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The **PARROT**

Speech Discrimination Tester

AB Word Short Word List

Please take a few moments to read these
instructions as this will ensure that you
get the best possible results from your

PARROT.

Performing the AB short Word List Test

The Parrot Speech Discrimination Tester for AB Word lists uses a subset of the original 15 wordlists developed by Arthur Boothroyd in 1968. We have selected 8 lists (2,5,6,8,11,13,14 & 15) as being most appropriate for younger children.

Each word list consists of ten words and each word has three phonemes constructed as consonant - vowel - consonant. Thus, there are thirty test phonemes in each list.

When performing the test, the child is asked to repeat the word they hear exactly as they heard it. It is important to stress that they should repeat the word even if it makes no sense, and if they only heard part of the word then they should repeat that part. If they are not sure what they heard, then they should guess.

Scoring the test

Each word in the test should be thought of as a vowel nucleus with a consonant at each end. Each of the three parts is scored separately. Only when a part is entirely correct does it obtain a score of 1. Any error results in a score of 0. Typical errors include omission, distortion or addition of phonemes.

Some typical examples of scoring are shown below.

Stimulus MAN	Response PAN	Score 2
Score is 2 because the first phoneme is incorrect.		

Stimulus VEIL	Response SAIL	Score 2
Score is 2 because the first phoneme is incorrect, spelling errors do not count.		

Stimulus SHOOT	Response SHOOTS	Score 2
Score is 2 because additions count as an error.		

Stimulus SHOP	Response POSH	Score 1
Score is 1 because even though the correct sounds were identified, they are in the wrong position.		

When the test is complete you should insert the number of correctly identified phonemes in the Total Phonemes box and calculate the Phonemes score as a percentage
(Total Phonemes / 30) X 100

You can also score the number of correct words (where the phoneme score = 3) and express the word score as a percentage.

Critical differences

Care should be taken when trying to compare test results for a child under differing test conditions, e.g. different hearing aid settings or different test presentation level. A minimal difference in scores between AB word lists needs to be sufficient for a level of confidence to be established.

So, for example, if a child scores 90% on a list, scores for a comparative list need to be below 70% or above 97% for the difference to be significant at the 95% level of confidence. This is outlined in Speech Audiology (2nd Edition), Whurr 1997, M. Martin (Ed). (R. Green p.166/173/174).

Select the required presentation level using the dB dial and select the required list by using the up and down arrow keys.

▶ Next list

◀ Previous list

Use the keys 1-10 to present the chosen word in the list.

Calibration of Hearing Tests

The Parrot has been factory calibrated in free field conditions such that the dB dial setting is equivalent to a dB(A) reading with the speaker positioned 75cm from the subject. This is the length between the two marks on the white connecting cable. If a calibration check is required, the following procedure should be used:

- Position a sound level meter in place of the test subject at roughly the same height as the child's head.
- Set the dB dial to 70dB and press the 'Noise' key to produce a calibration noise.
- Move the speaker to a distance which produces a reading of 70dB(A) on the meter.

Monitoring Battery Condition

The Parrot is powered by a 6 volt battery contained within the speaker housing. You should expect to get more than 30 hours of continuous use before the battery needs re-charging. With normal use, it should give years of trouble free service.

A low battery voltage is indicated by the On/Low battery indicator changing from green to red. This will initially be

observed whenever a key is pressed. You may continue to use the Parrot for a further one to two hours. After this time, the low battery indicator will stay red all the time. It is no longer possible to guarantee the sound quality or calibration accuracy of the speech produced in this condition. You should stop using the Parrot and re-charge the battery.

Re-Charging the Battery

Should the On/Low Battery indicator fail to light then the battery is completely exhausted and should be re-charged as soon as possible. Leaving your battery discharged for long periods may significantly shorten its life. The charger senses the battery condition and re-charges the battery in the shortest possible time. It will normally recover batteries from a completely discharged condition without any intervention.

Under no circumstances should you attempt to re-charge the battery with any device other than the charger supplied with the Parrot. Failure to observe this instruction may result in serious damage.

To get best use from the charger and maximise the life of your battery, the following instructions must be observed:

- Disconnect the 5 pin plug from the rear of the Parrot speaker housing (if connected).
- Connect the battery charger to the rear of the Parrot speaker housing.
- Plug the charger into a suitable mains socket, and switch on the mains power. The red light on the charger housing will light up. After a few hours, the red light should go out and the green light come on, to indicate that the battery is fully charged. If the charger is left in this condition, no damage will result. It is not possible to 'overcharge' the battery with the charger supplied.
- Switch off the mains and disconnect the charger from the speaker housing.

Your Parrot is now ready for use.

