

## TALSA Scoring Manual: Rhyming Probe Span

### Test Description:

The Rhyming Probe Span is a test of verbal short-term and working memory. This particular probe span examines recognition memory for phonological information.

### Test Variations:

Items of varying lengths (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 words) 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 4 correct on a list length the test should be terminated. However, be sure to score all the items on subsequent list lengths 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	.25	X.25
X	2	.50	X.50
X	3	.75	X.75
X	4	N/A - passed	
X	5	N/A - passed	

### Span score examples:

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

**4.25**- The patient passed LL4 (with either 4 or 5 items correct) and, although they failed LL5, they correctly completed 1 of the items in LL5.

**2.00** - The patient passed LL2 (with either 4 or 5 items correct) but did not correctly complete any items in LL3.

**Span scores at or below 5.75 may be considered impaired.** On the research version of the TALSA, neurotypical control participants had a mean span score of 6.70 with a standard deviation (SD) of 0.84. A score that falls one SD below the mean of neurotypical controls may be considered impaired. (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>)

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

## SCORE SHEET – Rhyming Probe Span

Wrong = 1 point Partially Correct - not an option on this subtest. Correct = 3 points

**Termination of test:** When a patient/client scores fewer than 4 correct on a list length the test should be terminated. However, be sure to score all the items on subsequent list lengths as “1”, not zero.

Rhyming Probe Span					
#	ITEMS – List Length 1	Probe	Answer	Points	Comments
1	deer	beer	Y		
2	table	juice	N		
3	flower	coin	N		
4	boat	throat	Y		
5	cake	basket	N		
<b>ITEMS – Length 2</b>					
1	carpet_buckle	knuckle	Y		
2	monkey_feet	pliers	N		
3	sergeant_building	tooth	N		
4	sign_telescope	wine	Y		
5	jacket_plane	brain	Y		
<b>ITEMS – Length 3</b>					
1	avalanche_mirror_duck	truck	Y		
2	daffodil_shoes_foam	eagle	N		
3	mayor_peach_harp_	beach	Y		
4	van_shoulder_puddle	fan	Y		
5	rain_boy_cauliflower	station	N		
<b>ITEMS – List Length 4</b>					
1	meadow_traffic_slide_hospital	ant	N		
2	balcony_drum_computer_saw	ring	N		
3	army_disk_newspaper_lodge	onion	N		
4	starfish_vase_cucumber_light	night	Y		
5	king_airport_neck_brownie	string	Y		
<b>ITEMS – Length 5</b>					
1	auditorium_yarn_ring_cake_window	lake	Y		
2	library_sun_hockey_ghost_radish	coal	N		
3	fire_pencil_waist_umbrella_money	tire	Y		
4	flute_notebook_pebble_starfish_vase	key	N		
5	island_sock_fern_apricot_kite	rock	Y		
<b>ITEMS – Length 6</b>					
1	dime_caterpillar_iron_tooth_wheel_phone	seal	Y		
2	dollar_shrimp_wallet_ceiling_piston_axe	collar	Y		
3	grasshopper_bridge_forest_king_cigarette_table	hood	N		
4	nutmeg_queen_movie_water_patient_grass	brass	Y		
5	board_paint_carnation_asphalt_soccer_manure	vest	N		

Span score: \_\_\_\_\_.