

Findings:	All participants went up to 300V and 65% went up to 450V. No participants stopped below 300V, whilst only 12.5% stopped at 300V, showing that the vast majority of participants were prepared to give lethal electric shocks to a confederate.
Complications/Implications:	Ordinary people are likely to follow orders given by an authority figure, even to the extent of killing an innocent human being. Obedience to authority is ingrained in us all from the way we are brought up. People tend to obey orders from other people if they recognize their authority as morally right and/or legally based. This response to legitimate authority is learned in a variety of situations, for example in the family, school, and workplace.
Evaluation Points (including): Methodological assessment; Ethical issues; Alternative explanations; Real World applications	STRENGTHS: The participants were thoroughly and carefully debriefed on the real aims of the study, in an attempt to deal with the ethical breach of the guideline of protection from deception and the possibility to give informed consent. In a follow up study conducted a year later, 84% of participants were glad they were part of the study and 74% felt as if they learned something. This suggests that the study left little or no permanent or long-term psychological harm on participants. This research opened our eyes to the problem of obedience and so may reduce future obedience in response to destructive authority figures. The procedure has been repeated all over the world, where consistent and similar obedience levels have been found. WEAKNESSES: The experiment may have been about trust rather than about obedience because the experiment was held at Stanford University. Therefore, the participants may have trusted that nothing serious would happen to the confederate, especially considering the immense prestige of the location. Also when the experiment was replicated in a run-down office, obedience decreased to a mere 20.5%. The tasks given to participants are not like those we would encounter in real life e.g. shooting someone is different from flicking a switch, meaning that the methodology lacks mundane realism, producing results which are low in ecological validity.

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