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# PSYCHONOMIC BULLETIN & REVIEW

## **Voice-based judgments of sex, height, weight, attractiveness, health and psychological traits based on free speech versus scripted speech**

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## Voice-based judgments of sex, height, weight, attractiveness, health and psychological traits based on free speech versus scripted speech.

Piotr Sorokowski<sup>1</sup>, Katarzyna Pisanski<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, Tomasz Frąckowiak<sup>1</sup>, Aleksander Kobylarek<sup>4</sup>,  
Agata Groyecka-Bernard<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institute of Psychology, University of Wrocław, Wrocław, Poland

<sup>2</sup>ENES Bioacoustics Research Lab, CRNL, CNRS UMR5292, University Jean Monnet, Saint-  
Etienne, France.

<sup>3</sup>Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Laboratoire Dynamique du Langage,  
Université Lyon 2, France

<sup>4</sup> Institute of Pedagogy, University of Wrocław, Wrocław, Poland

### Author Note

Piotr Sorokowski: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9225-9965>

Katarzyna Pisanski: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0992-2477>

Tomasz Frąckowiak: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0244-2879>

Aleksander Kobylarek: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4562-9035>

Agata Groyecka-Bernard: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1932-4828>

\*Corresponding author: Katarzyna Pisanski [kasiapisanski@gmail.com](mailto:kasiapisanski@gmail.com);

Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Katarzyna Pisanski, Institute of  
Psychology, University of Wrocław, ul. Dawida 1, 50-527 Wrocław, Poland.

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## Abstract

How do we perceive others based on their voices? This question has attracted research and media attention for decades, producing hundreds of studies showing that the voice is socially and biologically relevant, but these studies vary in methodology and ecological validity. Here we test whether vocalizers producing **read** versus **free** speech are judged similarly by listeners on ten biological and/or **psychosocial** traits. In perception experiments using speech from 208 men and women and ratings from 4088 listeners, we show that listeners' assessments of **vocalizer sex and age are highly accurate, regardless of speech type. Assessments of femininity-masculinity and health also do not differ between free and read speech. In contrast, read speech elicits higher ratings of attractiveness and dominance, whereas free speech elicits higher ratings of likeability and trustworthiness. Importantly, these differences were small, and we additionally show moderate to strong correlations between ratings of the same vocalizers based on their read and free speech for all ten traits, indicating that voice-based judgements are highly consistent within speakers, whether or not speech is spontaneous.** Our results provide evidence that the human voice can communicate various biological and psychosocial traits via both **read** and **free** speech, with theoretical and practical implications.

**Keywords:** voice perception; voice recording; voice-based judgements; speech; communication

## Introduction

Vocal cues are a valuable source of socially relevant information about others (Kamiloğlu, & Sauter, 2021; Latinus, & Belin, 2011). Their meaning, evolutionary significance, and social effects have been emphasized across diverse disciplines including biology, psychology, anthropology, ethology, linguistics, the computer sciences and media studies. Given the increasing quantity of studies on voice perception, there is a growing need to better understand how the methodologies applied to investigate human nonverbal vocal communication may influence research outcomes (Groyecka-Bernard et al., 2022; Lavan, 2023; Pisanski et al., 2021; Sorokowski et al., 2022).

One prevalent paradigm in voice research is to use perception/playback experiments to assess listeners' evaluations of unseen speakers based only on their voices. Such studies have, for example, investigated listeners' assessments of social or psychological characteristics of the speakers, such as dominance (Puts et al., 2007), cooperativeness (Knowles & Little, 2016), or authority (Sorokowski et al., 2019), and biological traits including body size or physical strength (reviewed in Pisanski & Bryant, 2019; Aung & Puts, 2019). These experiments consistently highlight the social value of vocal cues in human communication, however research into methodological aspects of such studies is scarce despite considerable variation in methodological protocols across studies, and particularly in the types of voice stimuli used to measure listeners' voice-based assessments.

Although we know that even extremely short speech stimuli, such as a single word, can encode a great deal of socially relevant information about the speaker (McAleer et al., 2014), few researchers have systematically tested how the perception or accuracy of voice ratings is influenced by variations in the length and type of voice samples (e.g., Ferdenzi et al., 2013; Mahrholz et al., 2018, Painter et al., 2021; Groyecka-Bernard et al., 2022). In one of the earliest studies to test this, Ferdenzi and colleagues (2013) showed that voice

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3 69 attractiveness judgments were higher for words than for vowel sounds. Mahrholz and  
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5 70 colleagues (2018) later showed that listeners' voice-based ratings of trustworthiness,  
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7 71 dominance, and attractiveness were highly correlated when based on a word versus sentence  
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9 72 produced by the same speakers, and did not depend on whether speech was socially relevant  
10  
11 73 or neutral. Painter and colleagues (2021) found that accuracy in listeners' perceptions of  
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13 74 sexual orientation from speech, though generally low, varied depending on whether speakers  
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15 75 were producing a single scripted word or one or two scripted sentences. Most recently,  
16  
17 76 Groyecka-Bernard and colleagues (2022) showed that listeners' perceptions of several  
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19 77 socially relevant traits including attractiveness, trustworthiness, dominance, likability, health,  
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21 78 masculinity and femininity increased as the length of speech stimuli increased. Listeners'  
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23 79 ratings of these traits were slightly higher for sentence-long greetings or read renditions of the  
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25 80 first paragraph of the classic, content-neutral Rainbow Passage, than they were for vowels and  
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27 81 single words. Nevertheless, listeners' judgments were highly similar for the same speakers,  
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29 82 regardless of the length of their scripted speech, indicating that socially relevant perceptions  
30  
31 83 of speakers are not wholly altered but instead are moderated by the length of their speech.  
32  
33 84 Critically, all of these studies focused on scripted or read speech stimuli, with none having  
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35 85 included free spontaneous speech, despite known differences in the way that people talk when  
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37 86 they read versus speak freely (e.g., Szekely et al., 2020; Winkworth, 1994).

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44 87 It thus remains unknown whether freely produced spontaneous speech elicits different  
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46 88 impressions of speakers than does standardized scripted or read speech, a key aim of the  
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48 89 present study. This is an important research question both theoretically and methodologically.  
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50 90 Theoretically, answering this question can provide insight into the extent to which acoustic  
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52 91 cues to speaker traits are encoded in different kinds of speech, as we predict they will be,  
53  
54 92 given that socially-rich acoustic parameters such as voice pitch are preserved across speech  
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56 93 types and even nonverbal vocalizations within speakers (Pisanski et al., 2020, 2021).  
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3 94 Methodologically, answering this question can clarify whether studies using different kinds of  
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5 95 speech stimuli are comparable, and indeed, whether using free versus read speech is preferred  
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7 96 in terms of ensuring the more robust responses from listeners. Practically, this research can  
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9 97 also uncover whether reading text or speeches, which many public speakers in politics and  
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11 98 broadcasting do, causes listeners to perceive us more or less favourably.  
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14 99 The large body of existing research on human voice production and perception is  
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16 100 highly inconsistent in terms of methodology and voice stimulus choice. Some research  
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18 101 designs provide a high degree of standardization by ensuring that all participants produce  
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20 102 vocal stimuli with the same verbal content (e.g., Atkinson et al., 2012, Knowles & Little,  
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22 103 2016; Pipitone & Gallup, 2008; and many others), while others prioritize ecological validity  
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24 104 over internal validity and therefore record spontaneous, unscripted free-speech sentences (e.g.  
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26 105 Schild et al., 2020; Puts et al., 2007; Tigue, et al., 2012, Mayew et al., 2013, and many  
27  
28 106 others). Ecological validity refers to the extent to which the findings of a research study can  
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30 107 be generalized to real-life settings, and it is generally clear that listening to a free speech  
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32 108 sample more closely reflects a real-life social interaction than does listening to a standardized  
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34 109 recording of someone reading, particularly if the read text is socially irrelevant and affectively  
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36 110 neutral, as it most often is.  
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41  
42 111 At the same time, it is also true that the free speech design bears certain risks, as there  
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44 112 are many factors that can influence the nonverbal vocal parameters or prosody of speech and  
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46 113 thus perceptions of the freely speaking person. Indeed, according to previous studies, free  
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48 114 speech has certain characteristics that distinguish it from read speech (Szekely et al., 2020;  
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50 115 Winkworth, 1994). For example, free speech tends to have a higher proportion of filled  
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52 116 pauses such as 'um' and 'uh' (Szekely et al., 2019), as well as more variation in rhythm,  
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54 117 intonation, speaking rate and pitch (Wester, et al., 2016). The relatively greater variance in  
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56 118 free speech might emphasize psycho-biological traits of speakers, namely by drawing  
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3 119 attention to stable individual differences in vocal parameters that can index speaker traits,  
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5 120 such as dominance or age, which are often indexed by individual differences in mean voice  
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7 121 pitch (Kreiman & Sidtis, 2011). This could in turn increase accuracy in listeners' assessments  
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9 122 of such traits based on free speech compared to read speech. In contrast, increased vocal  
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11 123 variance might occlude or distract from otherwise reliable vocal indices of speaker traits, for  
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13 124 example by drawing attention away from relatively stable vocal markers toward more  
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15 125 idiosyncratic speaking patterns that are less biologically constrained and thus less biologically  
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17 126 relevant, such as speaking rate.

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21 127 The aim of the current study was to test whether several commonly studied traits,  
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23 128 including social, biological and psychological characteristics of men and women, would be  
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25 129 assessed differently by listeners from the voice depending on whether these same vocalizers  
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27 130 were producing read or free speech with neutral content. We thus compared listeners'  
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29 131 assessment of attractiveness, trustworthiness, dominance, likability, femininity/masculinity  
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31 132 and health as well as accuracy in their judgments of vocalizer sex, age, height, and weight  
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33 133 based on voice recordings of free speech versus standardized read speech produced by the  
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35 134 same men and women.

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## 41 42 136 **Methods**

43  
44 137 The study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. Study  
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46 138 protocols were accepted by the ethics committee at the Institute of Psychology, University of  
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48 139 [masked for peer review]. Vocalizers and raters provided informed consent prior to study  
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50 140 inclusion. Vocalizers were informed that their voice recordings will be used for research  
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52 141 purposes and that they will be played to other participants in perception experiments.

## 53 54 55 142 **Participants**

### 56 57 58 143 *Vocalizers*

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3 144 Voice samples for the current study were recorded from 208 adult men and women  
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5 145 ( $M_{age} = 30.4$ ,  $SD_{age} = 11.54$ ; 49% women), hereafter referred to as vocalizers. We aimed for a  
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7 146 sample size of approximately 100 vocalizers per sex, based on a trade-off between the sample  
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9 147 size of raters that would be required to judge such a large sample of speech stimuli (totaling  
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11 148 416) while also retaining a representative sample of men and women with variable  
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13 149 interindividual differences in the traits of interest and in nonverbal features of the voice.  
14  
15 150 Vocalizers were recruited through snowball sampling by researchers, research assistants, their  
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17 151 colleagues and acquaintances. All vocalizers were native Polish speakers and were not  
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19 152 compensated for study participation.  
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### 23 153 *Voice raters*

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26 154 A separate group of participants took part in the study as listeners (voice raters), with a  
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28 155 final sample size of 4088 men and women ( $M_{age} = 32.16$ ,  $SD_{age} = 12.97$ , 46% women), after  
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30 156 removal of approximately 5% of data from participants who failed listening or attention  
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32 157 checks (see below). The majority of raters (67% or  $n = 2446$ , with 51.9% women,  $M_{age} =$   
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34 158  $26.2$ ,  $SD_{age} = 10.3$ ) were recruited by the research team using the snowball sampling method,  
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36 159 wherein researchers posted recruitment ads on their social media profiles and around their city  
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38 160 of residence, both inside and outside of the university, aiming to recruit a representative  
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40 161 sample (i.e., including older individuals and non-students). These participants were  
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42 162 reimbursed through a lottery draw of small prizes such as pen drives, hard drives, and  
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44 163 thermoses. To further increase the representativeness of our rater sample, the remainder of  
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46 164 raters ( $n = 1642$ , with 37.6% women,  $M_{age} = 41.1$ ,  $SD_{age} = 12.2$ ) were recruited with the help  
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48 165 of the research recruitment firm (Imas International). These participants completed the  
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50 166 experiment online and were reimbursed in cash. The number of raters was determined such  
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55 167 that each voice stimulus would be rated approximately 20 times, as high interrater agreement  
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3 168 (alphas > 0.80,  $p < .001$ ) among judges can typically be achieved with 15 raters (see  
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5 169 Kordsmeyer et al., 2018; Schild et al., 2020).  
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## 10 171 **Procedure**

### 12 172 *Voice recording*

14 173 Voice recording took place in a quiet room. Vocalizers were invited to take part in a  
16 174 recording session. Prior to voice recording, each vocalizer completed a short survey, and their  
18 175 height and weight were measured using metric tape and a scale. Afterwards, they were  
20 176 requested to provide specified voice samples (see: voice stimuli) that were recorded using a  
22 177 Zoom H4n recorder microphone at a distance of 10 cm from the mouth. Voice recordings  
24 178 were saved as WAV files at 96 kHz sampling frequency and 16-bit resolution, and later  
26 179 transferred to a laptop. After recording the voice samples, participants were thanked and  
28 180 debriefed about the study aims.  
30  
31

### 33 181 *Voice stimuli*

35 182 Each vocalizer provided eight randomized voice samples, among which two were  
37 183 analyzed for the purposes of the current study, namely:

- 40 184 1. Reading a short, scripted paragraph describing a weather forecast (read speech)
- 42 185 2. Free speech about the same topic, the current weather conditions (free speech)

### 44 186 *Perception experiment*

46 187 Listeners in the perception experiment rated voice stimuli through a dedicated web  
48 188 platform. The recorded voice samples (2 per vocalizer) were incorporated into an online web  
50 189 app prepared for the purpose of this study. Raters were invited to complete the survey at the  
52 190 University or in their homes. Those who took part in the rating sessions at the University  
54 191 completed the survey either individually or in small groups in a designated room (allowing for  
56 192 a sufficient distance between the participants that assured their privacy and independence in  
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3 193 listeners' responses). Those who completed the survey at home were asked to avoid other  
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5 194 competing noises or distractions while performing the assessments. Lab raters used  
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7 195 Sennheiser HD 210 professional headphones to listen to stimuli, while participants who  
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9 196 completed the playback online were instructed to use high quality headphones.

12 197 At the beginning of the session, raters were exposed to a test voice sample to ensure  
13  
14 198 they can hear the stimulus properly and understand the study instructions. Additionally, the  
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16 199 survey included one attention check item placed in the middle of the survey (instead of a  
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18 200 voice sample to rate, listeners heard the instructions: "This is an attention checking question –  
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20 201 please mark 1"). Approximately 5% of participants failed the entry test or attention check and  
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22 202 thus their data were excluded from further analysis.

26 203 For each rater, a sample of 10 vocalizers (5 per sex), producing both read and free  
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28 204 speech, was randomly drawn from the pool of all 208 vocalizers. Thus, each rater heard a total  
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30 205 of 20 speech stimuli. Each speech stimulus was judged independently on a single trial and for  
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32 206 a single vocalizer characteristic and was played in full to listeners before a rating could be  
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34 207 given. Raters were randomly assigned to assess only one of the following ten characteristics  
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36 208 for all voice stimulus samples presented to them: sex/gender (male or female); age in years  
37  
38 209 (How old is this person?); height in centimeters (How tall is this person?); weight in  
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40 210 kilograms (How much does this person weigh?); attractiveness on a 1 to 7 scale, with 1  
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42 211 indicating very unattractive and 7 indicating very attractive (How attractive is this person?);  
43  
44 212 dominance on a 1 to 7 scale, with 1 indicating not dominant at all and 7 indicating very  
45  
46 213 dominant (How dominant is this person?); trustworthiness on a 1 to 7 scale, with 1 indicating  
47  
48 214 not trustworthy at all and 7 indicating very trustworthy (How trustworthy is this person?);  
49  
50 215 likability on a 1 to 7 scale, with 1 indicating not likable at all and 7 indicating very likable  
51  
52 216 (How likable is this person?); femininity/masculinity on a 1 to 7 scale, with 1 indicating very  
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54 217 feminine and 7 indicating very masculine (How feminine/masculine is this person?); and  
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3 218 finally, health on a 1 to 7 scale, with 1 indicating very unhealthy and 7 indicating very healthy  
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5 219 (How healthy is this person?). Each speech stimulus was, therefore, evaluated by a mean of  
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7 220 20 raters ( $M = 19.57$ ,  $SD = 4.75$  see supplementary materials). Finally, participants completed  
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9 221 a short demographic survey and were thanked and debriefed. The procedure took  
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11 222 approximately 20 to 30 minutes.  
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## 17 224 **Statistical analyses**

18  
19 225 To examine the effect of speech stimulus type on perceived traits of the vocalizers, as  
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21 226 well as on the accuracy of listeners' ratings of biological traits, we proceeded with a series of  
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23 227 Linear Mixed Models (using Restricted Maximum Likelihood estimator) with responses  
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25 228 clustered both within speakers and raters. Because of sizeable sexual dimorphism in the  
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27 229 acoustic properties of the human voice (Titze, 1989), we conducted separate models for male  
28  
29 230 and female vocalizers. Most models included ratings of a given trait as the outcome variable,  
30  
31 231 speech type (categorical variable coded 0 – read, 1 - free), method of data collection  
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33 232 (categorical variable coded 0 – online, 1 – lab), vocalizer age, rater gender (categorical  
34  
35 233 variable coded 0-F, 1-M) and rater age as fixed variables, and vocalizers' and raters' coded  
36  
37 234 identities as random effects. In the model examining the effect of speech type on the accuracy  
38  
39 235 of sex/gender ratings, we entered accuracy in sex assessment as the outcome variable (0-  
40  
41 236 incorrect, 1-correct). Additionally, in the models with age, height, and weight as outcomes,  
42  
43 237 we included the actual height or weight of the speakers (as the relationship between actual and  
44  
45 238 rated age reflects the accuracy of the ratings) and age/height/weight\*speech type as  
46  
47 239 interaction effects, to test whether the accuracy of listeners' ratings differs between read and  
48  
49 240 free speech. All continuous predictors were grand-mean centred. All model results are  
50  
51 241 presented in Tables S1-S11 in the supplementary materials. For means and standard  
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53 242 deviations of actual properties and rated properties (by speech type), see Tables S12 and S13,  
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3 243 respectively, in the supplementary materials. We also conducted an additional analysis with  
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5 244 an variable, namely the length of the vocal stimulus. Since the results of this analysis closely  
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8 245 resemble those presented below (supplementary materials, pages 25-52), we have included  
9  
10 246 the less extensive findings in the main article.

11  
12 247 Due to multiple comparisons, we performed Bonferroni correction and set the alpha  
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14 248 level to 0.005 (0.05/10). Estimates presented in the main text were not standardized. For  
15  
16  
17 249 standardized betas see Figure 1. All analyses and figures were performed using Jamovi, R  
18  
19 250 using packages ggplot2 (Wickham et al., 2016) and parameters (Lüdecke, 2020) and Python  
20  
21 251 using matplotlib (Ari, 2014) package. Raw data and codebooks for Jamovi and scripts can be  
22  
23  
24 252 retrieved from: [https://osf.io/ga4tp/?view\\_only=6e0f6b455db14bf79882c0f910277d96](https://osf.io/ga4tp/?view_only=6e0f6b455db14bf79882c0f910277d96)  
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## 27 28 254 **Results**

### 29 30 255 **Assessments of biological traits**

#### 31 32 256 ***Sex/gender recognition***

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35 257 The overall accuracy of voice-based sex/gender judgments was very high, averaging  
36  
37 258 99% for both types of speech stimuli (read and free speech) and for both sexes of vocalizer.  
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39  
40 259 None of the predictors included in our models significantly predicted variance in sex rating  
41  
42 260 accuracy (see Table S1 in the supplementary materials). Accuracy in voice-based sex  
43  
44 261 recognition was, therefore, extremely high independent of method of data collection, speaker  
45  
46 262 age, rater age, and rater gender for both female and male vocalizers, or speech type. **Indeed,**  
47  
48 263 **the effect of speech type was very small,  $b = -0.001$  CIs:  $-0.01, 0.01, p = .781$  and  $b < 0.001$**   
49  
50 264 **CIs:  $-0.01, 0.01, p = .857$  for female and male vocalisers, respectively, indicating that listeners**  
51  
52 265 **could gauge sex extremally and equally well from both read and free speech.**

#### 53 54 266 ***Age assessment***

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3 267 For both male and female vocalizers, assessed age was predicted by the vocalizers  
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5 268 actual age (females:  $b = 0.69, p < .001$ , males:  $b = 0.524, p < .001$ ), indicating an overall high  
6  
7 269 accuracy in listeners' voice-based ratings of age. For female vocalizers, assessed age was not  
8  
9 270 statistically significantly related to the speech type ( $b = -0.50$  CIs:  $-0.84, -0.06, p = .026$ ), with  
10  
11 271 read speech eliciting older judgements than free speech. The speech type did not however  
12  
13 272 predict *accuracy* in listeners' age assessments of neither female ( $b = -0.03$ , CIs:  $-0.07, 0.002$ ,  
14  
15 273  $p = .062$ ) nor male vocalizers ( $b = -0.03$ , CIs:  $-0.07, 0.003, p = .069$ ) as reflected by a lack of  
16  
17 274 interaction effects. In males, speech type also did not explain any variance in raters' age  
18  
19 275 assessments ( $b = -0.01$  CIs:  $-0.42, -0.44, p = .967$ ) (see Table S2 for outcomes). *Whether*  
20  
21 276 *participants completed the experiment in the lab or online did not significantly predict their*  
22  
23 277 *age assessments of either sex ( $p = .318$  and  $p = .720$  for female and male vocalizers,*  
24  
25 278 *respectively).*

### 279 ***Height assessment***

280 In both female and male vocalizers, actual height predicted perceived height but for  
281 females this relationship was slightly below the threshold of statistical significance following  
282 Bonferroni correction ( $b = 0.09, p = .014$  in females and  $b = 0.19, p < .001$  in males). For  
283 female vocalizers, speech type did not predict listeners' assessments of speaker height ( $b = -$   
284  $0.32$ , CIs:  $-0.71, 0.07, p = .109$ , see Table S3 for detailed outcomes) and there was no  
285 significant interaction between speech type and vocalizer's actual height on listeners'  
286 assessments ( $b = -0.09$ , CIs:  $-0.16, -0.013, p = .022$ ). In male vocalizers, no effect of speech  
287 type was found ( $b = 0.08$ , CIs:  $-0.36, 0.52, p = .728$ ), and there was no interaction between  
288 actual and assessed height ( $b = -0.02$ , CIs:  $-0.09, 0.06, p = .667$ ). *Whether participants*  
289 *completed the experiment in the lab or online did not significantly predict their height*  
290 *assessments of either sex ( $p = .114$  and  $p = .062$  for female and male vocalizers, respectively).*

### 291 ***Weight assessment***

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3 292 For female vocalizers, the model revealed no significant main effect of female  
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5 293 vocalizers' actual weights on listeners' weight assessments following Bonferroni correction ( $b$   
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7 294 = 0.07,  $p = .018$ ). We found no effect of speech type on listener's assessments of weight ( $b =$   
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9 295 0.02, CIs: -0.48, 0.45,  $p = .948$ ), and no interaction between speech type and vocalizer actual  
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11 296 weight ( $b = -0.03$ , CIs: -0.07, 0.006,  $p = .099$ ). In male vocalizers, the effect of speech type  
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13 297 was also not significant ( $b = 0.05$ , CIs: -0.47, 0.57,  $p = .845$ ), nor was the effect of  
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15 298 participant's actual weight on their assessed weight ( $p = .137$ ), with no interaction between  
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17 299 these two variables ( $b = 0.02$ , CIs: -0.02, 0.06  $p = .257$ ). Thus, these results suggest that the  
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19 300 type of speech stimulus did not influence listeners' weight judgements (see Table S4).  
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21 301 Whether participants completed the experiment in the lab or online did not significantly  
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23 302 predict their weight assessments of either sex ( $p = .875$  and  $p = .982$  for female and male  
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25 303 vocalizers, respectively).  
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#### 304 **Assessment of psychosocial traits**

305 Subsequent models examined listeners' assessments of socially relevant traits of  
306 vocalizers including attractiveness, dominance, likeability, trustworthiness,  
307 masculinity/femininity, and health. While many of these traits can be framed as both  
308 psychological and biological to some degree, the key distinction for the purposes of this study  
309 is that these traits were not defined by any objective ground-truth measure. Thus, while we  
310 could test whether listeners' perceptions of these traits varied when judging free versus read  
311 speech, we could not test whether speech type affected the accuracy of these assessments, as  
312 we could for biological traits for which we had objective measures (sex, age, and body size).  
313 The statistical models were thus composed of the same set of predictors (speech type,  
314 vocalizer/rater age and sex), however we did not assess accuracy in listeners' assessments of  
315 these psychosocial traits.  
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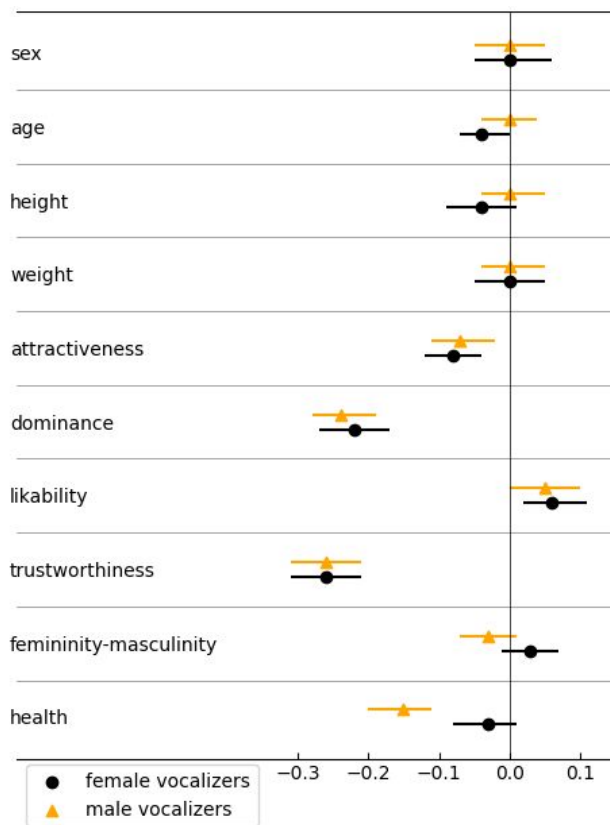


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3 316           Speech type generally predicted differences in listeners' ratings of psychosocial traits.  
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5 317   Read speech elicited relatively higher ratings of attractiveness (vocalizer sex: females  $b = -$   
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7 318   0.13, CIs: -0.20, -0.06,  $p < .001$ ; males  $b = -0.11$ , CIs: -0.18, -0.04,  $p = .003$ ; Table S5) and  
8  
9 319   dominance (females  $b = -0.37$ , CIs: -0.45, -0.29,  $p < .001$ ; males  $b = -0.39$ , CIs: -0.47, -0.31,  $p$   
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11 320    $< .001$ ; Table S6) and trustworthiness (females  $b = -0.45$ , CIs: -0.53, -0.36  $p < .001$ ; males  $b =$   
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13 321   -0.44, CIs: -0.52, -0.36,  $p < .001$  Table S8) than than did free speech. Likability ratings did  
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15 322   not vary significantly in females ( $b = 0.099$ , CIs: 0.024, 0.173,  $p = .009$ ) and males ( $b = 0.08$ ,  
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17 323   CIs: 0.01, 0.15,  $p = .033$ ; Table S7). Masculinity-femininity ratings also did not vary between  
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19 324   speech types for either female ( $b = 0.04$ , CIs: -0.01, 0.10,  $p = .146$ ) or male vocalizers ( $b = -$   
20  
21 325   0.037, CIs: -0.09, 0.02,  $p = .165$ ; Table S9), nor did health assessments of female vocalizers  
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23 326   ( $b = -0.05$ , CIs: -0.12, 0.02,  $p = .152$ ), whereas the same male vocalizers producing read,  
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25 327   rather than free speech, were evaluated as healthier ( $b = -0.25$ , CIs: -0.32, -0.17,  $p < .001$ ;  
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27 328   Table S10). In general, these differences were small.

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34 329           In all cases, whether participants completed the experiment in the lab or online did not  
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36 330   affect the pattern of results, with the exception of ratings of men's health ( $b = -0.20$ , CIs: -  
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38 331   0.44, 0.03,  $p < 0.001$ ). Therefore, we performed additional analyses for lab and online raters  
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40 332   with perceived health as an outcome variable (see Table S11). The effect of speech stimulus  
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42 333   type was statistically significant in lab ( $b = -0.21$ , CIs: -0.32, -0.09,  $p < .001$ ) but not online  
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44 334   raters ( $b = -0.03$ , CIs: -0.14, 0.09,  $p = .663$ ) with higher ratings observed for read speech (as  
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46 335   compared to free speech).

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### 337 **Figure 1. Listeners' ratings of speaker traits based on read versus free speech.**

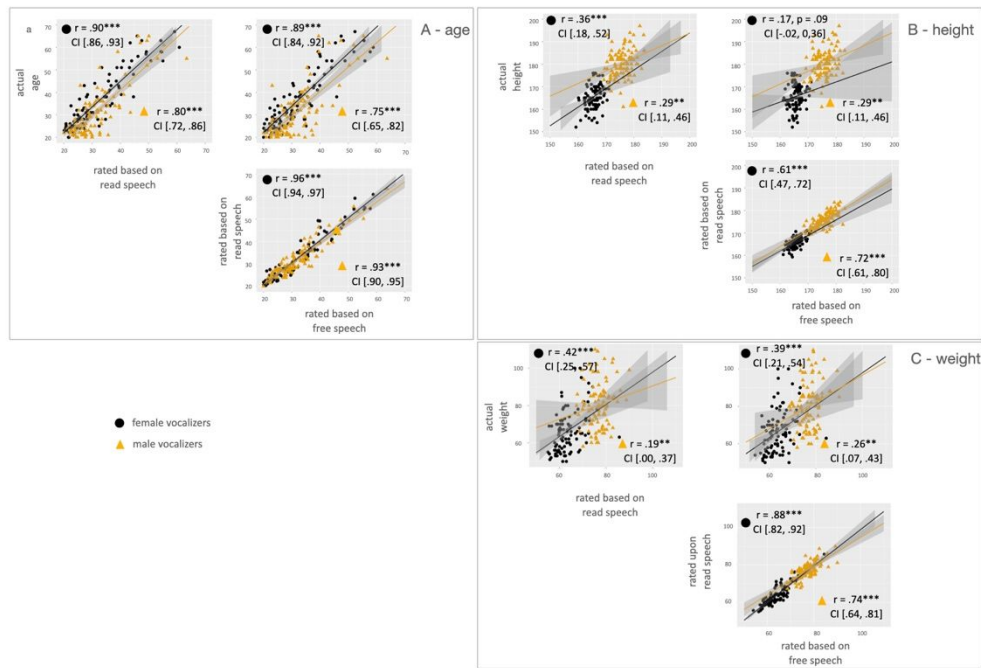
338 Standardized beta coefficients with 95% CIs representing the effects of free vs. read speech  
 339 across all traits of interest (each coefficient is derived from a separate analysis) for female and  
 340 male vocalizers. The plot illustrates that read speech elicited relatively higher ratings of  
 341 attractiveness and dominance, whereas free speech elicited relatively higher ratings of  
 342 likeability and trustworthiness.

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### 344 **Additional analyses**

345 To corroborate our findings, in addition to the multilevel models reported above, we  
 346 performed analyses at the vocalizer level ( $n = 208$ ). Across all ratings for which we collected  
 347 objective continuous measures of traits from vocalizers (i.e., actual age, height and weight),  
 348 we conducted correlation analyses to illustrate accuracy in listeners' ratings by speech type

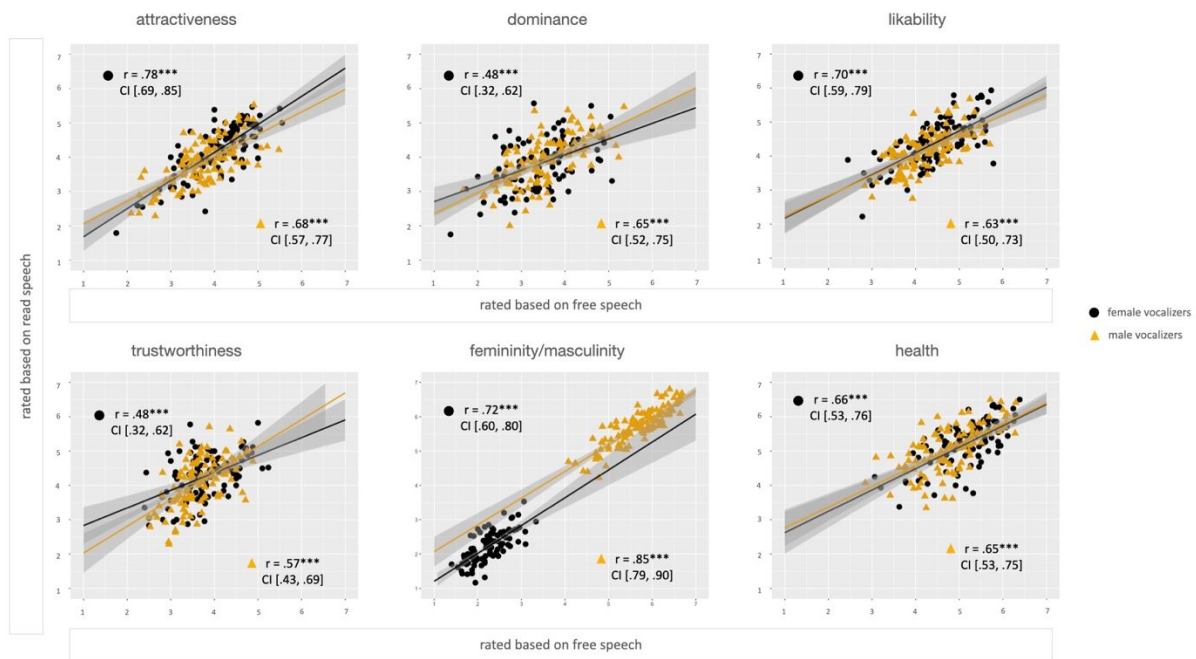
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3 349 (i.e., we correlated assessed traits with objective measures of those traits for both read and  
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5 350 free speech). The results are presented in Figure 2, whereas in Figure 3 we further present  
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7 351 correlations between mean ratings of psychosocial traits based on read versus free speech. In  
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9 352 both sets of these regression analyses, the relationships are significant in all cases (at  $p < .001$ )  
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11 353 and range from *moderate* ( $r = .48, p < .001$ ) in the case of dominance ratings of male  
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13 354 vocalizers, to *extremely strong* ( $r = .96, p < .001$ ) in the case of age ratings for female  
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15 355 vocalizers (see Figures 2 and 3). These results demonstrate that listeners' voice-based ratings  
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17 356 of vocalizer traits correlate substantially between read and free speech produced by the same  
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19 357 vocalizers, indicating that vocalizers are perceived similarly regardless whether they are  
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21 358 reading a scripted passage or producing free speech about the weather.  
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362 **Figure 2. Relationships between actual objective measures and listeners' ratings of**  
 363 **biological vocalizer traits for read versus free speech.** The upper rows in each panel (A, B,  
 364 C) reflect correlations between objective measures of actual age/height/weight and listeners'  
 365 mean ratings for these same traits, based on read versus free speech. The lower scatterplot in  
 366 each panel represents the relationship between mean ratings from read and free speech for  
 367 each biological trait. Each datapoint presents a single vocalizer ( $n = 208$ ), wherein black  
 368 circles represent female vocalizers and yellow diamonds represent male vocalizers. Grey  
 369 shading represents 95% CIs. Mean ratings are derived from voice-based assessments given by  
 370 4088 male and female listeners.

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373 **Figure 3. Relationships in listeners' ratings of psychosocial traits based on read versus**374 **free speech.** Relationships between listeners' ratings of psychosocial traits based on read375 versus free speech were moderate to strong. Each datapoint represents a single vocalizer ( $n =$ 

376 208), wherein black circles represent female vocalizers and yellow diamonds represent male

377 vocalizers. Grey shading represents 95% CIs. Mean ratings are derived from voice-based

378 assessments given by 4088 male and female listeners.

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## 381 Discussion

382 In our species, as in many other terrestrial mammals, the voice is a crucial modality  
383 for social communication. This study corroborates a large body of literature showing that  
384 simply by hearing another person speak, even for a brief moment and largely regardless of  
385 what they are saying, we can effectively gauge their sex, their general age and body size, and  
386 we can make a rapid series of judgments regarding other psychological and social traits, such  
387 as how attractive, dominant or trustworthy they are (Kreiman & Sidtis, 2011; Kamiloğlu &  
388 Sauter, 2021; Pisanski and Bryant, 2019 for reviews). Here, we go one step further to also  
389 show that these judgments are highly similar for the same speaker whether they are reading a  
390 passage or producing free speech about the same neutral topic. In other words, a person who  
391 is perceived as particularly dominant or as relatively young when reading is perceived very  
392 similarly when speaking spontaneously, even when using different words, though this  
393 depends to some extent on the trait being judged as described below. Listeners are also  
394 similarly accurate in their ability to judge objective traits, such as sex, age and body size,  
395 from read and free speech. Thus, despite some acoustic variation in how we humans talk  
396 when we read, largely tied to breathing (Winkworth et al., 1994), this mild departure from our  
397 natural spontaneous way of speaking does not profoundly affect listeners' judgments of us.  
398 This is almost certainly due to intraindividual stability in underlying vocal parameters such as  
399 fundamental and formant frequencies across different kinds of speech (see e.g., Pisanski et al.,  
400 2016, 2021; Pisanski, Raine & Reby, 2020) that often explain the majority of variance in  
401 listeners' voice-based judgments of speakers (Pisanski and Bryant, 2019 for review).

402 While the present study shows that voice-based assessments of biological traits,  
403 including speaker sex, age, and body size, depend very little on whether a person is speaking  
404 freely or reading a scripted text, one exceptions is age assessments of female vocalizers,  
405 wherein listener's judged women as slightly older (< 1 year) when those women produced

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3 406 read speech versus when they spoke freely about the weather, a relatively small difference in  
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5 407 ecological terms considering that our sample of vocalizers ranged from 18 to 67 years of age.  
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7 408 Moreover, accuracy in age assessments of female vocalizers was the same for read and free  
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9 409 speech.

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12 410 Interestingly, we show that for assessments of some psychosocial traits (e.g.,  
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14 411 attractiveness, dominance, and trustworthiness), [listeners' judgments are slightly more](#)  
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16 412 [affected by whether speech is read or spontaneous compared to what we observed for](#)  
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18 413 [quantifiable biological traits](#). Indeed, we observed statistically significant differences between  
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20 414 listeners' ratings for read and free speech across most psychosocial traits and for both  
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22 415 vocalizer sexes, with the exceptions of masculinity-femininity assessments of males and  
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24 416 females and health assessments of females. [It should be noted, however, that the effect sizes](#)  
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26 417 [were small and not likely to be ecologically or socially meaningful](#).

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29 418 Critically, using regression analyses, we show that listeners' ratings of both biological  
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31 419 and psychosocial traits share a high degree of variance between speech types for the same  
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33 420 speakers. Even in cases where the differences between read and free speech were significant,  
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35 421 ratings between speech types were moderately to strongly correlated for the same group of  
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37 422 vocalizers, [with at least 23% and up to 92% of the variance in ratings for one speech type](#)  
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39 423 [explained by ratings for the other](#). Nevertheless, the finding that assessments based on  
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41 424 different types of speech can differ is important to consider when comparing voice-based  
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43 425 ratings across studies that use different speech types, as well as in designing further research.  
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45 426 Regarding practical implications, such differences may be relevant in the social and media  
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47 427 spheres, for example in terms of how listeners may regard public figures or persons in  
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49 428 advertisements based on the perceived spontaneity of their speech.

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51 429 Our study also corroborates previous studies showing that human listeners can judge  
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53 430 physical characteristics fairly reliably from the voice alone ([for reviews see Kamiloğlu &](#)  
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3 431 Sauter, 2021; Pisanski & Bryant, 2019). In our study with a large sample of over 4000  
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5 432 listeners, we have shown that sex/gender was assessed almost perfectly, age with high  
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7 433 accuracy, and body size still higher than chance. Weight ratings were the least accurate – in  
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9 434 particular, male weight was not accurately recognized by our listeners from the voice,  
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11 435 regardless of speech type.  
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### 15 436 **Limitations and future research recommendations**

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19 437 Our research design does not allow us to draw direct conclusions regarding the  
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21 438 ‘accuracy’ of listeners’ judgments for psychosocial traits. We appreciate that many of these  
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23 439 traits, such as masculinity, femininity, attractiveness, dominance and health, have biological  
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25 440 components. Nevertheless, in this study, we did not have quantifiable, objective measures of  
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27 441 these traits, nor of likeability or trustworthiness. It is indeed difficult to quantify such traits  
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29 442 (see e.g., Bem, 1974; Rubenstein, 2005) compared to objective traits such as age or body size.  
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31 443 Our study also has technical limitations, for example, although online raters were instructed to  
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33 444 use high quality headphones, and headphone use was verified with hearing tests, we cannot be  
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35 445 certain that the quality of their headphones was comparable to that of those used by lab  
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37 446 participants. However, this method allowed us to increase our sample of respondents, and we  
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39 447 did not find systematic differences in our results between our lab and online samples. Finally,  
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41 448 as our sample was homogenous in terms of language, the study may be replicated in other  
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43 449 countries to assess its cross-cultural generalizability. In the future, it would also be  
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45 450 informative to examine the effect of speech type in more ecologically valid or multi-modal  
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47 451 conditions, i.e., where a speaker is seen (Groyecka et al., 2017), to test whether speech type  
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49 452 remains relevant when other social cues and modalities are available to the perceiver.  
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### 57 453 **Conclusion**

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3 454 The human voice can be a critical social tool that informs listeners about biological and  
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5 455 psychosocial traits of human vocalizers. While past work has shown that some acoustic  
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7 456 properties of the voice, such as fundamental frequency (voice pitch), are relatively stable  
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9 457 across speech types (Pisanski et al., 2016, 2021), and that listeners' judgments also do not  
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11 458 vary substantially based on the duration or complexity of scripted speech (Makrholz et al.,  
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13 459 2018; Groyecka-Bernard et al. 2022), this study is among the first to compare listeners'  
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15 460 ratings of vocalizers based on read versus free speech, and for a broad range of biological and  
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17 461 psychosocial traits. Our results thus provide the most comprehensive evidence to date that  
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19 462 listeners' judgments of speakers based on vocal cues and the validity of those judgments also  
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21 463 vary to little yet observable extent with the type of speech stimulus (free speech vs read  
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23 464 speech). This indicates that while the same vocalizer might be perceived as, for example,  
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25 465 slightly more trustworthy when producing read than free speech, both those ratings will  
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27 466 correlate, often strongly, for any given speaker. Nevertheless, although differences in voice-  
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29 467 based assessments for free versus read speech are minor, they are worth acknowledging when  
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31 468 comparing across studies or designing future research paradigms.  
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41  
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43  
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46  
47 472 **Conflicts of interest/Competing interest:** The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

48  
49 473 **Ethics approval:** Study protocols were accepted by the ethics committee at the Institute of  
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51 474 Psychology, University of [*masked for peer review*].

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54 475 **Consent to participate:** Vocalizers and raters provided informed consent prior to study  
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56 476 inclusion.

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58 477 **Consent for publication:** The manuscript has been read and approved by all authors.  
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For Review Only

## Supplementary Materials

**Table S1**

*Model with sex accuracy rating an outcome*

Female vocalizers						
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals		
				Lower	Upper	
Fixed effects						
Intercept	0.987	0.003	<.001	0.980	0.993	
Stimulus type (0-read, 1-free)	0.001	0.003	0.781	-0.006	0.007	
Vocalizer's properties						
Age	0.000	0.000	0.492	0.000	0.000	
Rater's properties						
Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.008	0.006	0.236	-0.020	0.004	
Age	0.000	0.000	0.221	0.000	0.000	
Method (0 – online, 1 – lab)	-0.012	0.007	0.098	-0.026	0.002	
Random effects						
	Variance		ICC			
Rater's ID	0.002		0.1700			
Vocalizer's ID	0.000		0.0172			
Residual	0.012					
N <sub>raters</sub> =429, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =101, N <sub>observations</sub> =4290						
Model parameter						
BIC	-6125.086					
Male vocalizers						
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals		
				Lower	Upper	
Fixed effects						

1						
2						
3	Intercept	0.007	0.002	<.001	0.003	0.012
4	Stimulus type (0-read, 1-free)	0.000	0.003	0.857	-0.005	0.006
5	Vocalizer's properties					
6	Age	0.000	0.000	0.917	-0.000	0.000
7	Rater's properties					
8	Sex (0-F, 1-M)	0.007	0.004	0.116	-0.002	0.015
9	Age	0.000	0.000	0.202	-0.000	0.001
10						
11						
12	Method (0 – online, 1 – lab)	0.008	0.005	0.128	-0.002	0.017
13						
14	Random effects					
15		Variance		ICC		
16	Rater's ID	0.001		0.121		
17	Vocalizer's ID	0.000		0.002		
18	Residual	0.007				
19	$N_{\text{raters}}=429, N_{\text{vocalizers}}=106, N_{\text{observations}}=4210$					
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21	Model parameter					
22	BIC	-8287.473				
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**Table S2**

*Model with rated age as outcome*

Female vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
<b>Fixed effects</b>					
Intercept	31.435	0.465	< .001	30.522	32.347
Stimulus type (0-read, 1-free)	-0.499	0.224	0.026	-0.938	-0.060
<b>Vocalizer's properties</b>					
Age	0.693	0.033	< .001	0.629	0.757
Vocalizer's age*Stimulus Type	-0.033	0.018	0.062	-0.068	0.002
<b>Rater's properties</b>					
Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-1.123	0.489	0.022	-2.081	-0.166
Age	0.021	0.023	0.351	-0.023	0.066
Method (0 – online, 1 – lab)	0.584	0.584	0.318	-0.561	1.729
<b>Random effects</b>					
	Variance		ICC		
Rater's ID	17.817		0.260		
Vocalizer's ID	15.666		0.236		
Residual	50.809				
N <sub>raters</sub> =405, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =101, N <sub>observations</sub> =4047					
<b>Model parameter</b>					
BIC	28327.323				
Male vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
<b>Fixed effects</b>					
Intercept	31.346	0.519	< .001	30.329	32.363

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3	Stimulus type (0-read, 1-free)	0.009	0.219	0.967	-0.420	0.438
4	Vocalizer's properties					
5	Age	0.524	0.041	<.001	0.444	0.603
6	Vocalizer's age*Stimulus Type	-0.034	0.019	0.069	-0.071	0.003
7	Rater's properties					
8	Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.774	0.506	0.127	-1.766	0.218
9	Age	0.067	0.024	0.005	0.021	0.113
10						
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12	Method (0 – online, 1 – lab)	-0.217	0.606	0.720	-1.405	0.971
13						
14	Random effects	Variance	SD	ICC		
15	Rater's ID	19.715		0.292		
16	Vocalizer's ID	21.546		0.310		
17	Residual	47.857				
18						
19	$N_{\text{raters}}=405, N_{\text{vocalizers}}=101, N_{\text{observations}}=4003$					
20	Model parameter					
21	BIC	27879.172				
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**Table S3***Model with rated height as outcome*

Female vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	165.580	0.320	< .001	164.954	166.207
Stimulus type (0-read, 1-free)	-0.320	0.199	0.109	-0.711	0.071
Vocalizer's properties					
Age	-0.033	0.016	0.037	-0.064	-0.002
Height	0.094	0.038	0.014	0.021	0.168
Vocalizer's height*Stimulus type	-0.086	0.038	0.022	-0.160	-0.013
Rater's properties					
Sex (0-F, 1-M)	0.592	0.546	0.279	-0.479	1.662
Age	-0.021	0.023	0.355	-0.067	0.024
Method (0 – online, 1 – lab)	1.051	0.664	0.114	-0.250	2.353
Random effects					
	Variance		ICC		
Rater's ID	22.310		0.383		
Vocalizer's ID	2.393		0.062		
Residual	35.976				
N <sub>raters</sub> =362, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =101, N <sub>observations</sub> =3619					
Model parameter					
BIC	24163.778				
Male vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	175.616	0.432	< .001	174.769	176.463

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3	Stimulus type (0-read, 1-free)	0.078	0.224	0.728	-0.361	0.517
4	Vocalizer's properties					
5	Age	-0.022	0.022	0.314	-0.065	0.021
6	Height	0.191	0.041	<.001	0.111	0.272
7	Vocalizer's height*Stimulus type	-0.016	0.038	0.667	-0.090	0.057
8	Rater's properties					
9	Sex (0-F, 1-M)	0.441	0.735	0.548	-0.999	1.881
10	Age	-0.073	0.031	0.020	-0.134	-0.012
11						
12						
13	Method (0 – online, 1 – lab)	1.674	0.894	0.062	-0.078	0.062
14	Random effects	Variance		ICC		
15	Rater's ID	42.454		0.487		
16	Vocalizer's ID	4.752		0.096		
17	Residual	44.703				
18						
19	$N_{\text{raters}}=362, N_{\text{vocalizers}}=106, N_{\text{observations}}=3666$					
20	Model parameter					
21	BIC	24759.689				
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**Table S4***Model with rated weight as outcome*

Female vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	63.456	0.423	< .001	62.627	64.285
Stimulus type (0-read, 1-free)	-0.015	0.237	0.948	-0.480	0.449
Vocalizer's properties					
Age	0.242	0.028	< .001	0.187	0.297
Weight	0.073	0.030	0.018	0.014	0.132
Vocalizer's weight*Stimulus type	-0.033	0.020	0.099	-0.072	0.006
Rater's properties					
Sex (0-F, 1-M)	0.357	0.582	0.541	-0.785	1.498
Age	-0.080	0.028	0.005	-0.135	-0.024
Method (0 – online, 1 – lab)	-0.118	0.749	0.875	-1.587	1.351
Random effects					
	Variance		ICC		
Rater's ID	24.449		0.452		
Vocalizer's ID	8.432		0.113		
Residual	51.284				
N <sub>raters</sub> =365, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =101, N <sub>observations</sub> =3650					
Model parameter					
BIC	25650.340				
Male vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	77.210	0.511	< .001	76.210	78.211
Stimulus type (0-read, 1-free)	0.052	0.264	0.845	-0.466	0.569

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3	Vocalizer's properties					
4	Age	0.163	0.028	<.001	0.107	0.218
5	Weight	0.038	0.025	0.137	-0.012	0.087
6	Vocalizer's weight*Stimulus type	0.023	0.020	0.257	-0.017	0.062
7						
8	Rater's properties					
9	Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-1.706	0.813	0.036	-3.298	-0.113
10	Age	-0.059	0.039	0.131	-0.136	0.018
11						
12	Method (0 – online, 1 – lab)	0.023	1.044	0.982	-2.024	2.070
13						
14	Random effects		Variance		ICC	
15	Rater's ID		51.405		0.453	
16	Vocalizer's ID		7.912		0.113	
17	Residual		62.117			
18						
19	$N_{\text{raters}}=365, N_{\text{vocalizers}}=105, N_{\text{observations}}=3568$					
20	Model parameter					
21	BIC		25919.972			
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**Table S5***Model with rated attractiveness as outcome*

Female vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	4.133	0.076	< .001	3.985	4.282
Stimulus type (0-read, 1-free)	-0.128	0.036	< .001	-0.199	-0.057
Vocalizer's properties					
Age	-0.029	0.005	< .001	-0.039	-0.019
Rater's properties					
Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.001	0.094	0.042	-0.184	0.017
Age	0.008	0.004		0.000	
			0.172		0.064
Method (0 – online, 1 – lab)	-0.148	0.108	< .001	-0.360	4.282
Random effects					
	Variance		ICC		
Rater's ID	0.758		0.346		
Vocalizer's ID	0.360		0.200		
Residual	1.436				
N <sub>raters</sub> =435, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =101, N <sub>observations</sub> =4350					
Model parameter					
BIC	15048.101				
Male vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	3.844	0.075	< .001	3.697	3.990
Stimulus type (0-read, 1-free)	-0.108	0.036	0.003	-0.178	-0.037

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3	Vocalizer's properties					
4	Age	-0.011	0.005	0.033	-0.021	-0.001
5	Rater's properties					
6	Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.465	0.099	<.001	-0.660	-0.270
7	Age	0.003	0.004	0.490	-0.006	0.012
8						
9						
10	Method (0 – online, 1 – lab)	-0.115	0.115	0.318	-0.340	0.110
11						
12	Random effects		Variance		ICC	
13	Rater's ID		0.877		0.388	
14	Vocalizer's ID		0.327		0.191	
15	Residual		1.385			
16						
17	$N_{\text{raters}}=435, N_{\text{vocalizers}}=106, N_{\text{observations}}=4270$					
18						
19	Model parameter					
20	BIC		14696.740			
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**Table S6***Model with rated dominance as outcome*

Female vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	3.640	0.077	< .001	3.489	3.791
Stimulus type (0-read, 1-free)	-0.373	0.041	< .001	-0.454	-0.293
Vocalizer's properties					
Age	0.001	0.005	0.845	-0.009	0.011
Rater's properties					
Sex (0-F, 1-M)	0.013	0.096	0.894	-0.175	0.200
Age	0.011	0.004	0.013	0.002	0.019
Method (0 – online, 1 – lab)	0.099	0.113	0.381	-0.122	0.320
Random effects					
	Variance		ICC		
Rater's ID	0.714		0.288		
Vocalizer's ID	0.369		0.172		
Residual	1.768				
N <sub>raters</sub> =415, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =101, N <sub>observations</sub> =4150					
Model parameter					
BIC	15123.168				
Male vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	3.717	0.082	< .001	3.557	3.877
Stimulus type (0-read, 1-free)	-0.393	0.040	< .001	-0.471	-0.314



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3	Vocalizer's properties					
4	Age	0.006	0.006	0.346	-0.006	0.018
5	Rater's properties					
6	Sex (0-F, 1-M)	0.102	0.096	0.289	-0.086	0.290
7	Age	0.004	0.004	0.399	-0.005	0.012
8						
9						
10	Method (0 – online, 1 – lab)	0.053	0.113	0.643	-0.170	0.275
11						
12	Random effects		Variance		ICC	
13	Rater's ID		0.730		0.305	
14	Vocalizer's ID		0.457		0.216	
15	Residual		1.660			
16						
17	$N_{\text{raters}}=415, N_{\text{vocalizers}}=106, N_{\text{observations}}=4096$					
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19	Model parameter					
20	BIC		14646.311			
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**Table S7***Model with rated likability as outcome*

Female vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	4.434	0.073	< .001	4.292	4.577
Stimulus type (0-read, 1-free)	0.099	0.038	0.009	0.024	0.173
Vocalizer's properties					
Age	-0.017	0.005	< .001	-0.026	-0.008
Rater's properties					
Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.117	0.092	0.203	-0.297	0.063
Age	0.006	0.004	0.174	-0.003	0.015
Method (0 – online, 1 – lab)	0.141	0.121	0.243	-0.096	0.378
Random effects					
	Variance		ICC		
Rater's ID	0.711		0.316		
Vocalizer's ID	0.312		0.168		
Residual	1.542				
N <sub>raters</sub> =430, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =101, N <sub>observations</sub> =4300					
Model parameter					
BIC	15118.559				
Male vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	4.249	0.065	< .001	4.121	4.377
Stimulus type (0-read, 1-free)	0.078	0.037	0.033	0.006	0.150

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2						
3	Vocalizer's properties					
4	Age	-0.001	0.004	0.893	-0.009	0.008
5	Rater's properties					
6	Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.223	0.090	0.014	-0.400	-0.047
7	Age	-0.001	0.004	0.843	-0.009	0.008
8						
9						
10	Method (0 – online, 1 – lab)	-0.026	0.118	0.826	-0.258	0.206
11						
12	Random effects		Variance		ICC	
13	Rater's ID		0.688		0.327	
14	Vocalizer's ID		0.227		0.138	
15	Residual		1.418			
16						
17	$N_{\text{raters}}=430, N_{\text{vocalizers}}=106, N_{\text{observations}}=4234$					
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19	Model parameter					
20	BIC		14835.407			
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**Table S8***Model with rated trustworthiness as outcome*

Female vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	4.029	0.071	<.001	3.889	4.169
Stimulus type (0-read, 1-free)	-0.447	0.044	<.001	-0.533	-0.361
Vocalizer's properties					
Age	-0.002	0.004	0.677	-0.010	0.007
Rater's properties					
Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.083	0.103	0.422	-0.285	0.119
Age	0.005	0.005	0.330	-0.005	0.014
Method (0 – online, 1 – lab)	0.029	0.126	0.817	-0.217	0.276
Random effects					
	Variance		ICC		
Rater's ID	0.835		0.304		
Vocalizer's ID	0.234		0.109		
Residual	1.909				
N <sub>raters</sub> =399, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =101, N <sub>observations</sub> =3990					
Model parameter					
BIC	14835.407				
Male vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	3.852	0.068	<.001	3.718	3.986
Stimulus type (0-read, 1-free)	-0.440	0.043	<.001	-0.524	-0.356
Vocalizer's properties					

Age	0.005	0.004	0.291	-0.004	0.013
Rater's properties					
Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.046	0.102	0.648	-0.246	0.153
Age	0.002	0.005	0.661	-0.007	0.011
Method (0 – online, 1 – lab)					
	0.152	0.124	0.219	-0.090	0.395
Random effects					
	Variance		ICC		
Rater's ID	0.814		0.313		
Vocalizer's ID	0.205		0.103		
Residual	1.787				
N <sub>raters</sub> =399, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =106, N <sub>observations</sub> =3888					
Model parameter					
BIC	14223.663				

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**Table S9***Model with rated femininity-masculinity as outcome. Higher score indicated higher masculinity*

Female vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	2.228	0.061	<.001	2.109	2.347
Stimulus type (0-read, 1-free)	0.040	0.028	0.146	-0.014	0.095
Vocalizer's properties					
Age	0.008	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.014
Rater's properties					
Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.169	0.105	0.110	-0.375	0.038
Age	-0.007	0.005	0.162	-0.016	0.003
Method (0 – online, 1 – lab)	0.140	0.128	0.275	-0.111	0.390
Random effects					
	Variance		ICC		
Rater's ID	1.004		0.562		
Vocalizer's ID	0.098		0.112		
Residual	0.783				
N <sub>raters</sub> =407, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =101, N <sub>observations</sub> =4070					
Model parameter	11886.445				
BIC					
Male vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	5.686	0.064	<.001	5.561	5.811
Stimulus type (0-read, 1-free)	-0.037	0.027	0.165	-0.089	0.015
Vocalizer's properties					

Age	0.009	0.004	0.058	-0.000	0.017
Rater's properties					
Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.051	0.083	0.536	-0.214	0.111
Age	-0.000	0.004	0.951	-0.008	0.007
Method (0 – online, 1 – lab)					
	-0.120	0.101	0.233	-0.317	0.077
Random effects					
	Variance		ICC		
Rater's ID	0.596		0.456		
Vocalizer's ID	0.250		0.260		
Residual	0.711				
N <sub>raters</sub> =407, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =106, N <sub>observations</sub> =3995					
Model parameter					
BIC	11238.870				

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**Table S10**

*Model with rated health as outcome*

Female vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
<b>Fixed effects</b>					
Intercept	5.187	0.072	<.001	5.046	5.328
Stimulus type (0-read, 1-free)	-0.052	0.036	0.152	-0.123	0.019
<b>Vocalizer's properties</b>					
Age	-0.020	0.005	<.001	-0.029	-0.011
<b>Rater's properties</b>					
Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.035	0.091	0.702	-0.214	0.144
Age	0.006	0.004	0.193	-0.003	0.014
Method (0 – online, 1 – lab)	-0.041	0.113	0.716	-0.262	0.180
<b>Random effects</b>					
	Variance		ICC		
Rater's ID	0.730		0.334		
Vocalizer's ID	0.307		0.174		
Residual	1.459				
N <sub>raters</sub> =441, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =101, N <sub>observations</sub> =4410					
<b>Model parameter</b>					
BIC	15196.876				
Male vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
<b>Fixed effects</b>					
Intercept	4.984	0.076	<.001	4.835	5.132
Stimulus type (0-read, 1-free)	-0.248	0.037	<.001	-0.321	-0.174
<b>Vocalizer's properties</b>					

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3	Age	-0.007	0.005	0.177	-0.018	0.003
4	Rater's properties					
5	Sex (0-F, 1-M)	0.028	0.098	0.777	-0.164	0.219
6	Age	0.001	0.005	0.913	-0.008	0.009
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9	Method (0 – online, 1 – lab)	-0.203	0.120	<.001	-0.438	0.032
10						
11	Random effects		Variance		ICC	
12	Rater's ID		0.842		0.358	
13	Vocalizer's ID		0.351		0.189	
14	Residual		1.510			
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16	N <sub>raters</sub> =441, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =106, N <sub>observations</sub> =4306					
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18	Model parameter					
19	BIC		15143.808			
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**Table S11***Model with rated health as outcome for male vocalizers*

Online raters					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	5.087	0.094	<.001	4.903	5.271
Stimulus type (0-read, 1-free)	-0.207	0.059	<.001	-0.322	-0.092
Vocalizer's properties					
Age	-0.008	0.005	0.147	-0.018	0.003
Rater's properties					
Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.187	0.160	0.244	-0.501	0.127
Age	0.003	0.007	0.679	-0.011	0.017
Random effects					
	Variance		ICC		
Rater's ID	0.890		0.372		
Vocalizer's ID	0.252		0.143		
Residual	1.501				
N <sub>raters</sub> =178, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =106, N <sub>observations</sub> =1740					
Model parameter					
BIC	6187.296				
Lab raters					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	5.294	0.092	<.001	5.114	5.474
Stimulus type (0-read, 1-free)	-0.025	0.057	0.663	-0.136	0.087
Vocalizer's properties					
Age	-0.013	0.005	0.009	-0.023	-0.003
Rater's properties					

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3	Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.196	0.152	0.197	-0.494	0.101
4	Age	0.007	0.007	0.305	-0.006	0.021
5						
6	Random effects		Variance		ICC	
7	Rater's ID		0.793		0.356	
8	Vocalizer's ID		0.273		0.160	
9	Residual		1.435			
10						
11	N <sub>raters</sub> =178, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =101, N <sub>observations</sub> =1786					
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13	Model parameter					
14	BIC		6239.034			
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**Table S12**

*Actual self-reported properties of the Vocalizers*

	Age (years)			Height (cm)			Weight (kg)		
	M (SE)	Min	Max	M (SE)	Min	Max	M(SE)	Min	Max
Females	35.39 (12.68)	19	67	165.65 (5.36)	152	176	65.62 (11.62)	45	100
Males	30.40 (11.51)	18	65	180.20 (6.14)	161	197	81.03 (13.24)	58	130
Total	32.83 (12.32)	18	67	173.16 (9.29)	152	197	72.51 (14.64)	45	130

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**Table S13.***Properties of the vocalizers rated by raters depending on stimulus type.*

Estimated	Sex accuracy	Age	Height (kg)	Weight (kg)	Attractiveness	Dominance	Likability	Trustworthiness	Femininity- Masculinity	Health
Female vocalizers										
Read speech	99% (0.004)	31.68 (0.48)	165.74 (0.34)	63.4 (0.42)	<b>4.20 (0.08)</b>	<b>3.83 (0.08)</b>	4.39 (0.08)	<b>4.26 (0.08)</b>	2.21 (0.06)	5.21 (0.07)
Free speech	99% (0.004)	31.19 (0.48)	165.42 (0.34)	63.4 (0.42)	<b>4.07 (0.08)</b>	<b>3.45 (0.08)</b>	4.48 (0.08)	<b>3.81 (0.08)</b>	2.25 (0.06)	5.16 (0.07)
Male vocalizers										
Read speech	99% (0.002)	31.34 (0.53)	175.58 (0.44)	77.18 (0.50)	<b>3.90 (0.10)</b>	<b>3.92 (0.08)</b>	4.21 (0.07)	<b>4.07 (0.07)</b>	5.71 (0.07)	<b>5.11 (0.08)</b>
Free speech	99% (0.002)	31.35 (0.53)	175.66 (0.44)	77.24 (0.50)	<b>3.79 (0.09)</b>	<b>3.53 (0.08)</b>	4.29 (0.07)	<b>3.63 (0.07)</b>	5.67 (0.07)	<b>4.84 (0.08)</b>

Note. Estimated marginal means are calculated with control for all covariates from the models. Standard errors are presented in parentheses. The values that differed significantly are marked as **bolded**.

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3 Repeated analyses were conducted, controlling for stimulus length. The obtained results are described below.  
4 All tables for these analyses are labeled as S2.1, S2.2, S2.3, etc., and are located following the textual  
5 description of the results.  
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### 8 9 **Statistical analyses**

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11 To examine the effect of speech stimulus type on perceived traits of the vocalizers, as well as on the accuracy of listeners' ratings of  
12 biological traits, we proceeded with a series of Linear Mixed Models (using Restricted Maximum Likelihood estimator) with responses clustered  
13 both within speakers and raters. Because of sizeable sexual dimorphism in the acoustic properties of the human voice (Titze, 1989), we  
14 conducted separate models for male and female vocalizers. Most models included ratings of a given trait as the outcome variable, speech type  
15 (categorical variable coded 0 – free, 1 – read, please note that this is the opposite encoding from the main analysis described in the main article),  
16 method of data collection (categorical variable coded 0 – online, 1 – lab), stimulus duration, vocalizer age, rater gender (categorical variable  
17 coded 0-F, 1-M) and rater age as fixed variables, and vocalizers' and raters' coded identities as random effects. In the model examining the effect  
18 of speech type on the accuracy of sex/gender ratings, we entered accuracy in sex assessment as the outcome variable (0-incorrect, 1-correct).  
19 Additionally, in the models with age, height, and weight as outcomes, we included the actual height or weight of the speakers (as the relationship  
20 between actual and rated age reflects the accuracy of the ratings) and age/height/weight\*speech type as interaction effects, to test whether the  
21 accuracy of listeners' ratings differs between read and free speech. All continuous predictors were grand-mean centred. All model results are  
22 presented in Tables S2.1-S2.10 in the supplementary materials. For means and standard deviations of actual properties and rated properties (by  
23 speech type), see Tables S2.11 and S2.12, respectively, in the supplementary materials. Voice samples for the current study were recorded from  
24 198 adult men and women ( $M_{age} = 33.03$ ,  $SD_{age} = 12.46$ ; 46% women), For technical reasons, 10 recordings whose votes could not be estimated  
25 were not included in the analysis.  
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29 Due to multiple comparisons, we performed Bonferroni correction and set the alpha level to 0.005 (0.05/10). Estimates presented in the  
30 main text were not standardized. For standardized betas see Figure 1. All analyses and figures were performed using Jamovi, R using packages  
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ggplot2 (Wickham et al., 2016) and parameters (Lüdecke, 2020) and Python using matplotlib (Ari, 2014) package. Raw data and codebooks for Jamovi and scripts can be retrieved from: [https://osf.io/ga4tp/?view\\_only=6e0f6b455db14bf79882c0f910277d96](https://osf.io/ga4tp/?view_only=6e0f6b455db14bf79882c0f910277d96)

## Results

### Assessments of biological traits

#### *Sex/gender recognition*

The overall accuracy of voice-based sex/gender judgments was very high, averaging 99% for both types of speech stimuli (read and free speech) and for both sexes of vocalizer. None of the predictors included in our models significantly predicted variance in sex rating accuracy (see Table S2.1 in the supplementary materials). Accuracy in voice-based sex recognition was, therefore, extremely high independent of method of data collection, speaker age, rater age, and rater gender for both female and male vocalizers, or speech type. Indeed, the effect of speech type was very small,  $b = 0.001$  CIs: -0.02, 0.021,  $p = .893$  and  $b = 0.002$  CIs: -0.01, 0.01,  $p = .766$  for female and male vocalisers, respectively, indicating that listeners could gauge sex extremely and equally well from both read and free speech.

#### *Age assessment*

For both male and female vocalizers, assessed age was predicted by the vocalizers actual age (females:  $b = 0.69$ ,  $p < .001$ , males:  $b = 0.55$ ,  $p < .001$ ), indicating an overall high accuracy in listeners' voice-based ratings of age. For female vocalizers, assessed age was not statistically significantly related to the speech type ( $b = -0.31$  CIs: -1.83, 1.21,  $p = .69$ ). The speech type did not however predict *accuracy* in listeners' age assessments of neither female ( $b = -0.03$ , CIs: -0.07, 0.002,  $p = .062$ ) nor male vocalizers ( $b = -0.03$ , CIs: -0.001, 0.07,  $p = .055$ ) as

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3 reflected by a lack of interaction effects. In males, speech type also did not explain any variance in raters' age assessments ( $b = -0.49$  CIs:  $-1.90, -$   
4  $0.93, p = .499$ ) (see Table S2.2 for outcomes). Whether participants completed the experiment in the lab or online did not significantly predict  
5 their age assessments of either sex ( $p = .333$  and  $p = .489$  for female and male vocalizers, respectively). Stimulus duration also did not predict  
6 age assessments ( $p = .300$  and  $p = .494$  for female and male vocalizers, respectively).  
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### 12 ***Height assessment***

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15 In both female and male vocalizers, actual height predicted perceived height but for females this relationship was slightly below the  
16 threshold of statistical significance following Bonferroni correction ( $b = 0.10, p = .012$  in females and  $b = 0.21, p < .001$  in males). For female  
17 vocalizers, speech type did not predict listeners' assessments of speaker height ( $b = 1.57, \text{CIs: } 0.39, 2.75, p = .009$ , see Table S2.3 for detailed  
18 outcomes) and there was no significant interaction between speech type and vocalizer's actual height on listeners' assessments ( $b = -0.09, \text{CIs: } -$   
19  $0.01, 0.016, p = .02$ ). In male vocalizers, no effect of speech type was found ( $b = -0.50, \text{CIs: } -1.79, 0.80, p = .45$ ), and there was no interaction  
20 between actual and assessed height ( $b = 0.03, \text{CIs: } -0.06, 0.12, p = .57$ ). Whether participants completed the experiment in the lab or online did  
21 not significantly predict their height assessments of either sex ( $p = .12$  and  $p = .129$  for female and male vocalizers, respectively). Stimulus  
22 duration also did not significantly predict height assessments but in females this relationship was slightly below the threshold of statistical  
23 significance ( $p = .024$  and  $p = .522$  for female and male vocalizers, respectively).  
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### ***Weight assessment***

For female vocalizers, the model revealed no significant main effect of vocalizers' actual weights on listeners' weight assessments following Bonferroni correction ( $b = 0.07$ ,  $p = .016$ ). We found no effect of speech type on listener's assessments of weight ( $b = -0.63$ , CIs: --2.12, 0.85,  $p = .404$ ), and no interaction between speech type and vocalizer actual weight ( $b = 0.03$ , CIs: -0.07, 0.006,  $p = .099$ ). In male vocalizers, the effect of speech type was also not significant ( $b = -1.63$ , CIs: -3.178, -0.075,  $p = .04$ ), nor was the effect of participant's actual weight on their assessed weight ( $p = .084$ ), with no interaction between these two variables ( $b = -0.02$ , CIs: -0.07, 0.03  $p = .413$ ). Thus, these results suggest that the type of speech stimulus did not influence listeners' weight judgements (see Table S2.4). Whether participants completed the experiment in the lab or online did not significantly predict their weight assessments of either sex ( $p = .875$  and  $p = .982$  for female and male vocalizers, respectively). The same is true for stimulus duration ( $p = .336$  and  $p = .04$  for female and male vocalizers, respectively) but in females this relationship was slightly below the threshold of statistical significance after Bonferroni correction.

### **Assessment of psychosocial traits**

Subsequent models examined listeners' assessments of socially relevant traits of vocalizers including attractiveness, dominance, likeability, trustworthiness, masculinity/femininity, and health. While many of these traits can be framed as both psychological and biological to some degree, the key distinction for the purposes of this study is that these traits were not defined by any objective ground-truth measure. Thus, while we could test whether listeners' perceptions of these traits varied when judging free versus read speech, we could not test whether speech

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3 type affected the accuracy of these assessments, as we could for biological traits for which we had objective measures (sex, age, and body size).  
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5 The statistical models were thus composed of the same set of predictors (speech type, vocalizer/rater age, rater sex, method and stimulus  
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7 duration), however we did not assess accuracy in listeners' assessments of these psychosocial traits.  
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11 Speech type generally predicted differences in listeners' ratings of psychosocial traits, however the directions of these effects depended on  
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13 the specific trait. Read speech elicited relatively higher ratings of attractiveness (vocalizer sex: females  $b = 0.51$ , CIs: 0.74, -0.06,  $p < .001$ ;  
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15 males  $b = 0.41$ , CIs: 0.18, 0.626,  $p < .001$ ; Table S2.5), dominance (females  $b = 1.274$ , CIs: 1.002, 1.55,  $p < .001$ ; males  $b = 0.66$ , CIs: 0.41, 0.91,  
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17  $p < .001$ ; Table S2.6), trustworthiness (females  $b = 0.90$ , CIs: 0.63, 1.18,  $p < .001$ ; males  $b = 0.82$ , CIs: 0.56, 1.08,  $p < .001$  Table S2.8) and  
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19 health (females  $b = 0.51$ , CIs: 0.27, 0.75,  $p < .001$ ; males  $b = 0.57$ , CIs: 0.33, 0.82,  $p < .001$ ) than did free speech. Likability ratings did not vary  
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21 significantly in females ( $b = 0.26$ , CIs: 0.01, 0.51,  $p = .042$ ) and males ( $b = 0.08$ , CIs: -0.14, 0.30,  $p = .477$ ; Table S2.7. Masculinity-femininity  
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23 ratings also did not vary between speech types for either female ( $b = -0.04$ , CIs: -0.22, 0.13,  $p = .63$ ) or male vocalizers ( $b = -0.008$ , CIs: -0.18,  
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25 0.16,  $p = .928$ ; Table S2.9).  
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31 In all cases, whether participants completed the experiment in the lab or online did not affect the pattern of results. However, stimulus  
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33 duration was a significant predictor of trait assessment in the case of: attractiveness in females ( $b = -0.03$ , CIs: -0.04, -0.01,  $p < .001$ ) and males  
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35 ( $b = -0.03$ , CIs: -0.04, -0.01,  $p < .001$ ), dominance in females ( $b = -0.06$ , CIs: -0.08, -0.05,  $p < .001$ ), likability in females ( $b = -0.03$ , CIs: -0.08, -  
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37 0.01,  $p = .003$ ), trustworthiness in females ( $b = -0.03$ , CIs: -0.05, -0.01,  $p < .001$ ), trustworthiness in males ( $b = -0.03$ , CIs: -0.05, -0.01,  $p < .001$ ),  
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3 health in females ( $b = -0.03$ , CIs:  $-0.05, -0.02$ ,  $p < .001$ ) and health in males ( $b = -0.03$ , CIs:  $-0.04, -0.01$ ,  $p = .002$ ). In each case longer stimulus  
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5 was related to lower rating of a given trait. No effect of stimulus length was observed in case of dominance in males ( $p = .014$ ), likability in  
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7 males ( $p = .146$ ) and femininity-masculinity in both females ( $p = .988$ ) and males ( $p = .583$ ).  
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**Table S2.1**

*Model with sex accuracy rating an outcome*

Female vocalizers						
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals		
				Lower	Upper	
Fixed effects						
Intercept	0.987	0.003	<.001	0.980	0.993	
Stimulus type (0-free, 1-read)	0.001	0.009	0.893	-0.017	0.020	
Vocalizer's properties						
Age	-0.000	0.000	0.542	-0.000	0.000	
Rater's properties						
Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.008	0.000	0.203	-0.020	0.004	
Age	0.000	0.007	0.886	-0.001	0.001	
Method (0-online, 1-lab)	-0.012	0.007	0.097	-0.026	0.002	
Stimulus duration	-0.000	0.001	0.817	-0.001	0.001	
Random effects						
	Variance		ICC			
Rater's ID	0.002		0.170			
Vocalizer's ID	0.000		0.017			
Residual	0.012					
N <sub>raters</sub> =429, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =101, N <sub>observations</sub> =4290						
Male vocalizers						
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals		
				Lower	Upper	
Fixed effects						
Intercept	0.994	0.002	<.001	0.989	0.998	

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3	Stimulus type (0-free, 1-read)	0.002	0.006	0.766	-0.010	0.014
4	Vocalizer's properties					
5	Age	0.000	0.000	0.894	-0.000	0.000
6	Rater's properties					
7	Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.006	0.004	0.164	-0.015	0.002
8	Age	-0.000	0.000	0.459	-0.001	0.000
9						
10						
11	Method (0-online, 1-lab)	-0.009	0.005	0.100	-0.019	0.002
12	Stimulus duration	-0.000	0.000	0.955	-0.001	0.001
13						
14	Random effects					
15		Variance		ICC		
16	Rater's ID	0.001		0.146		
17	Vocalizer's ID	0.000		0.003		
18	Residual	0.006				
19	N <sub>raters</sub> =429, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =96, N <sub>observations</sub> =3536					
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**Table S2.2**

*Model with rated age as outcome*

Female vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
<b>Fixed effects</b>					
Intercept	31.475	0.463	32.382	30.568	32.382
Stimulus type (0-free, 1-read)	-0.311	0.773	1.205	-1.826	1.205
<b>Vocalizer's properties</b>					
Age	0.689	0.033	0.753	0.626	0.753
Vocalizer's age*Stimulus Type	0.034	0.018	0.069	-0.001	0.069
<b>Rater's properties</b>					
Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-1.136	0.489	-0.176	-2.095	-0.176
Age	0.020	0.023	0.065	-0.024	0.065
Method (0-online, 1-lab)	0.568	0.585	1.715	-0.580	1.715
Stimulus duration	0.054	0.052	0.155	-0.048	0.155
<b>Random effects</b>					
	Variance		ICC		
Rater's ID	17.885		0.260		
Vocalizer's ID	15.387		0.232		
Residual	50.819				
N <sub>raters</sub> =405, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =101, N <sub>observations</sub> =4047					
Male vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
<b>Fixed effects</b>					
Intercept	31.420	0.559	<.001	30.325	32.516
Stimulus type (0-free, 1-read)	-0.487	0.722	0.499	-1.902	0.927

1						
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3	Vocalizer's properties					
4	Age	0.551	0.044	<.001	0.466	0.637
5	Vocalizer's age*Stimulus Type	0.014	0.021	0.494	-0.026	0.054
6	Rater's properties					
7	Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.849	0.510	0.096	-1.848	0.150
8	Age	0.061	0.024	0.010	0.015	0.108
9						
10						
11	Method (0-online, 1-lab)	-0.422	0.610	0.489	-1.618	0.774
12	Stimulus duration	0.035	0.051	0.494	-0.065	0.136
13						
14	Random effects		Variance		ICC	
15	Rater's ID		18.910		0.286	
16	Vocalizer's ID		23.411		0.331	
17	Residual		47.245			
18						
19	N <sub>raters</sub> =405, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =96, N <sub>observations</sub> =3325					
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**Table S2.3**

*Model with rated height as outcome*

Female vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
<b>Fixed effects</b>					
Intercept	165.589	0.319	< .001	164.964	166.214
Stimulus type (0-free, 1-read)	1.569	0.601	0.009	0.390	2.747
<b>Vocalizer's properties</b>					
Age	-0.029	0.016	0.068	-0.060	0.002
Height	0.095	0.037	0.012	0.022	0.168
Vocalizer's height*Stimulus type	0.088	0.038	0.020	0.014	0.162
<b>Rater's properties</b>					
Sex (0-F, 1-M)	0.590	0.546	0.281	-0.481	1.661
Age	-0.022	0.023	0.340	-0.067	0.023
Method (0-online, 1-lab)	1.034	0.664	0.120	-0.268	2.337
Stimulus duration	-0.090	0.040	0.024	-0.169	-0.012
<b>Random effects</b>					
	Variance		ICC		
Rater's ID	22.309		0.382		
Vocalizer's ID	2.331		0.061		
Residual	36.016				
N <sub>raters</sub> =362, N <sub>Vocalizers</sub> =101, N <sub>observations</sub> =3597					
Male vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
<b>Fixed effects</b>					
Intercept	175.631	0.435	< .001	174.779	176.482



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3	Stimulus type (0-free, 1-read)	-0.499	0.660	0.450	-1.793	0.795
4	Vocalizer's properties					
5	Age	-0.032	0.022	0.140	-0.075	0.010
6	Height	0.206	0.042	<.001	0.124	0.289
7	Vocalizer's height*Stimulus type	0.025	0.043	0.565	-0.059	0.109
8	Rater's properties					
9	Sex (0-F, 1-M)	0.460	0.738	0.533	-0.986	1.907
10	Age	-0.084	0.031	0.007	-0.146	-0.023
11						
12						
13	Method (0-online, 1-lab)	1.368	0.899	0.129	-0.394	3.131
14	Stimulus duration	0.030	0.047	0.522	-0.062	0.122
15						
16						
17	Random effects		Variance		ICC	
18	Rater's ID		41.945		0.483	
19	Vocalizer's ID		4.145		0.085	
20	Residual		44.814			
21	N <sub>raters</sub> =362, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =96, N <sub>observations</sub> =3021					
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**Table S2.4***Model with rated weight as outcome*

Female vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
<b>Fixed effects</b>					
Intercept	63.456	0.422	< .001	62.628	64.284
Stimulus type (0-free, 1-read)	-0.634	0.758	0.403	-2.120	0.852
<b>Vocalizer's properties</b>					
Age	0.240	0.028	< .001	0.184	0.295
Weight	0.074	0.030	0.016	0.015	0.133
Vocalizer's weight*Stimulus type	0.033	0.020	0.099	-0.006	0.072
<b>Rater's properties</b>					
Sex (0-F, 1-M)	0.350	0.582	0.548	-0.790	1.490
Age	-0.079	0.028	0.005	-0.134	-0.024
Method (0-online, 1-lab)	-0.113	0.749	0.880	-1.581	1.354
Stimulus duration	0.046	0.051	0.366	-0.054	0.146
<b>Random effects</b>					
	<b>Variance</b>		<b>ICC</b>		
Rater's ID	24.351		0.321		
Vocalizer's ID	8.402		0.140		
Residual	51.487				
N <sub>raters</sub> =365, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =101, N <sub>observations</sub> =3633					
Male vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
<b>Fixed effects</b>					
Intercept	77.248	0.515	< .001	76.238	78.257

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3	Stimulus type (0-free, 1-read)	-1.626	0.792	0.040	-3.178	-0.075
4	Vocalizer's properties					
5	Age	0.151	0.029	< .001	0.094	0.209
6	Weight	0.047	0.027	0.084	-0.006	0.101
7	Vocalizer's weight*Stimulus type	-0.019	0.024	0.413	-0.066	0.027
8	Rater's properties					
9	Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-2.006	0.813	0.014	-3.599	-0.414
10	Age	-0.064	0.039	0.104	-0.141	0.013
11						
12						
13	Method (0-online, 1-lab)	-0.184	1.044	0.860	-2.229	1.862
14	Stimulus duration	0.116	0.057	0.040	0.005	0.227
15						
16	Random effects					
17			Variance		ICC	
18	Rater's ID		49.817		0.446	
19	Vocalizer's ID		7.569		0.109	
20	Residual		61.802			
21	N <sub>raters</sub> =365, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =95, N <sub>observations</sub> =2962					
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**Table S2.5***Model with rated attractiveness as outcome*

Female vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	4.135	0.076	<.001	3.986	4.284
Stimulus type (0-free, 1-read)	0.508	0.121	<.001	0.271	0.744
Vocalizer's properties					
Age	-0.028	0.005	<.001	-0.038	-0.018
Rater's properties					
Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.001	0.094	0.991	-0.185	0.183
Age	0.008	0.004	0.044	0.000	0.016
Method (0-online, 1-lab)	-0.148	0.108	0.173	-0.360	0.064
Stimulus duration	-0.027	0.008	<.001	-0.043	-0.011
Random effects					
	Variance		ICC		
Rater's ID	0.758		0.346		
Vocalizer's ID	0.360		0.200		
Residual	1.436				
N <sub>raters</sub> =435, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =101, N <sub>observations</sub> =4330					
Male vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	3.836	0.079	<.001	3.682	3.990

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2						
3	Stimulus type (0-free, 1-read)	0.405	0.113	< .001	0.184	0.626
4	Vocalizer's properties					
5	Age	-0.013	0.005	0.022	-0.023	-0.002
6	Rater's properties					
7	Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.465	0.101	< .001	-0.662	-0.268
8	Age	0.002	0.004	0.583	-0.006	0.011
9						
10						
11	Method (0-online, 1-lab)	-0.126	0.116	0.279	-0.354	0.102
12	Stimulus duration	-0.027	0.008	< .001	-0.043	-0.011
13						
14	Random effects		Variance		ICC	
15	Rater's ID		0.869		0.388	
16	Vocalizer's ID		0.342		0.200	
17	Residual		1.373			
18						
19	N <sub>raters</sub> =435, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =96, N <sub>observations</sub> =3577					
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**Table S2.6***Model with rated dominance as outcome*

Female vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	3.644	0.076	<.001	3.496	3.792
Stimulus type (0-free, 1-read)	1.274	0.139	<.001	1.002	1.546
Vocalizer's properties					
Age	0.004	0.005	0.438	-0.006	0.014
Rater's properties					
Sex (0-F, 1-M)	0.012	0.096	0.900	-0.175	0.199
Age	0.011	0.004	0.014	0.002	0.019
Method (0-online, 1-lab)	0.096	0.113	0.394	-0.125	0.318
Stimulus duration	-0.063	0.009	<.001	-0.081	-0.045
Random effects					
	Variance		ICC		
Rater's ID	0.715		0.290		
Vocalizer's ID	0.343		0.164		
Residual	1.753				
N <sub>raters</sub> =415, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =101, N <sub>observations</sub> =4130					
Male vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	3.703	0.086	<.001	3.535	3.871
Stimulus type (0-free, 1-read)	0.657	0.128	<.001	0.406	0.908
Vocalizer's properties					

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2						
3	Age	0.005	0.006	0.455	-0.008	0.017
4	Rater's properties					
5	Sex (0-F, 1-M)	0.097	0.099	0.324	-0.096	0.290
6	Age	0.005	0.004	0.236	-0.003	0.014
7						
8						
9	Method (0-online, 1-lab)	0.084	0.116	0.472	-0.144	0.312
10	Stimulus duration	-0.023	0.009	0.014	-0.041	-0.005
11						
12	Random effects		Variance		ICC	
13	Rater's ID		0.740		0.308	
14	Vocalizer's ID		0.466		0.219	
15	Residual		1.665			
16						
17	N <sub>raters</sub> =415, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =96, N <sub>observations</sub> =3460					
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**Table S2.7***Model with rated likability as outcome*

Female vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	4.437	0.073	< .001	4.294	4.579
Stimulus type (0-free, 1-read)	0.260	0.128	0.042	0.010	0.510
Vocalizer's properties					
Age	-0.016	0.005	0.001	-0.025	-0.006
Rater's properties					
Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.123	0.092	0.181	-0.303	0.057
Age	0.006	0.004	0.192	-0.003	0.015
Method (0-online, 1-lab)	0.136	0.121	0.260	-0.100	0.372
Stimulus duration	-0.025	0.008	0.003	-0.042	-0.009
Random effects					
	Variance		ICC		
Rater's ID	0.707		0.314		
Vocalizer's ID	0.313		0.169		
Residual	1.542				
N <sub>raters</sub> =430, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =101, N <sub>observations</sub> =4271					
Male vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	4.273	0.067	< .001	4.142	4.404
Stimulus type (0-free, 1-read)	0.080	0.113	0.477	-0.141	0.301
Vocalizer's properties					



1						
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3	Age	-0.002	0.004	0.729	-0.010	0.007
4	Rater's properties					
5	Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.215	0.091	0.019	-0.394	-0.036
6	Age	0.001	0.004	0.866	-0.008	0.009
7						
8						
9	Method (0-online, 1-lab)	-0.035	0.120	0.769	-0.270	0.200
10	Stimulus duration	-0.012	0.008	0.146	-0.028	0.004
11						
12	Random effects		Variance		ICC	
13	Rater's ID		0.680		0.324	
14	Vocalizer's ID		0.215		0.132	
15	Residual		1.415			
16						
17	N <sub>raters</sub> =430, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =96, N <sub>observations</sub> =3568					
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**Table S2.8***Model with rated trustworthiness as outcome*

Female vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	4.031	0.071	<.001	3.891	4.170
Stimulus type (0-free, 1-read)	0.904	0.140	<.001	0.630	1.178
Vocalizer's properties					
Age	-0.000	0.004	0.953	-0.009	0.008
Rater's properties					
Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.091	0.103	0.380	-0.293	0.112
Age	0.005	0.005	0.334	-0.005	0.014
Method (0-online, 1-lab)	0.027	0.126	0.827	-0.219	0.274
Stimulus duration	-0.033	0.009	<.001	-0.051	-0.014
Random effects					
	Variance		ICC		
Rater's ID	0.838		0.306		
Vocalizer's ID	0.229		0.107		
Residual	1.905				
N <sub>raters</sub> =399, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =101, N <sub>observations</sub> =3971					
Male vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	3.842	0.071	<.001	3.702	3.982
Stimulus type (0-free, 1-read)	0.820	0.131	<.001	0.563	1.076
Vocalizer's properties					
Age	0.005	0.005	0.272	-0.004	0.014

Rater's properties						
	Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.019	0.102	0.849	-0.219	0.181
	Age	0.003	0.005	0.589	-0.007	0.012
	Method (0-online, 1-lab)	0.173	0.124	0.166	-0.071	0.416
	Stimulus duration	-0.032	0.009	<.001	-0.051	-0.014
Random effects		Variance		ICC		
	Rater's ID	0.776		0.302		
	Vocalizer's ID	0.222		0.110		
	Residual	1.794				

$N_{\text{raters}}=399$ ,  $N_{\text{vocalizers}}=96$ ,  $N_{\text{observations}}=3239$

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**Table S2.9***Model with rated femininity-masculinity as outcome. Higher score indicated higher masculinity*

Female vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	2.228	0.061	<.001	2.109	2.348
Stimulus type (0-free, 1-read)	-0.043	0.089	0.630	-0.217	0.132
Vocalizer's properties					
Age	0.008	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.014
Rater's properties					
Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.167	0.105	0.114	-0.374	0.040
Age	-0.007	0.005	0.162	-0.016	0.003
Method (0-online, 1-lab)	0.140	0.128	0.273	-0.110	0.391
Stimulus duration	0.000	0.006	0.988	-0.011	0.012
Random effects					
	Variance		ICC		
Rater's ID	1.007		0.562		
Vocalizer's ID	0.098		0.111		
Residual	0.784				
N <sub>raters</sub> =407, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =101, N <sub>observations</sub> =4047					
Male vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	5.677	0.066	<.001	5.548	5.807
Stimulus type (0-free, 1-read)	-0.008	0.087	0.928	-0.179	0.163
Vocalizer's properties					
Age	0.006	0.005	0.167	-0.003	0.015

Rater's properties					
Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.054	0.083	0.517	-0.217	0.109
Age	0.000	0.004	0.971	-0.007	0.008
Method (0-online, 1-lab)	-0.151	0.101	0.136	-0.349	0.047
Stimulus duration	0.003	0.006	0.583	-0.009	0.016
Random effects		Variance	ICC		
Rater's ID		0.588	0.455		
Vocalizer's ID		0.250	0.262		
Residual		0.705			

$N_{\text{raters}}=407$ ,  $N_{\text{vocalizers}}=96$ ,  $N_{\text{observations}}=3375$

**Table S2.10***Model with rated health as outcome*

Female vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	5.187	0.071	<.001	5.048	5.326
Stimulus type (0-free, 1-read)	0.510	0.122	<.001	0.272	0.749
Vocalizer's properties					
Age	-0.018	0.005	<.001	-0.027	-0.009
Rater's properties					
Sex (0-F, 1-M)	-0.040	0.091	0.661	-0.219	0.139
Age	0.005	0.004	0.200	-0.003	0.014
Method (0-online, 1-lab)	-0.038	0.112	0.735	-0.258	0.182
Stimulus duration	-0.032	0.008	<.001	-0.048	-0.016
Random effects					
	Variance		ICC		
Rater's ID	0.726		0.333		
Vocalizer's ID	0.294		0.168		
Residual	1.456				
N <sub>raters</sub> =441, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =101, N <sub>observations</sub> =4387					
Male vocalizers					
Parameter	Estimate	SE	<i>p</i>	95% confidence intervals	
				Lower	Upper
Fixed effects					
Intercept	4.975	0.080	<.001	4.819	5.131
Stimulus type (0-free, 1-read)	0.574	0.124	<.001	0.332	0.817

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3	Vocalizer's properties					
4	Age	-0.010	0.006	0.094	-0.021	0.002
5	Rater's properties					
6	Sex (0-F, 1-M)	0.029	0.099	0.771	-0.165	0.222
7	Age	0.001	0.005	0.853	-0.008	0.010
8						
9						
10	Method (0-online, 1-lab)	-0.175	0.121	0.149	-0.413	0.062
11	Stimulus duration	-0.027	0.009	0.002	-0.044	-0.010
12						
13	Random effects			Variance		ICC
14	Rater's ID			0.824		0.354
15	Vocalizer's ID			0.365		0.196
16	Residual			1.502		
17						
18	N <sub>raters</sub> =441, N <sub>vocalizers</sub> =96, N <sub>observations</sub> =3580					
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**Table S2.11**

*Actual self-reported properties of the Vocalizers*

	Age (years)			Height (cm)			Weight (kg)		
	M (SE)	Min	Max	M (SE)	Min	Max	M(SE)	Min	Max
Females	35.39 (12.68)	19	67	165.65 (5.36)	152	176	65.00 (11.62)	45	100
Males	30.54 (11.80)	18	65	180 (6.18)	161	197	80.00 (12.95)	58	130
Total	33.03 (12.46)	18	67	172.70 (9.30)	152	197	72.99 (14.41)	45	130

For Review Only



**Table S2.12.***Properties of the vocalizers rated by raters depending on stimulus type.*

Estimated	Sex accuracy	Age	Height (kg)	Weight (kg)	Attractiveness	Dominance	Likability	Trustworthiness	Femininity- Masculinity	Health
Female vocalizers										
Free speech	99% (0.005)	32.04 (0.54)	164.81 (0.44)	63.77 (0.57)	<b>3.88 (0.10)</b>	<b>3.01 (0.10)</b>	4.31 (0.10)	<b>3.58 (0.10)</b>	2.25 (0.08)	<b>4.93 (0.09)</b>
Read speech	99% (0.006)	30.91 (0.51)	166.37 (0.44)	63.14 (0.57)	<b>4.39 (0.10)</b>	<b>4.28 (0.10)</b>	4.57 (0.10)	<b>4.48 (0.10)</b>	2.21 (0.08)	<b>5.44 (0.09)</b>
Male vocalizers										
Free speech	99% (0.004)	31.66 (0.68)	175.88 (0.56)	78.06 (0.67)	<b>3.63 (0.10)</b>	<b>3.38 (0.11)</b>	4.23 (0.09)	<b>3.43 (0.10)</b>	5.68 (0.08)	<b>4.69 (0.10)</b>
Read speech	99% (0.004)	31.18 (0.65)	175.38 (0.53)	76.43 (0.63)	<b>3.04 (0.09)</b>	<b>4.03 (0.10)</b>	4.31 (0.08)	<b>4.25 (0.09)</b>	5.67 (0.08)	<b>5.26 (0.10)</b>

*Note. Estimated marginal means are calculated with control for all covariates from the models. Standard errors are presented in parentheses. The values that differed significantly are marked as **bolded**.*