# Supplemental Materials : Methodological Details

**Persistence scale**

1. I like a challenge better than easy jobs.
2. I am usually eager to get going on any job I have to do.
3. I often give up a job if it takes much longer than I thought it would.
4. I am a very ambitious person.
5. When I fail at something at first, I become even more determined to do a better job.
6. I am usually so determined that I continue to work long after other people have given up.
7. I have often been called an "eager beaver".
8. I often drag my heels a while before starting any project.
9. I love to excel at everything I do.
10. I am more hard working than most people.
11. No matter how hard a job is, I like to get started quickly.
12. The harder a job is, the less I enjoy it.
13. I am eager to start work on any assigned duty.
14. I often accomplish more than people expect of me.
15. I usually push myself harder than most people do.
16. I am never described as an overachiever.
17. If something does not work as I expected, I am more likely to quit than to keep going for a long time.
18. I like to strive for bigger and better things.
19. I am more of a perfectionist than most people.
20. No job is too hard for me to do my best.

# Supplemental Materials: Additional Results

Supplemental Table 1. MNI coordinates of regions the activity of which is correlated with execute period (thresholded at p = 0.001, unc. > 5 voxels)

| Region | Nearest Brodmann Areas | Coordinates (mm) | | | Z value | No. of voxels | *P* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | x | y | z | | | |
| *Contrast: Squeeze > Hold (Execute Period)* | | | | | | | |
| Cerebellum Anterior Lobe | N/A | +15 | -52 | -23 | 4.58 | 27 | .03 (corr.) |
| Primary motor cortex | 4 | -42 | -22 | +49 | 3.72 | 11 | .0001 (unc.) |
| Caudate Nucleus | N/A | -15 | +26 | +1 | 3.54 | 6 | .0001 (unc.) |

**Subjective rating**

For each of the four ‘grip’ stimuli and the ‘hold’stimulus, participants rated how much they liked a particular grip-for-money combination associated with the stimulus. They used a visual analog scale where they could slide the cursor on a bar to indicate their subjective rating from ‘I do not like it at all' on the left side to 'I like it very much' on the right side.

Instructions:

“You will now see the circles again. For each circle you see, please think about how much gripping and how much money associated with it and indicate HOW MUCH YOU LIKE that grip-for-money action.”

**Manipulation Check**

1. We presented two thermometer images, each of which a target line indicating low and high effort levels. For each thermometer stimulus, participants made an estimate on the amount of money that is considered a fair payment for squeezing to the target line ten times in a row.

Instructions:

“How much money do you think is considered a fair pay for gripping at the yellow line ten times in a row?”

2. We presented two red circle stimuli, each of which with a horizontal line indicating low and high reward levels. For each of these stimuli, participants made an estimate on the amount of money indicated by the horizontal line.

Instructions:

“How much money does the horizontal line on the circle mean?”