

Variables

Psychology

The types of variable, and what operationalisation means.

The vocabulary every method question uses.

Variable	Is
Independent	What the researcher manipulates
Dependent	What is measured
Extraneous	Anything else that could affect the DV
Confounding	An extraneous variable that varies with the IV
Control	Held constant deliberately
Operationalisation	The specific way a variable is measured

An extraneous variable adds noise. A confounding variable creates a false effect — that is the difference that matters.