget your password, this code is the only way back into your encrypted data. Open Lab cannot recover it for you.

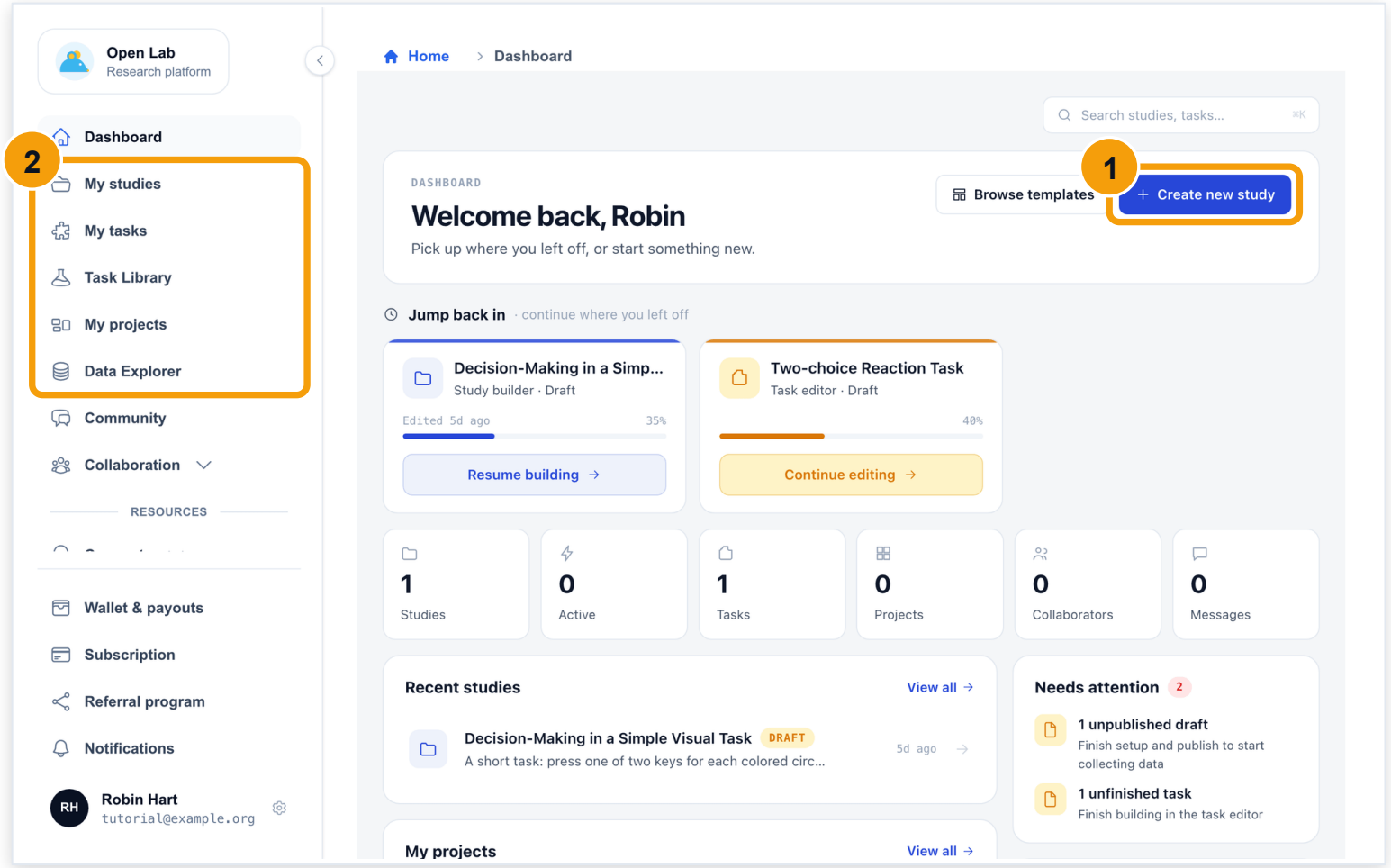
Your dashboard

research.open-lab.online/dashboard

1. **Create new study** starts a study from scratch; Browse templates starts from a ready-made one.

2. **The sidebar** leads to My studies, My tasks, the Task Library and the Data Explorer.

Tip A new account comes with a sample study, “Welcome — your first study”, to look around in. Documentation is under Resources in the sidebar.



Dashboard: recent studies and tasks, counts, and what needs your attention

02

Get a task

A task is one lab.js experiment or survey. Take one from the Task Library, build your own in the lab.js builder, or upload a lab.js file.

- Create an account
- **Get a task**
- Build the study
- Open it to participants
- Collect and download data

Three ways to get a task



Task Library

Ready-made cognitive paradigms built in lab.js. Try the demo, then add one to your tasks.

Sidebar › Task Library



lab.js builder

Build your own task in the browser, then send it to Open Lab from the builder's save menu.

builder.open-lab.online



Upload a file

Already have a lab.js study file (.json), for example from a colleague? Upload it.

My tasks › New task

Tip Whichever way you choose, the task ends up under My tasks, ready to be added to a study.

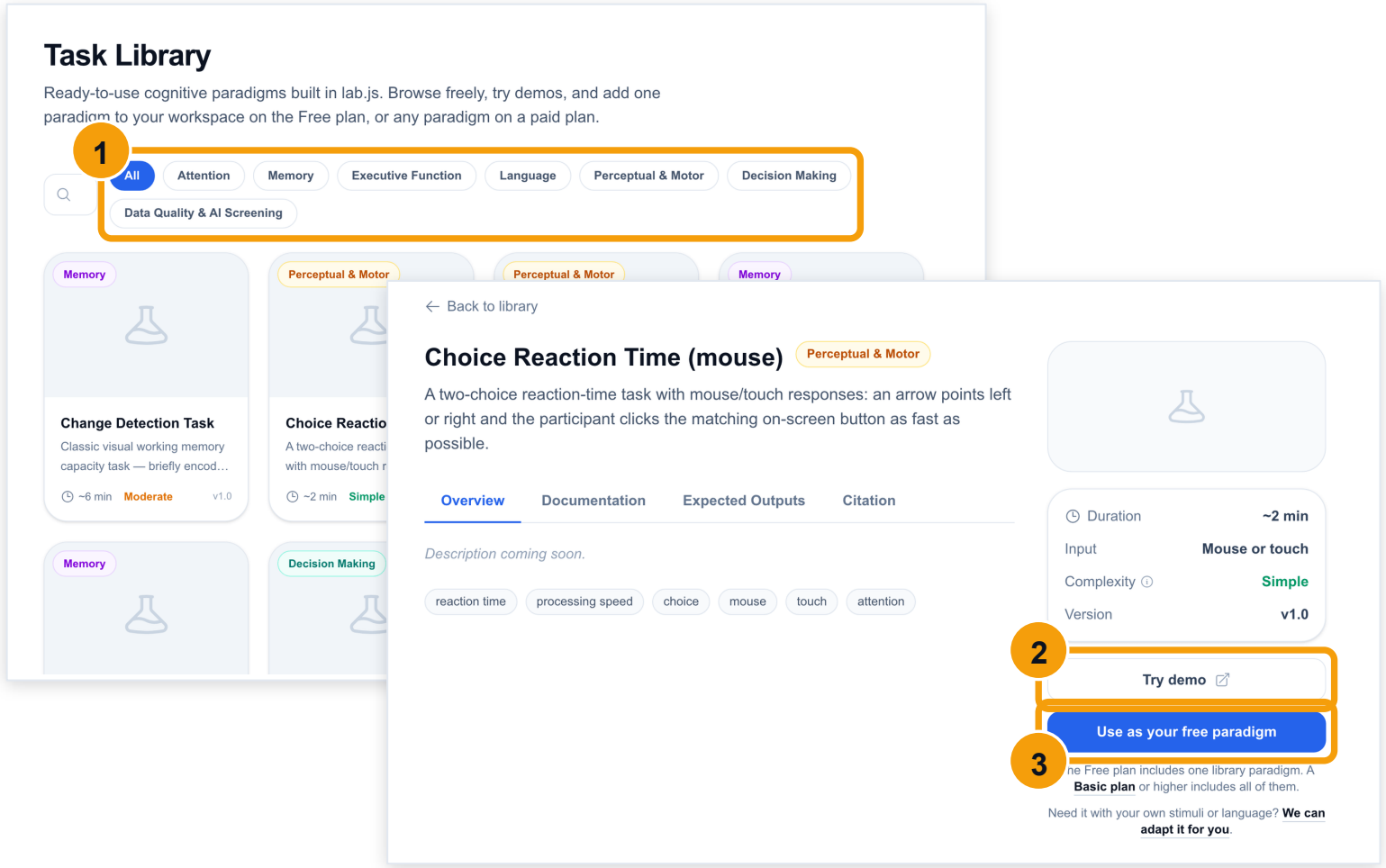
Take a task from the Task Library

Sidebar › Task Library

1. **Browse by area:** attention, memory, executive function, language and more.

2. **Try demo** runs the task in your browser, the way participants will see it.

3. **Add it to your tasks.** How many library paradigms you can add depends on your plan; see Pricing.



Tip Each paradigm page has tabs for its documentation, the data it records (Expected Outputs) and how to cite it.

Build your own task in the lab.js builder

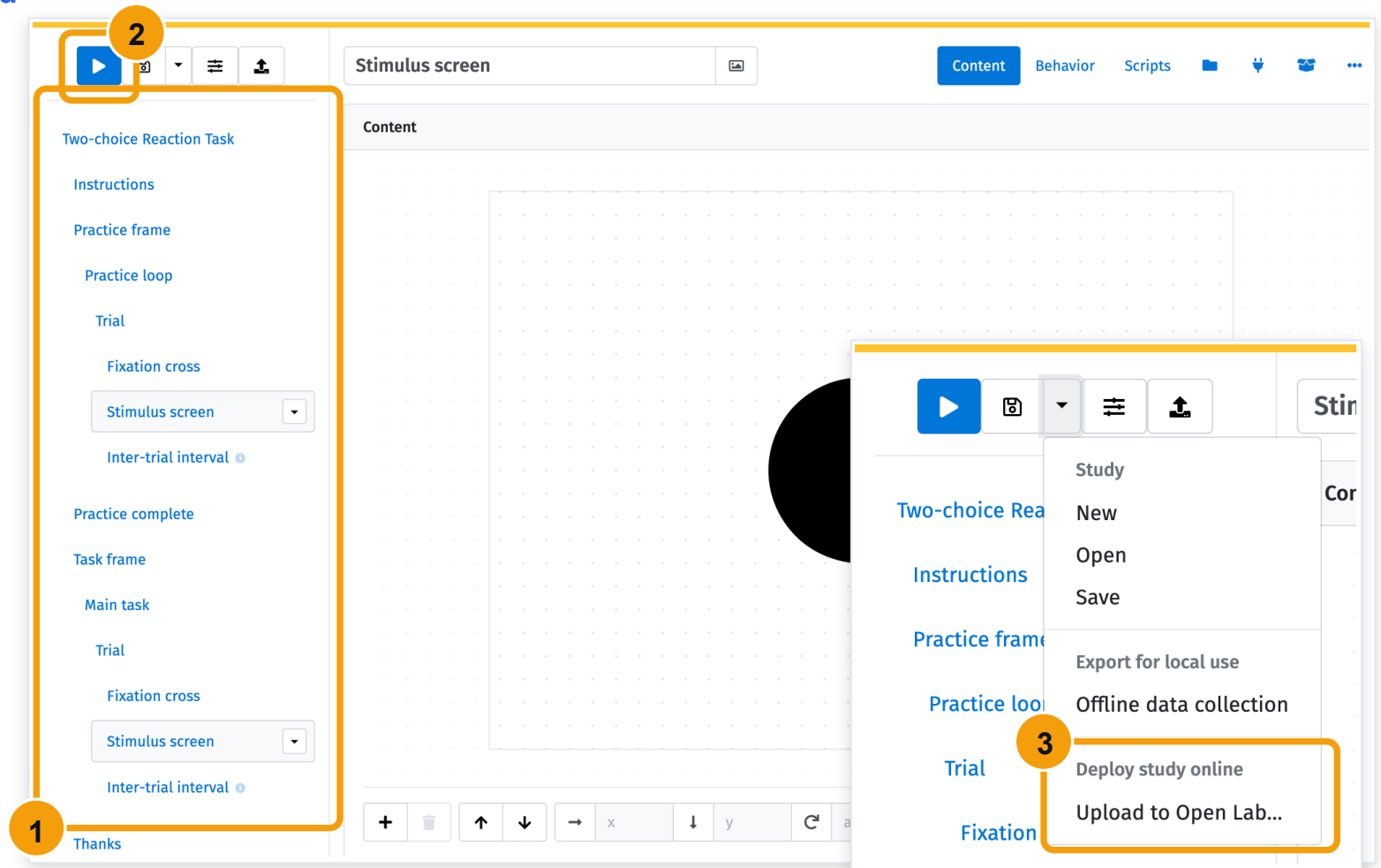
builder.open-lab.online · no account needed

1. **Build the task** from screens, sequences and loops in the tree on the left.

2. **Preview** (the blue play button) runs the task in a new window, so you can check it as you go.

3. **Upload to Open Lab…** in the save menu. Log in, check the title and create the task.

Tip Learning lab.js: the video tutorials on research.open-lab.online/videos build a reaction-time task step by step.



Inset: the save menu, opened with the arrow next to the save button

Upload a lab.js file

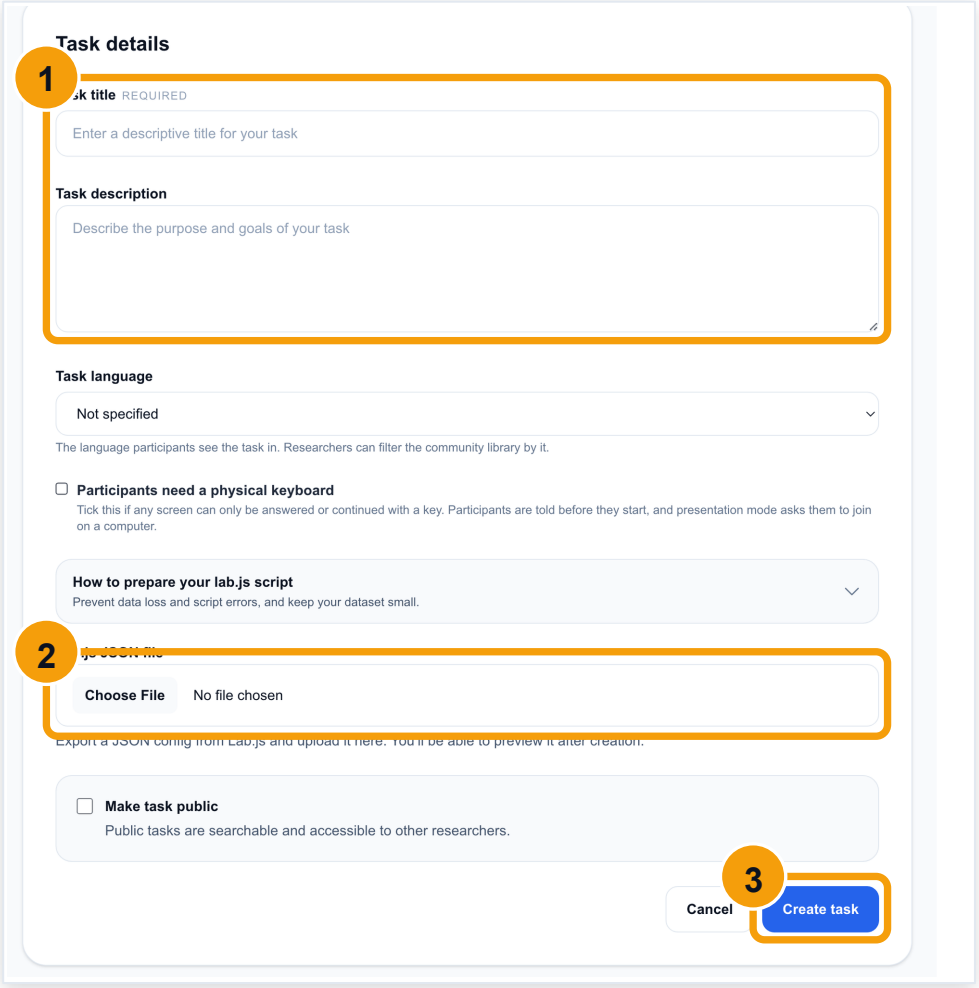
My tasks › New task

1. **Title and description** of the task, so you recognise it later.

2. **Choose the lab.js JSON file** you saved from the builder (save menu › Save).

3. **Create task.** You can preview it straight away.

Tip Tick “Participants need a physical keyboard” if the task needs key presses. Participants on phones are told before they start.



research.open-lab.online/dashboard/tasks/new

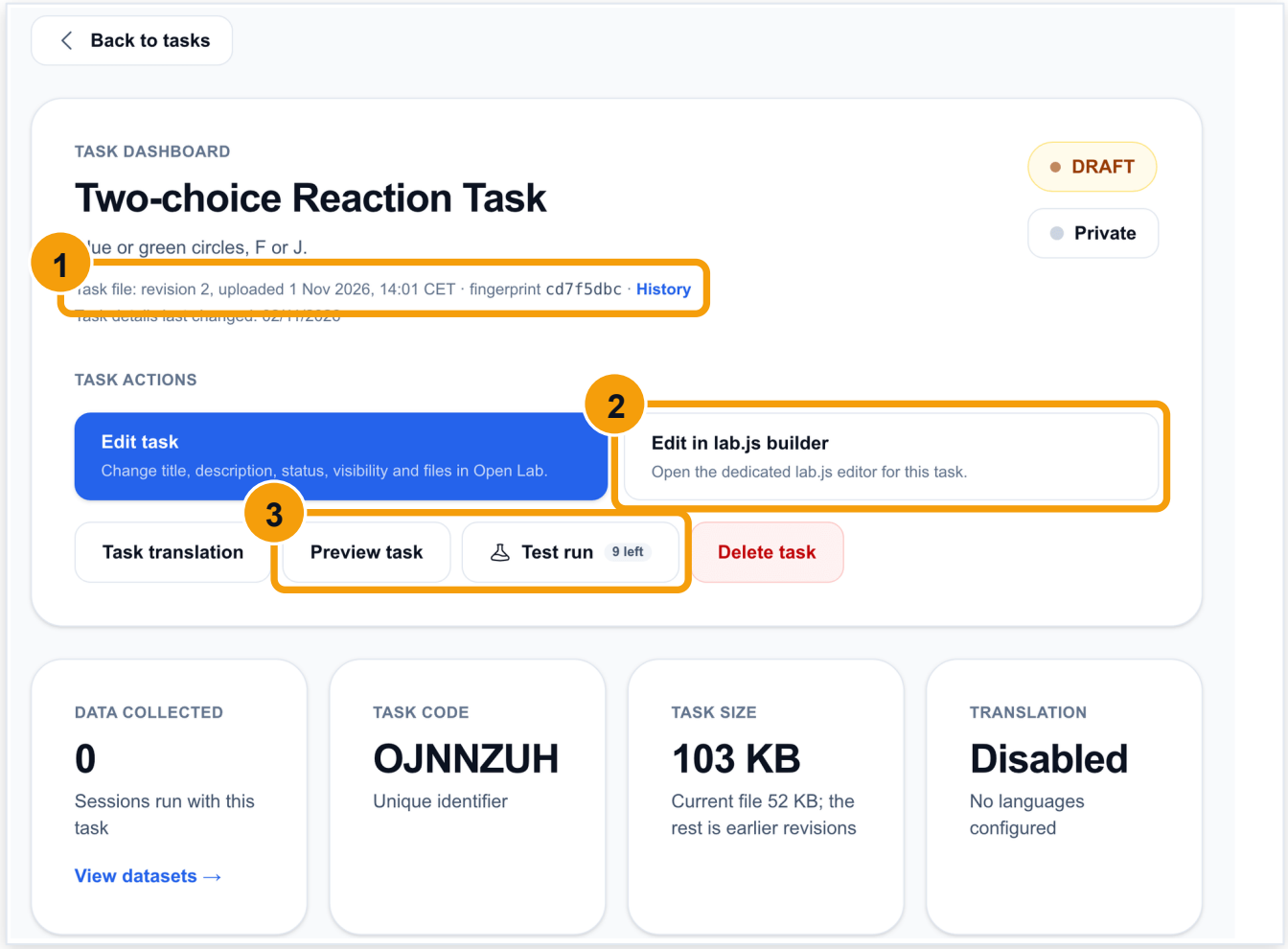
Your task’s page

My tasks › Open

1. **Revisions:** every new file becomes a revision of the task. History lists them.

2. **Edit in lab.js builder** opens this task in the builder; Save to Open Lab stores a new revision.

3. **Preview task** runs it; Test run plays it automatically and reports problems.

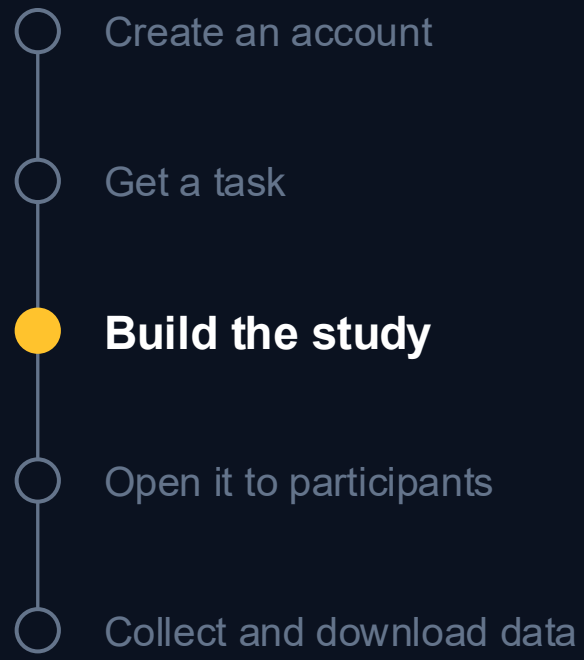


The task page: details, actions, and how much data it has collected

03

Build the study

A study is what participants take part in: a landing page, consent, your tasks and an ending page, in the order you choose.



Create a study

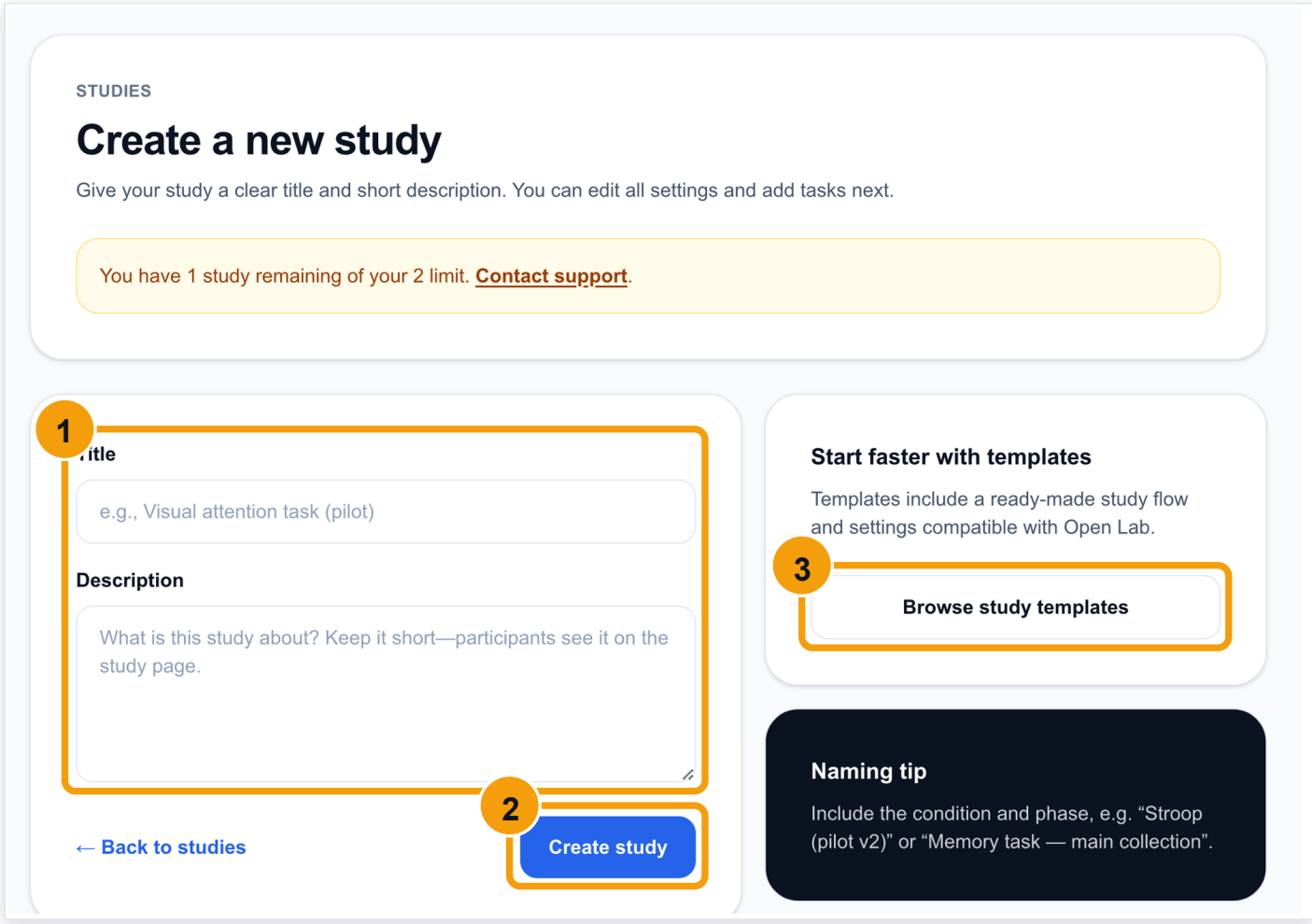
My studies › Create new study

1. **Title and description.** Participants see the description on the study page, so write it for them.

2. **Create study** opens the new study's page.

3. **Or start from a template** with a ready-made study flow and settings.

Tip Name studies so you can tell them apart later, e.g. "Stroop (pilot v2)".



research.open-lab.online/dashboard/studies/new

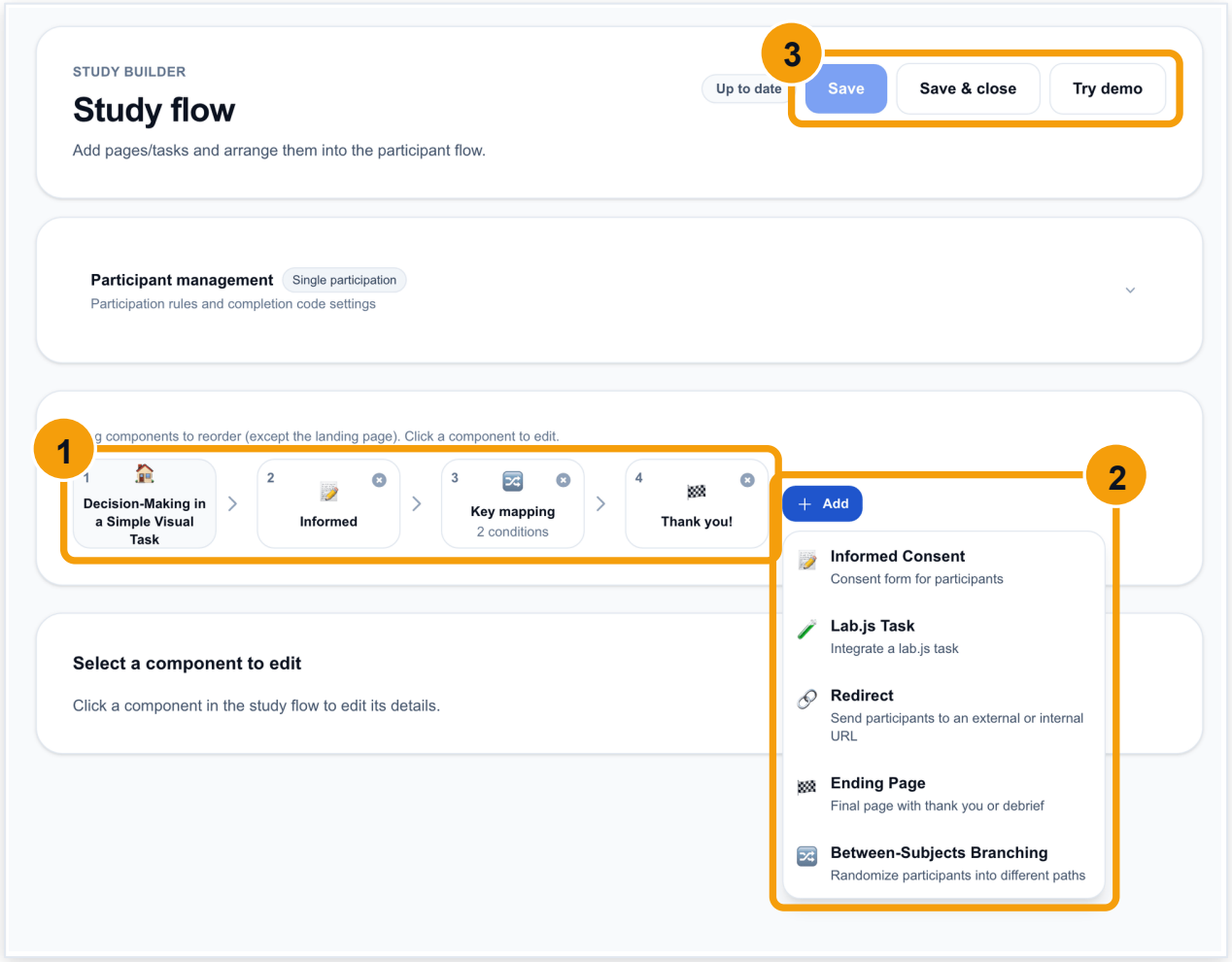
Build the study flow

Study page › Study builder

1. **The flow** runs from left to right. The landing page always comes first; drag the other steps to reorder them.

2. **+ Add** a step: Informed Consent, Lab.js Task, Redirect, Ending Page, or Between-Subjects Branching.

3. **Save** your changes. Try demo walks through the study as a participant.



The study builder with the Add menu open

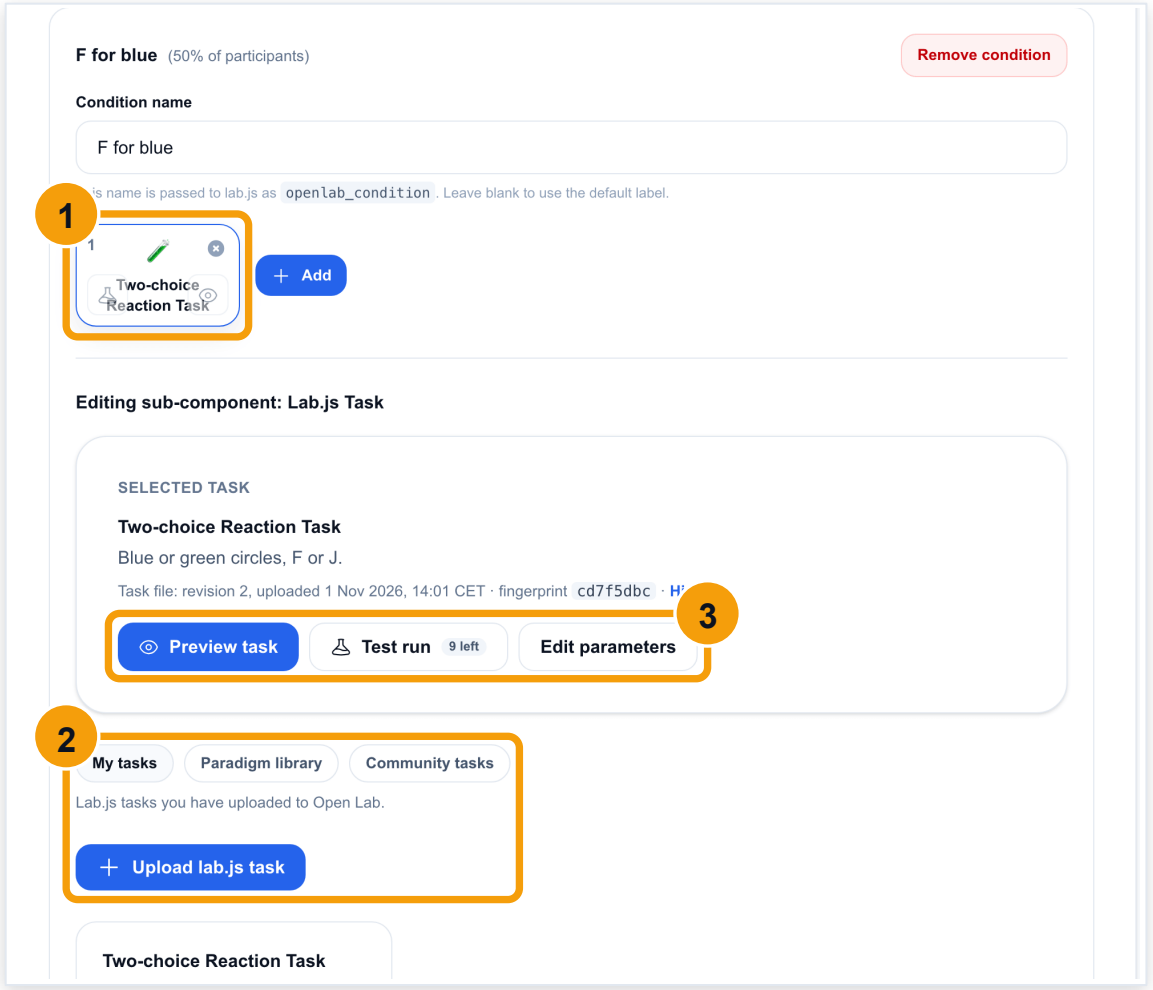
Put your task into the flow

Study builder › click a Lab.js Task step

1. **Select the step** in the flow (here it sits inside a condition).

2. **Pick a task** from My tasks, the Paradigm library or Community tasks, or upload one here.

3. **Preview task, Test run, Edit parameters.** Parameters change values such as durations or texts for this study only.



Editing a Lab.js Task step

Conditions for a between-subjects design

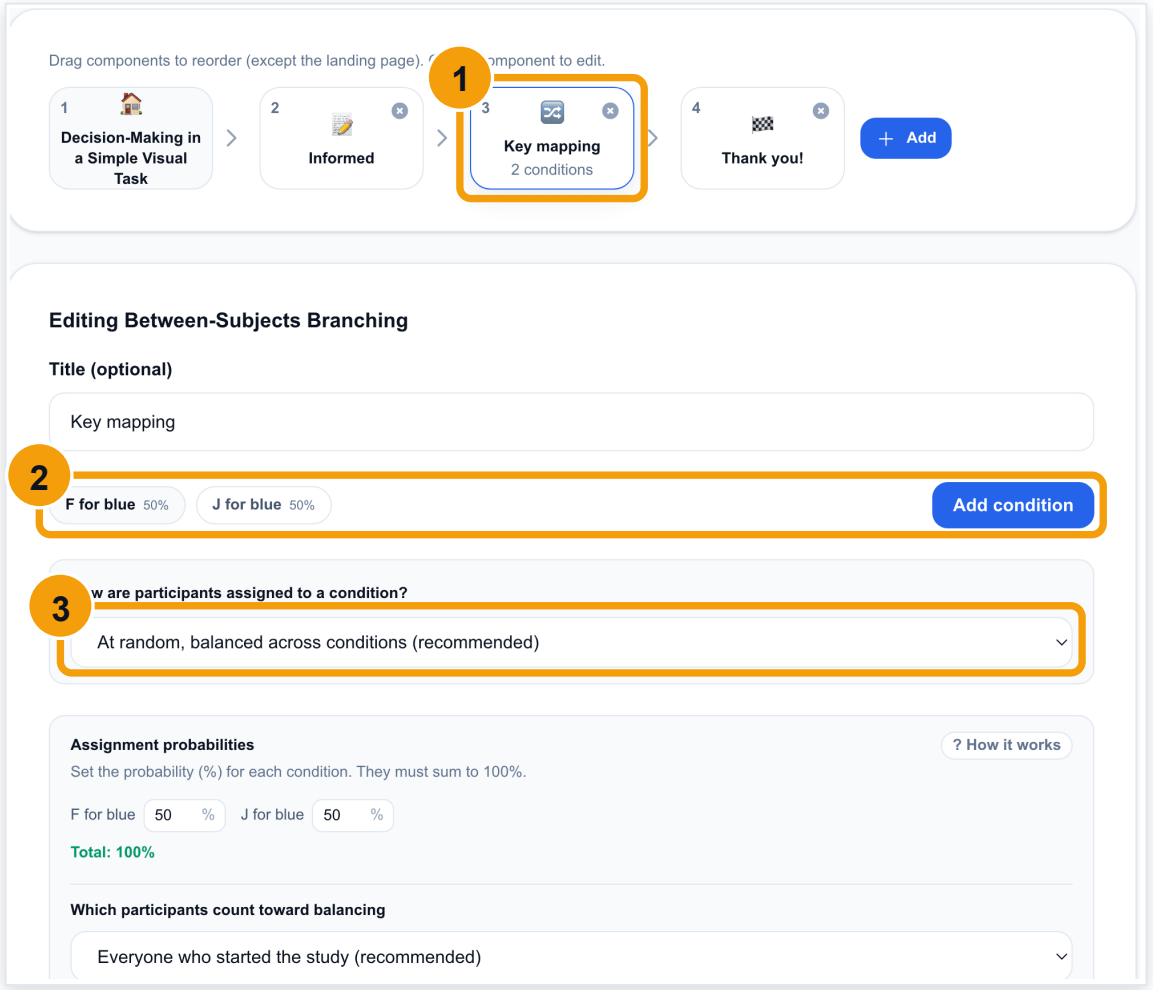
Study builder › + Add › Between-Subjects Branching

1. **The branching step** splits the flow into conditions.

2. **Each condition** has a name and its own steps. The name is passed to lab.js as openlab_condition.

3. **Assignment:** at random and balanced across conditions, which is recommended.

Tip Participants are assigned when they start the study, not when they reach the branch.



Two conditions, 50% each

Test before you launch

Preview task

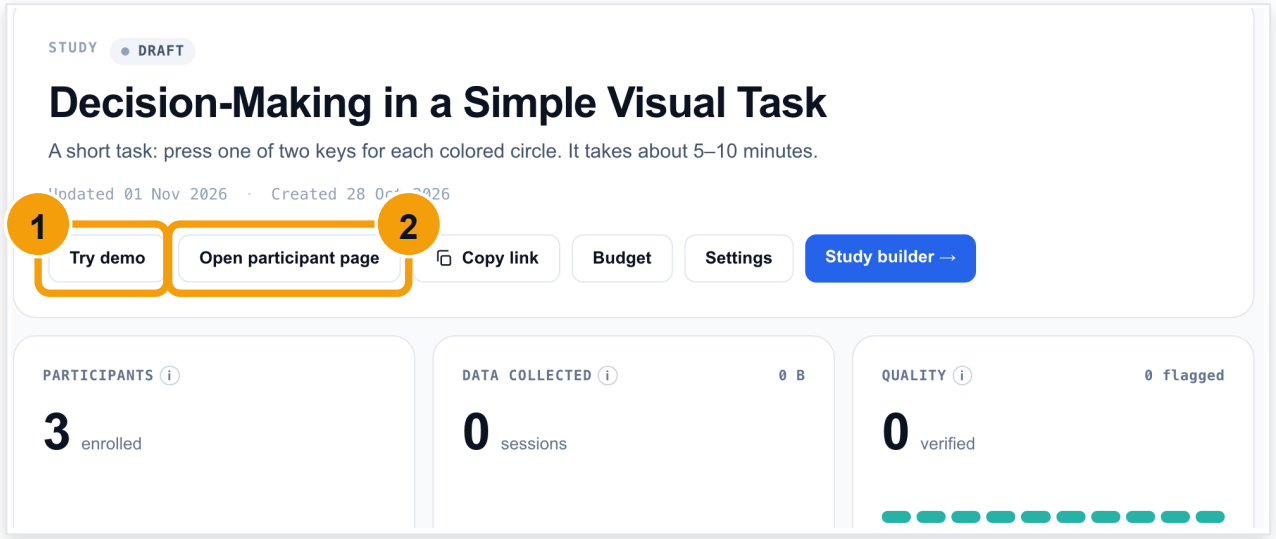
Runs one task in a window, as participants see it. Nothing is saved.

Test run

Plays a lab.js task automatically from start to finish and reports whether it loaded, finished and recorded data.

Try demo

Walk through the whole study the way a participant would. Nothing is saved in the demo.



The study page, still a Draft

1. **Try demo** is on the study page, in the study builder and in the status menu.
2. **Open participant page** shows the study page participants see. Taking part from there records real data, so remove such pilots afterwards.

04

Open it to participants

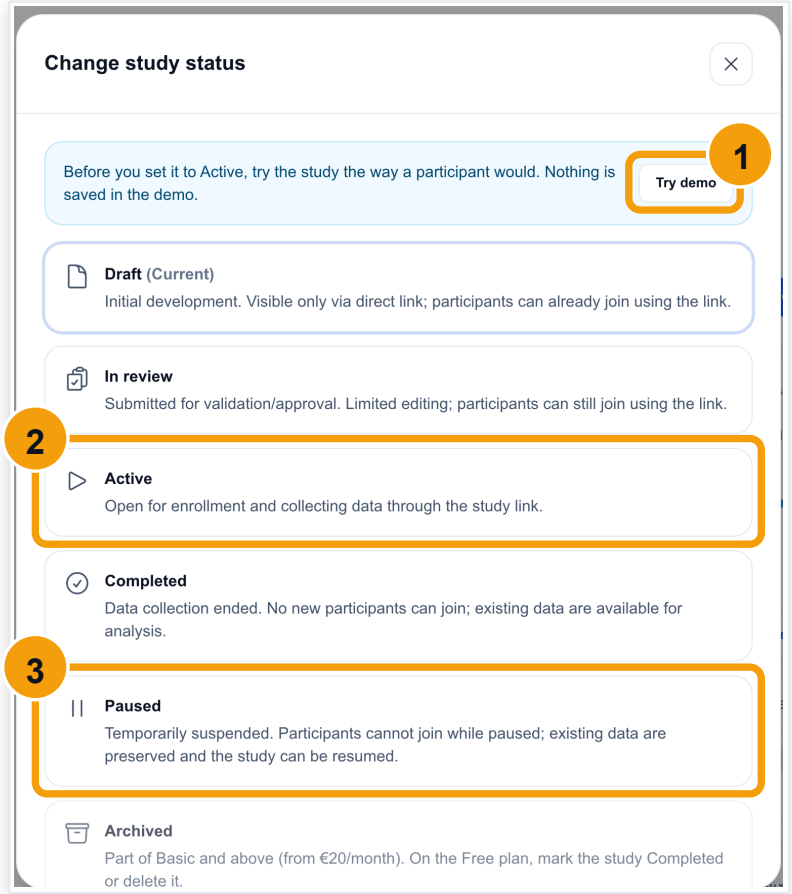
Set the study to Active, share the study link or code, and see what participants see.

- Create an account
- Get a task
- Build the study
- **Open it to participants**
- Collect and download data

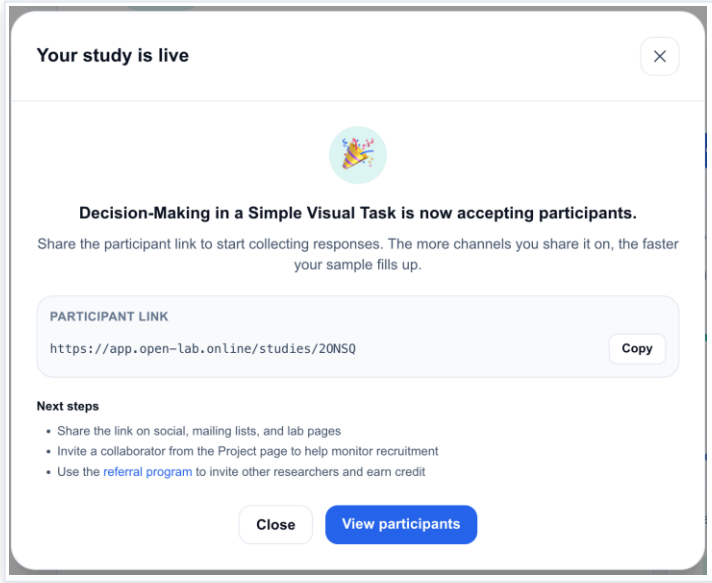
Set the study to Active

Study page › click the status badge (Draft)

1. **Try demo** once more before you open the study. Nothing is saved.
2. **Active** opens the study for enrolment. Open Lab first checks it, e.g. that every task step has a task.
3. **Paused** stops new participants for a while; your data stay.



The Change study status dialog



After Active: the participant link

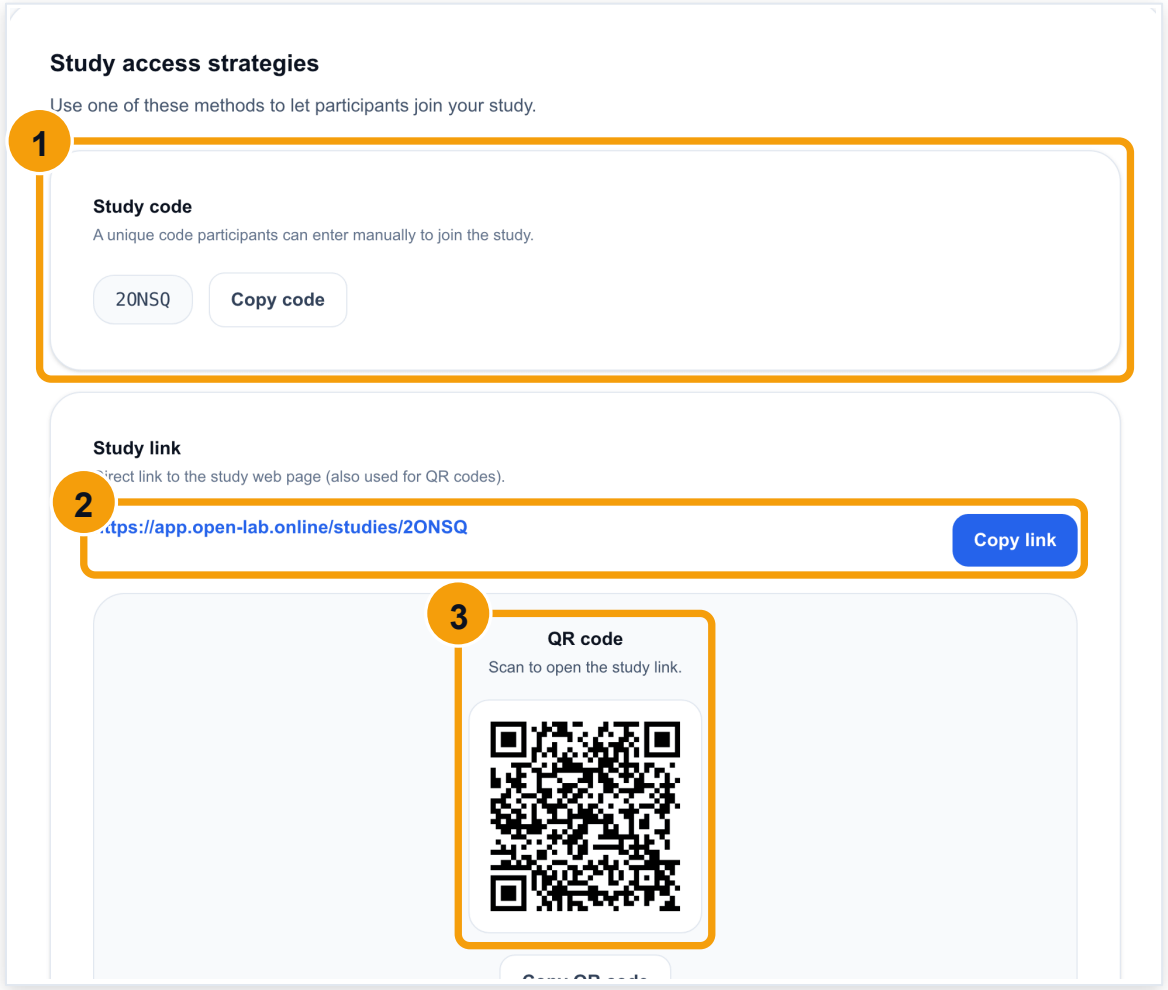
Tip While a study is Active, its consent text is locked. Pause the study to change it.

Share the study

Study page › Invitations › Study link

1. **Study code:** participants enter it on the participant site, under Find a study.
2. **Study link:** copy it into an email, a course page or a recruitment platform.
3. **QR code** for posters, slides and sessions in the lab or the lecture hall.

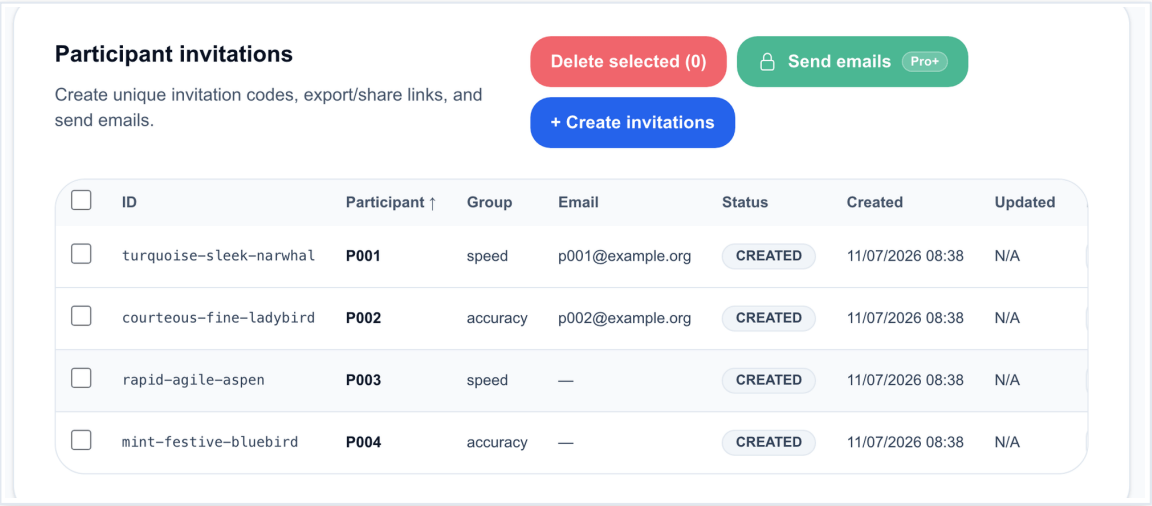
Tip A study does not need to be public to run. Make public only lists it among the public studies on the participant site.



The study link has the form app.open-lab.online/studies/<code>

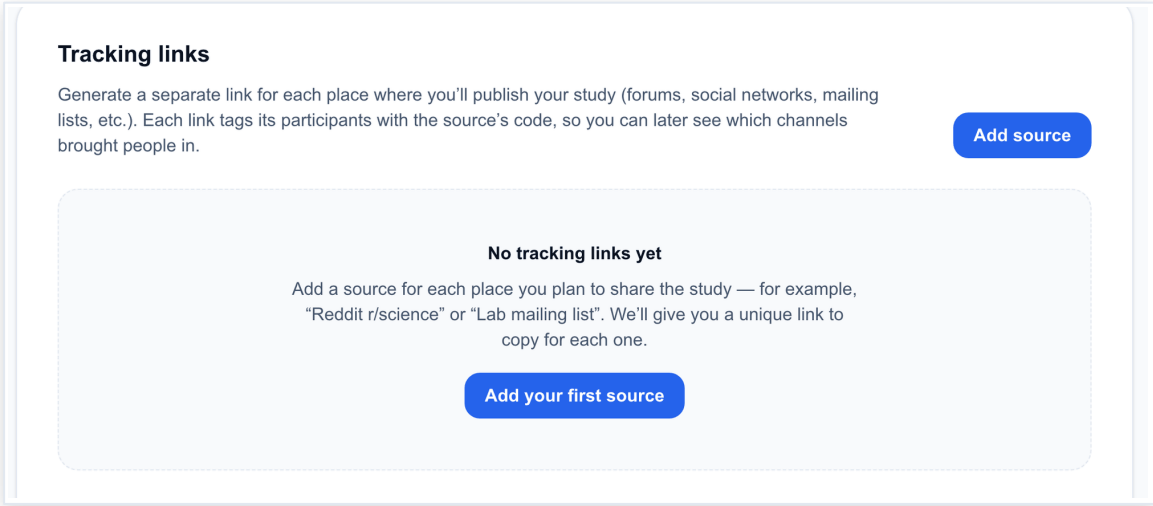
More ways to invite

Study page › Invitations



Direct invitations

A personal link for each participant, created from a list of participant codes, group codes and emails. Each link works for one participant.



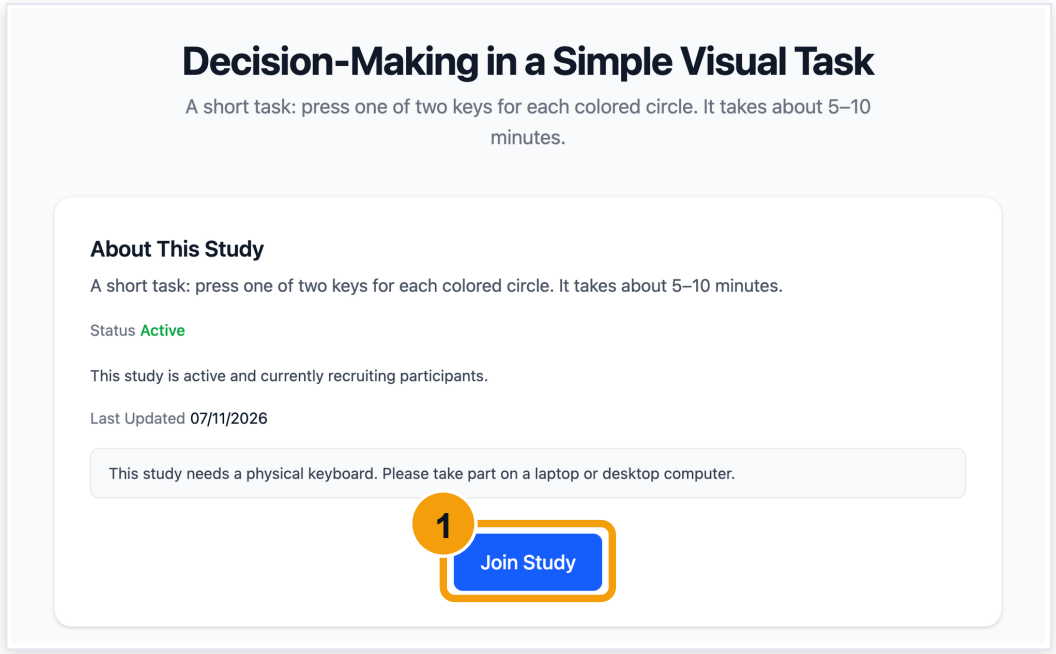
Tracking links

A separate link for each place you post the study, such as a forum or a mailing list, to see where participants come from.

Panels Recruiting through Prolific, Sona Systems, MTurk or CloudResearch? Step-by-step guides: research.open-lab.online/docs/integrations

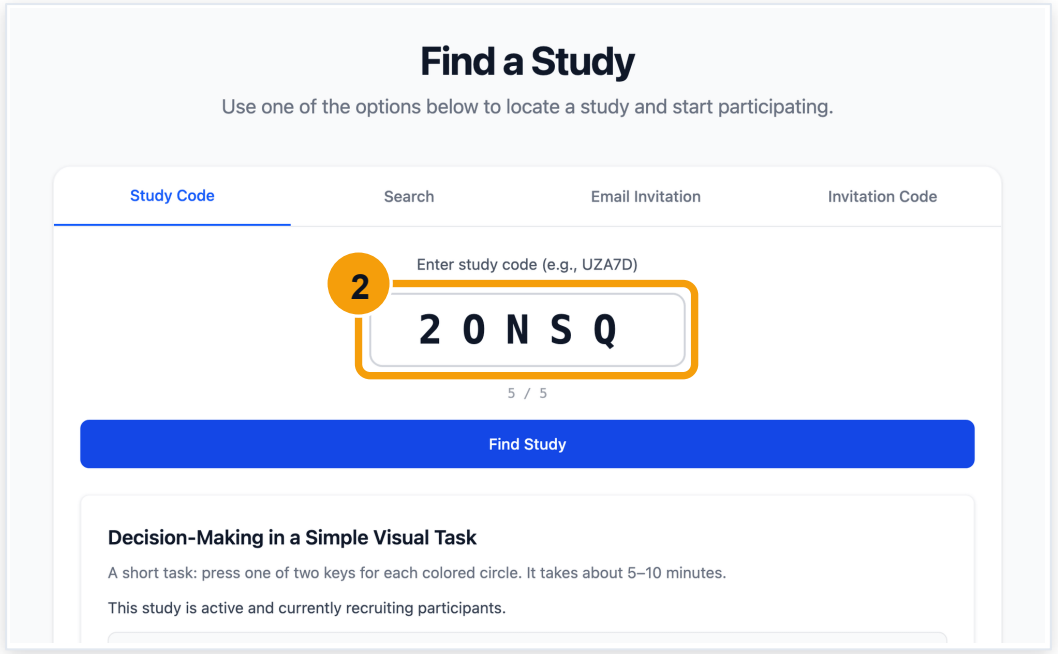
What participants see

app.open-lab.online · no account needed to take part



From the study link or QR code

The study page shows your title and description. Join Study starts it.



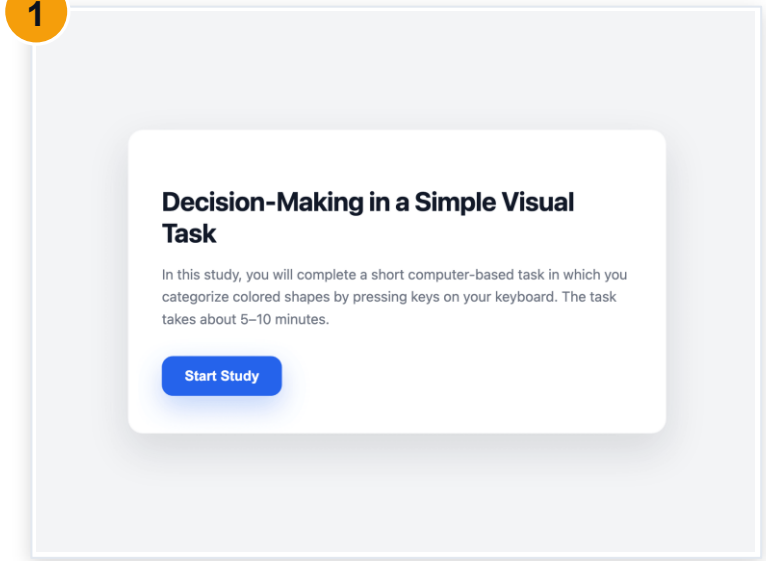
With the study code

Find a study › Study code: participants type the code and join from there.

Tip The keyboard notice appears because the task needs key presses; participants on a phone are asked to use a computer.

The participant’s path through the study

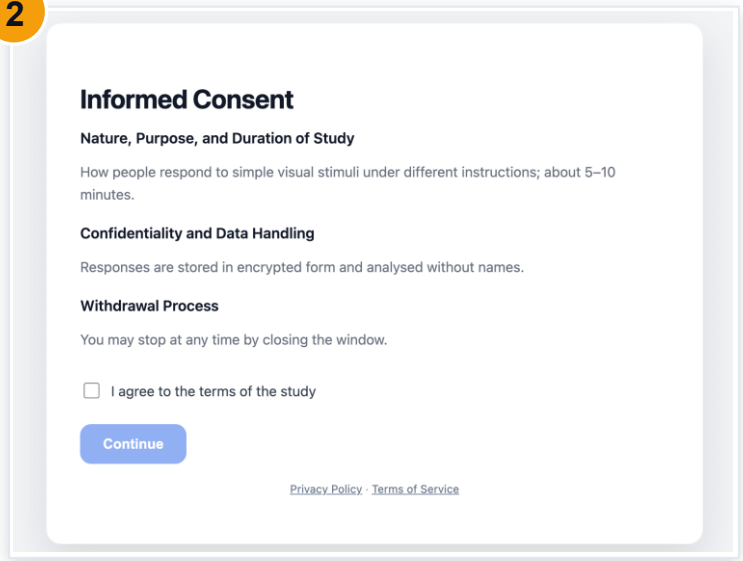
1



Landing page

Title and description, then Start Study.

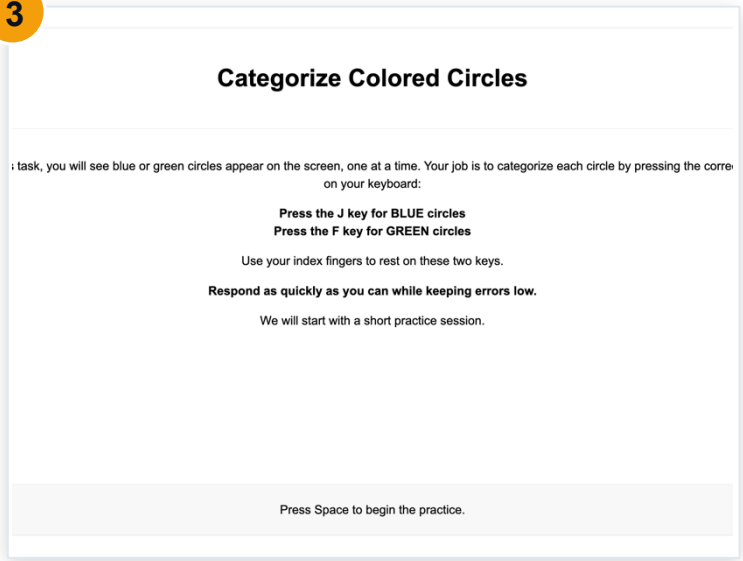
2



Informed consent

Participants agree before they can continue.

3



Your task

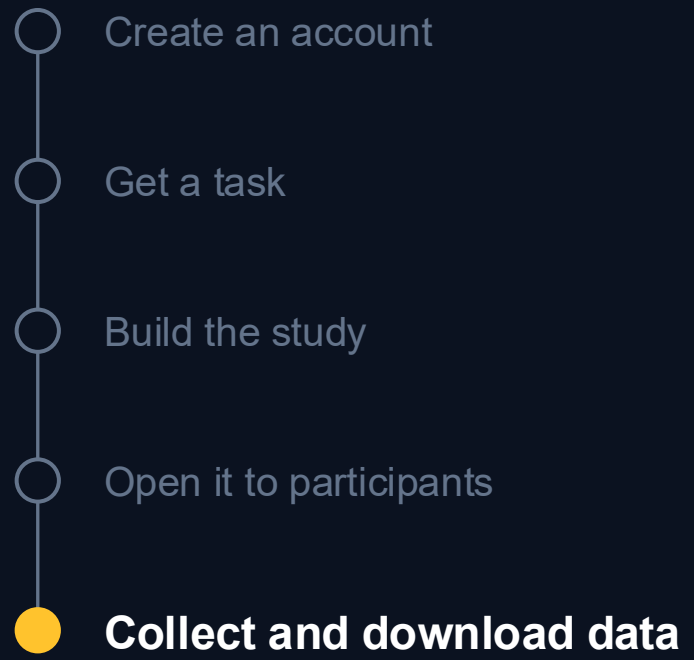
Runs in the browser. Data are saved as it runs.

Tip After the last task comes your ending page: a thank-you, a debriefing, or a completion code for a recruitment platform.

05

Collect and download data

Follow the study as sessions come in, check them, and download the data.



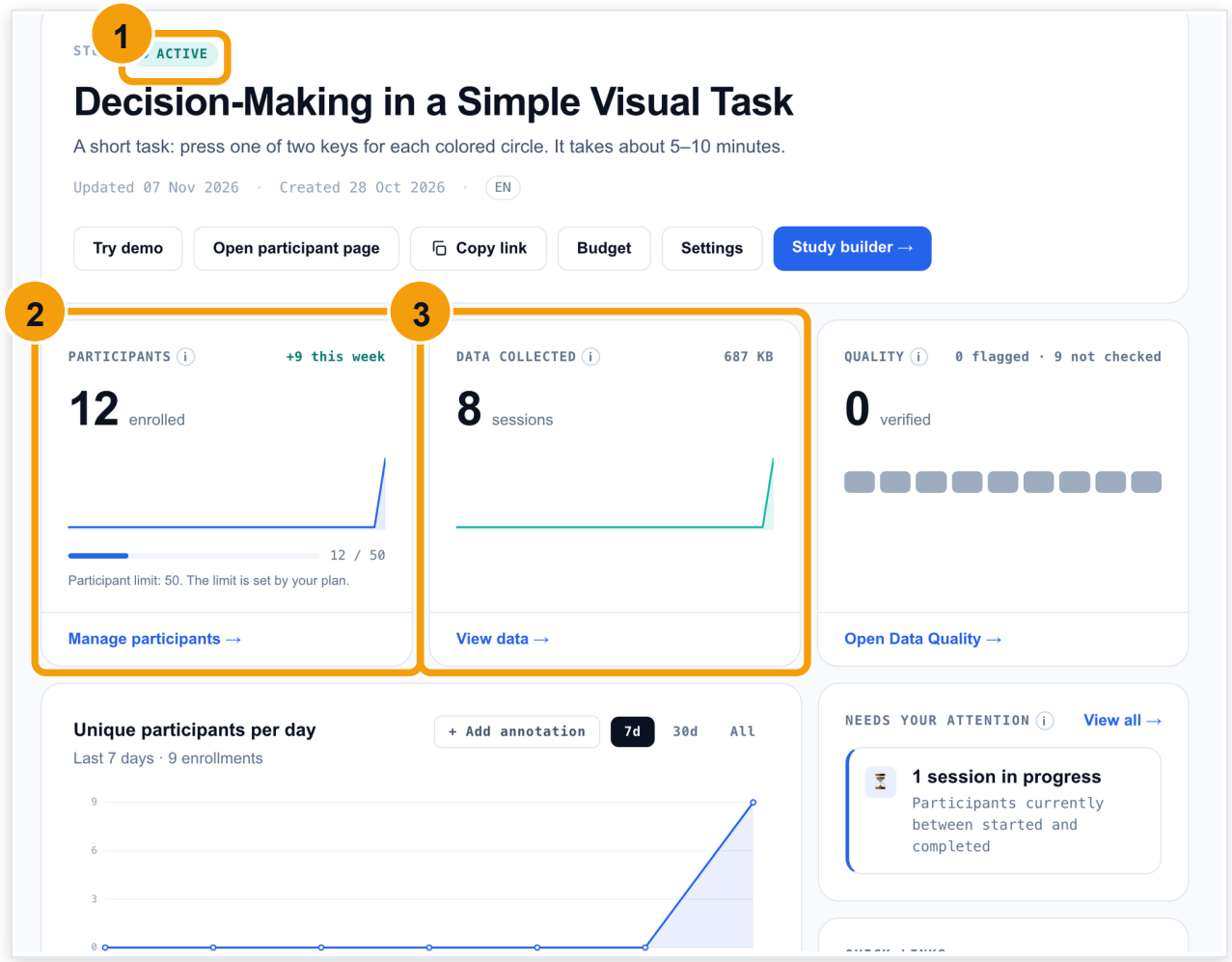
Follow your study

My studies › your study

1. **Status:** Active while the study is collecting data.

2. **Participants:** how many have enrolled, against your plan's limit. Manage participants lists them.

3. **Data collected:** sessions that sent data. View data opens the data page.



The study page after eight simulated sessions

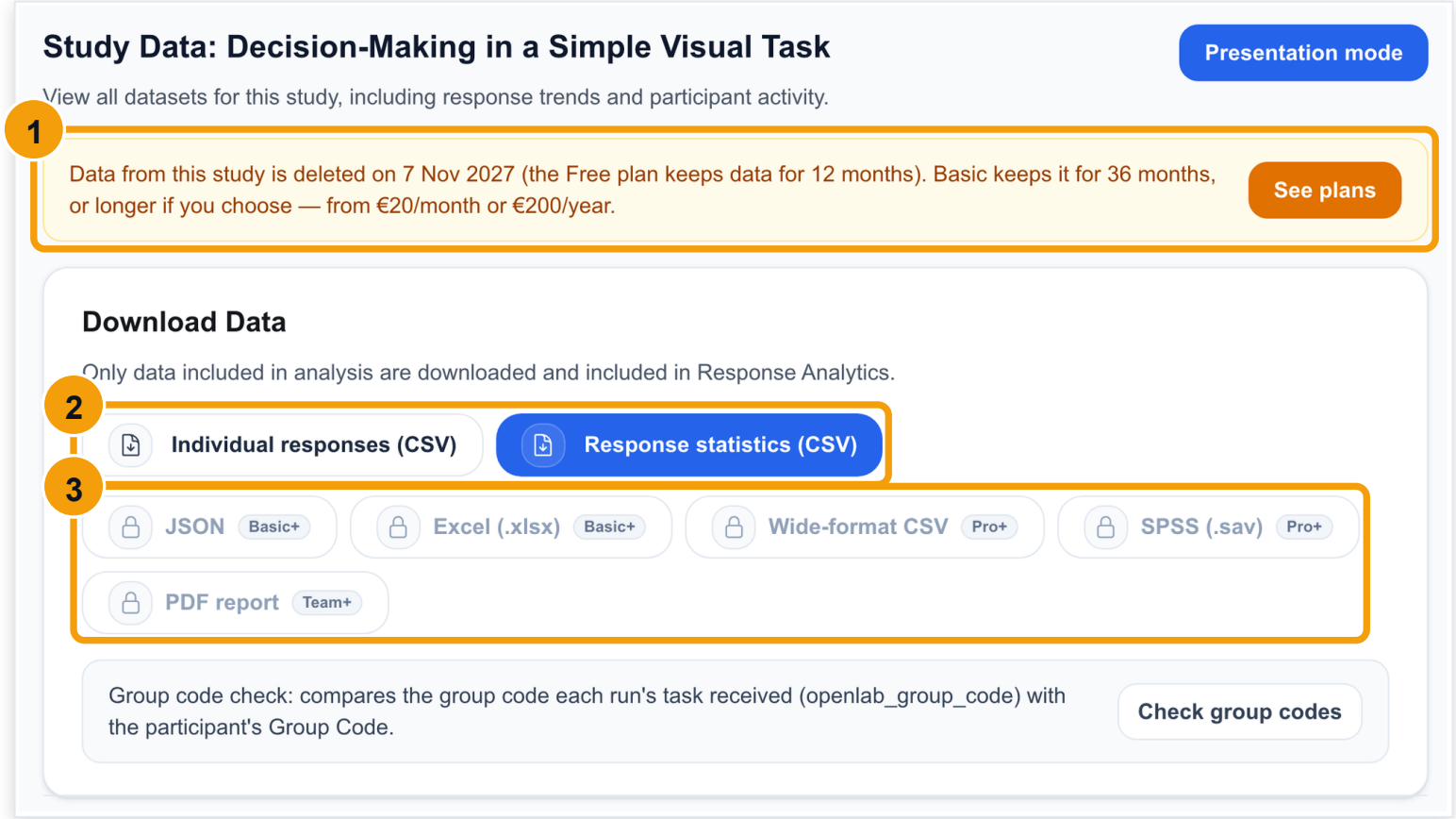
Download your data

Study page › View data

1. **How long data are kept** depends on your plan; the page shows the date. Download a copy in good time.

2. **Individual responses (CSV),** on every plan: every screen of every session. Response statistics (CSV): responses per day.

3. **Other formats** (JSON, Excel, SPSS and more) depend on your plan; each button shows which plan it needs.



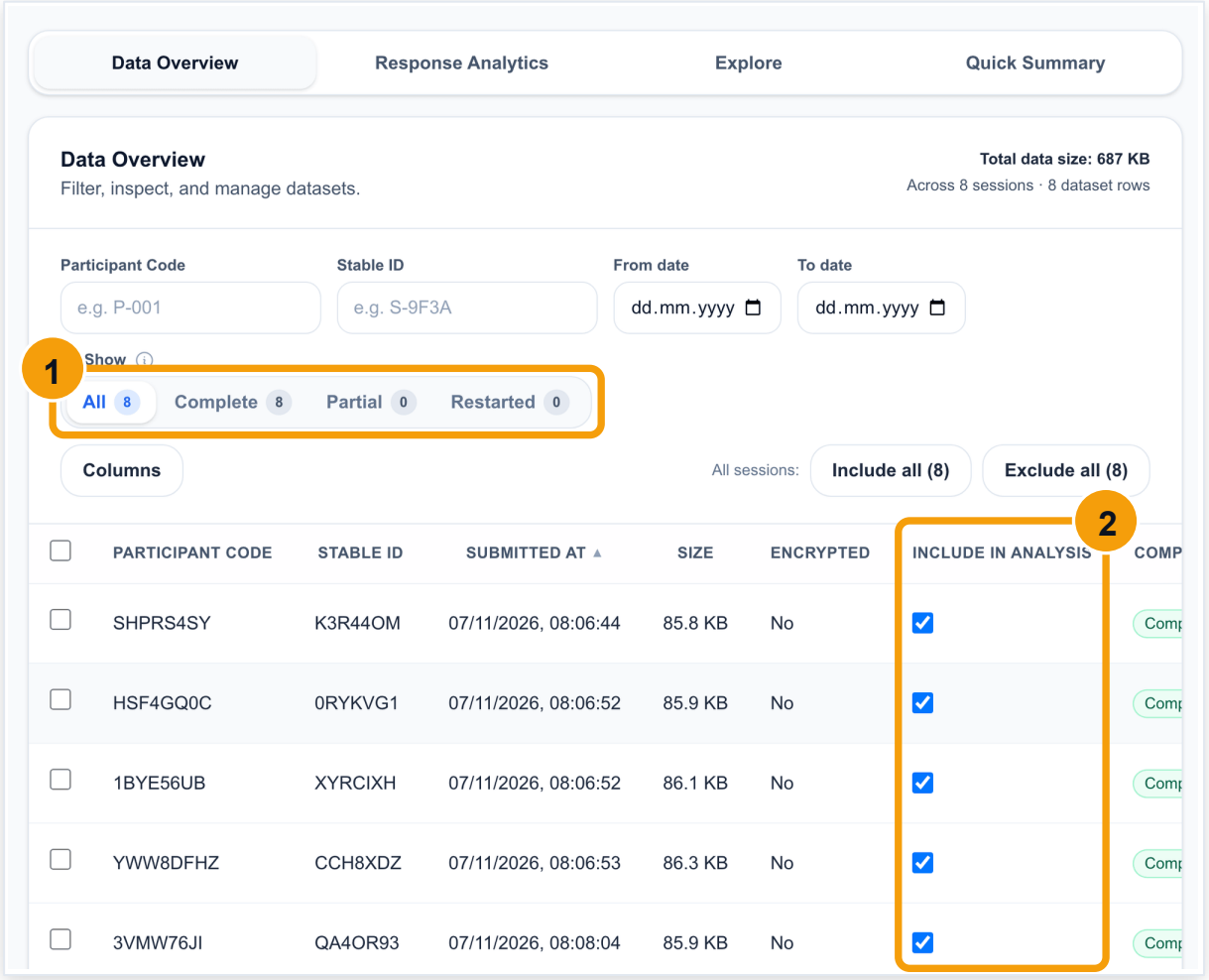
The data page of a study on the Free plan

Choose which sessions go into the file

Data page › Data Overview

1. **Filter** by participant, date or session type: complete, partial or restarted.

2. **Include in analysis:** untick a session, e.g. your own pilot, to leave it out of downloads and analytics.



One row per session

Tip For about 10 minutes after a session ends, the file can also hold its partial copies, marked Complete: No.

Reading the data file

Individual responses (CSV): one row per screen, per participant

Participant Code	Group Code	sender	phase	response	correct	duration	ended_on
SHPRS4SY	speed	**Instructions**		continue		1970	response
SHPRS4SY	speed	**Fixation cross**	practice			500	timeout
SHPRS4SY	speed	**Stimulus screen**	practice	green	true	424	response
SHPRS4SY	speed	**Inter-trial interval**	practice			500	timeout
SHPRS4SY	speed	**Trial**	practice			1433	completion
SHPRS4SY	speed	**Stimulus screen**	practice	blue	true	534	response

Columns before sender come from Open Lab; sender and the columns after it come from lab.js. The rows above are from the demo study; a real file has many more columns.

Excel Excel with German (comma-decimal) settings: select column A, then Data › Text to Columns (Daten › Text in Spalten), delimiter Comma, and under Advanced set the decimal separator to ".". R and Python read the file as it is.

sender
the screen (lab.js component) the row belongs to

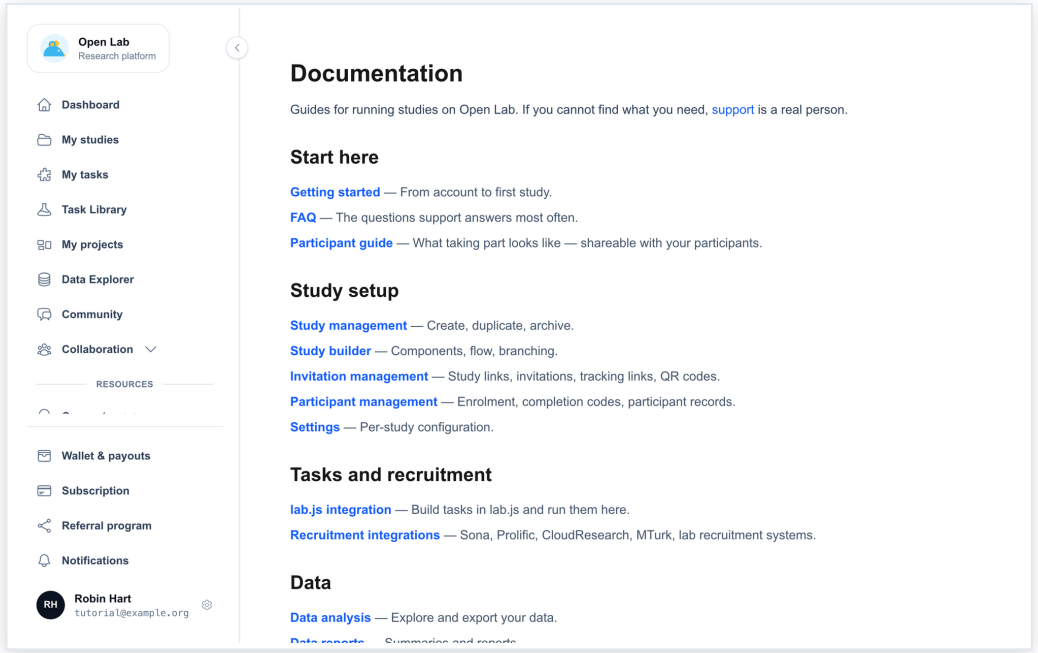
response, correct
what the participant pressed, and whether it was right

duration
time on the screen in ms; on a response screen, the reaction time

ended_on
how the screen ended: response, timeout or completion

Complete
Yes for a finished session

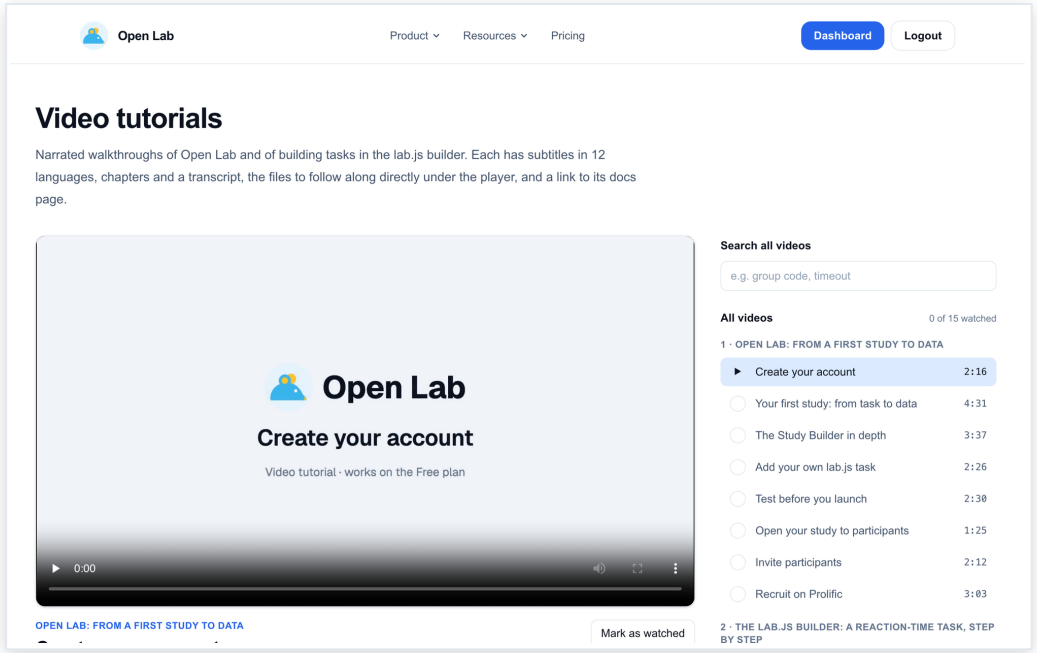
Where to find help



Documentation

research.open-lab.online/docs

Every step of this deck in more detail, plus the FAQ and guides for recruitment panels.



Video tutorials

research.open-lab.online/videos

Short narrated walkthroughs of the platform and of building a task in lab.js, with subtitles in 12 languages.

Support Questions or problems: info@open-lab.online

Before you share the link

- [x] Task previewed and test-run
- [x] Consent text final (it locks while Active)
- [x] Whole study tried with Try demo
- [x] Conditions and parameters checked
- [x] Study set to Active
- [x] Link, code or QR code shared
- [x] Pilot sessions excluded from analysis
- [x] Data downloaded and kept safe

Open Lab

research.open-lab.online/docs · info@open-lab.online

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