Experiment

Students wanted to study helping behaviour. They decided to carry out a field experiment. In the experiment a mobile phone was left on a park bench. When it was picked up by a passer-by, one of the researchers who was watching nearby rang the phone. In condition A the researcher explained it was their mobile phone and politely asked if it could be returned to them. In condition B the researcher stated it was their mobile phone and demanded rudely that it be returned to them. The students’ experimental hypothesis was: ‘the way the researcher asks for the return of the mobile phone will affect the number of phones returned.’

The table below shows the results.

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|  | **Condition A** | **Condition B** |
| **Number of phones returned** | 8 | 1 |

(PY3, June 2015)

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