

TALSA Scoring Manual: Word/Nonword Repetition Span - Open Set

Test Description:

The Word/Nonword Repetition Span - Open Set assesses the ability to repeat stimuli with lexical representations (known words) and without (phonotactically legal nonwords). Word repetition involves access to phonological, lexical and/or semantic levels of representation. Nonword repetition is mediated primarily by the phonological route without significant support from lexical or semantic levels.

Test Variations:

1. Word lists of varying lengths (2, 3 and 4 words) consisting of 5 trials each.
2. Nonwords lists of varying lengths (1, 2 and 3 nonwords) consisting of 5 trials each.

Scoring each Question

Scoring is done on a 3-point scale as follows:

- 1 – Wrong answer
- 2 – This subtest does not allow for partially correct responses.
- 3 – Correct answer

Termination of test: When a patient/client scores fewer than 3 correct on a list length (LL) the test may be terminated. However, be sure to score all the items on subsequent LL's as "1", not zero.

Scoring the Subtest

Span scores provide a measure of verbal short-term memory (STM) capacity.

A span score consists of the number of the first list length (LL) *passed* and partial credit for correctly completed items in the first LL *failed*. Determine partial credit for items on first LL failed using the table below (X stands for the last LL passed).

Number of last LL <i>passed</i>	Number of items correct on first LL <i>failed</i>	Credit for correct items on first LL <i>failed</i>	Span score
X	0	.00	X.00
X	1	.33	X.33
X	2	.66	X.66
X	3	N/A - passed	
X	4	N/A - passed	
X	5	N/A - passed	

Span score examples:

2.33 - The patient passed LL2 (with 3, 4 or 5 items correct) and, although they failed LL3, they correctly completed 1 of the items in LL3.

3.66 - The patient passed LL3 (with 3, 4 or 5 items correct) and, although they failed LL4, they correctly completed 2 of the items in LL4.

2.00 - The pt. passed LL2 (with 3, 4 or 5 items correct) but did not correctly complete any items in LL3.

Word Repetition Span: Span scores below 4.0 may be considered impaired. On the research version* of the TALSA neurotypical control participants had a mean span score of 4.84 with a standard deviation (SD) of 0.24. A score that falls one SD below the mean of neurotypical controls may be considered impaired.

Nonword Repetition Span: Span scores below 2.33 may be considered impaired. On the research version* of the TALSA neurotypical control participants had a mean span score of 2.92 with a standard deviation (SD) of 0.68. A score that falls one SD below the mean of neurotypical controls may be considered impaired.

Note: T-scores are currently not available for this test.

* Martin, N., Minkina, I., Kohen, F. P., & Kalinyak-Fliszar, M. (2018). Assessment of linguistic and verbal short-term memory components of language abilities in aphasia. *Journal of Neurolinguistics*, 48, 199–225.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jneuroling.2018.02.006>

SCORE SHEET – Word/Nonword Repetition Span – Open Set

1 point = wrong, 3 points = correct

Test termination: If the participant responds correctly on 3 or more items, move on to the next list length. If they respond to fewer than 3 items correctly, end the test. ***Score all subsequent items as incorrect, i.e., score them as a “1” not a “0”.*

13.1 Word Repetition Span – Open Set			
#	ITEMS – List Length 2	Points	Comments
1	can globe		
2	chair fan		
3	basket house		
4	gun scissors		
5	apple pipe		
ITEMS – List Length 3			
1	broom fish needle		
2	spool belt flower		
3	button tent flag		
4	candle hand saw		
5	spoon wallet tree		
ITEMS – List Length 4			
1	bed hammer car gift		
2	bee nail ear pillow		
3	gate cow shovel tire		
4	mouse clown shoe pencil		
5	table fire cat skirt		

Span score: _____._____

13.2 Nonword Repetition Span – Open Set			
#	ITEMS – List Length 1	Points	Comments
1	bipple		
2	glunt		
3	fobe		
4	lerm		
5	tuke		
ITEMS – List Length 2			
1	lun_glupe		
2	showper_prine		
3	kwig_besher		
4	lup_siderk		
5	toyple_moop		
ITEMS – List Length 3			
1	bleam_vush_nisel		
2	tilen_beel_snope		
3	boosen_thunt_flut		
4	skeel_zolt_flover		
5	wuk_mool_toljen		

Span score: _____._____