Comprehension Assessment of Spoken Language (CASL)

Ages: 3:0 - 21:11; Separate Record Forms for 3 - 6 and 7 - 21

Nature of Test: Standardized analysis of oral language processing, knowledge and use of words and grammatical structures, use of language for higher-level cognitive tasks, & knowledge and use of language within communicative contexts.

Core Tests: Most representative of each category (i.e., Lexical/Semantics, Syntax, Pragmatics)

Supplementary Tests: Provide additional diagnostic information which can give important assessment data

Lexical/Semantic Tests:
- Basic Concepts
- Antonyms
- Synonyms
- Sentence Completion
- Idiomatic Language
- Syntactic Tests

Syntactic Tests:
- Syntax Construction
- Paragraph Comprehension
- Grammatical Morphemes
- Sentence Comprehension
- Grammaticality Judgement

Pragmatic Tests:
- Nonliteral language
- Meaning from Context
- Inference
- Ambiguous Sentences
- Pragmatic Judgment

Norming Population:
- Sample - 1,700 subjects across the 15 age groups (100 subjects in each)
- Gender, geographic region, and race/ethnic group are all representative of the U.S. population

Positives/Negatives:
- Relatively easy to administer
  - Verbal directions can be very lengthy or wordy
    - Can have an effect on the examinee’s attention
Clinician should review before administering

- Scoring is straightforward
  - However, partial credit is given in some subtests but not others.
  - Some sections require measures of judgment—may lead to some scorer bias
- Test items are organized and relatively easy to follow
  - Most items are right in the three test booklets, but some are written on the scoresheet only
    - May break up the flow of the assessment if scorer is flipping back and forth between test booklets and score sheets
- Materials include test books and record forms

Scoring:

- Scoring is primarily 1 or 0
- Convert raw scores to standard scores using Norm Book tables and write in appropriate core or supplementary box
- Basal and Ceiling
  - Basal: score of 1 on three consecutive items
  - Ceiling: score of 0 on five consecutive items
- Prompts may be acceptable when indicated with the prompt symbol.

Norming Population:

- Accounted for Gender, Geographical Region, SES, Race/Ethnic Group by equating groups based on U.S. population

Reliability:

- Internal Reliability
  - High degree of item uniformity within the 15 CASL subtests
- Test-retest Reliability
  - Strong evidence of stability of CASL scores across all age groups

Validity:

- Construct Validity
  - Developmental Progression of Scores
    - CASL demonstrates developmental progression of scores
  - Intercorrelations of the CASL Tests
  - Factor Structure Analysis
    - Utilized chi-square and other statistical indices to determine whether they included age-appropriate aspects of language in each factor of the CASL