

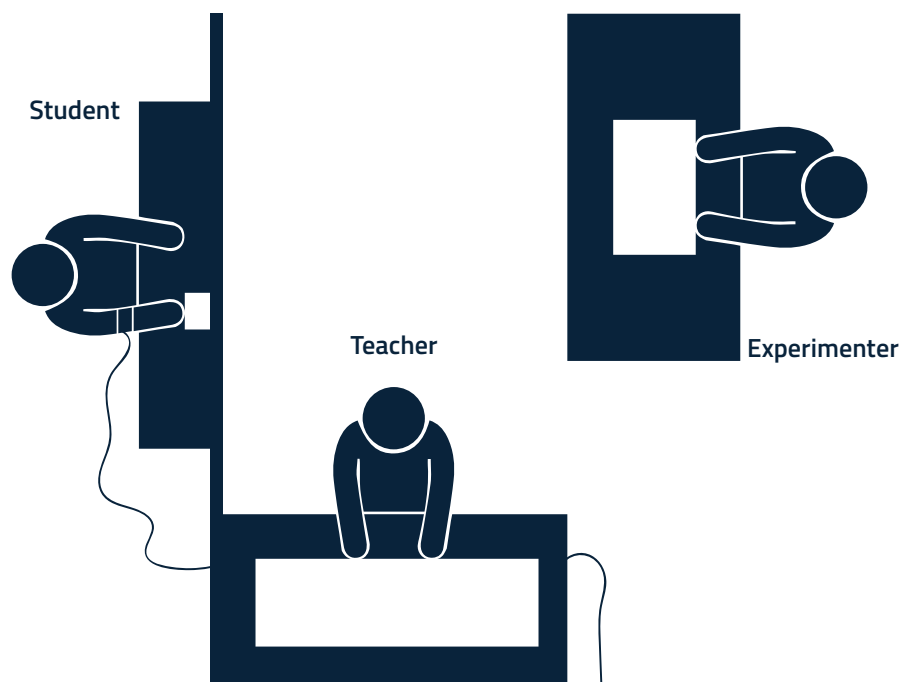
The Stanley Milgram Experiment

Stanley Milgram was a psychologist at Yale University in the 1960s. He set up an experiment to see if young men would follow orders even if it was hurting someone else.

He set up an experiment where there was:

- A researcher running the experiment.
- A volunteer, called the 'Teacher'.
- A volunteer called the 'Student'.

The volunteer acting as a Teacher was told that they were trying to find out whether punishment for incorrect answers would help people learn. The Student would be asked to remember different words and every time he got one wrong, the Teacher was told by the researcher to press a button to give him an electric shock. For each wrong answer the electric shock would get stronger. There were 30 stages of electric shock, from 15 volts ('a slight shock') to 450 volts ('danger – severe shock').



The Teacher couldn't see the Student, but could hear the cries of pain from them. Some of the volunteers acting as the Teacher asked to stop, or questioned how much they were hurting the other person, but the researcher would urge them to continue.

Actually, the Student was really an actor who was part of the experiment and the electric shocks were not real. However, the volunteer Teacher didn't know that. All the people taking part gave another person electric shocks up to 300 volts, and 75% of people gave shocks of 450 volts – just because someone told them to. The experiments have been repeated many times in the following years with consistent results within differing societies, although not with the same percentages around the globe.