

TALSA Scoring Manual: Category Coordinate Probe Span

Test Description:

The Category Coordinate Probe Span is a test of verbal short-term and working memory capacity. This particular probe span examines recognition memory for semantic information. Span scores provide a measure of verbal short-term memory (STM) capacity.

Test Variations:

Items of varying list lengths (2, 3, 4 & 5 words) consisting of 5 trials each.

Scoring each Item

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 (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

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 LL3 (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 below 5.25 may be considered impaired. On the research version of the TALSA neurotypical control participants had a mean span score of 6.1 with a standard deviation (SD) of 0.8. 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 – Category Coordinate 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 may be terminated. However, be sure to score all the items on subsequent list lengths as “1”, not zero.

#	ITEMS – List Length 2	Probe	Answer	Points	Comments
1	tiger cactus	harp	N		
2	mansion flute	peach	N		
3	wolf potato	carrot	Y		
4	sweater tongue	robe	Y		
5	valley wasp	suit	N		
ITEMS – List Length 3					
1	wood van typhoon	coffee	N		
2	ocean suds bike	popcorn	N		
3	drink warning guitar	harmonica	Y		
4	bedroom drug picture	square	N		
5	nail flute water	drums	Y		
ITEMS – List Length 4					
1	shoulder needle spray furnace	book	N		
2	nail tangerine bathtub symbol	cherry	Y		
3	leg tractor stick pretzel	arm	Y		
4	glass sand eye rectangle	toe	Y		
5	clown honey mall table	sneakers	N		
ITEMS – List Length 5					
1	bench furnace weather polish group	knuckle	N		
2	chalk heel zucchini doctor machine	green	N		
3	telephone deck medicine farm oboe	clarinet	Y		
4	lime kangaroo winter bus hook	autumn	Y		
5	fence bedbug homework artist soup	dragonfly	Y		

Span score: _____._____