

Exercise Description: Circus Sequence

Circus Sequence presents two sounds, an upward-sweeping sound and a downward-sweeping sound, in various combinations (up-up, down-down, up-down, or down-up). The participant clicks the sound button to hear two sweep sounds. The participant must identify which sounds were presented by clicking the up arrow to indicate an up sweep, and the down arrow to indicate a down sweep.

Circus Sequence's Goals

The goals of Circus Sequence are to:

- Improve the speed at which the participant identifies and understands rapid, successive changes in sound (listening accuracy)
- Improve the participant's ability to hold sounds in memory (working memory)

How Circus Sequence Accomplishes Its Goals

Circus Sequence helps the participant develop listening accuracy by presenting sweep sounds at different frequencies, durations, and with different lengths of time between sounds. The frequencies and durations of the sound sweeps correspond to the rapid transitions in the sounds of the English language.

Circus Sequence first presents sounds of durations longer than those typically found in natural speech. As the participant progresses, Circus Sequence decreases the duration of the sound sweeps in order to challenge the participant and improve his or her rate of processing natural speech sounds.

Circus Sequence presents sweep sounds at three different frequencies. As the participant progresses, Circus Sequence also decreases the length of time between sound sweeps.

Circus Sequence helps the participant improve working memory by challenging the participant to keep the sweep sounds in mind while indicating the pattern just heard.

How Scores Are Calculated for Circus Sequence

The score for Circus Sequence is based on how far the participant advances through the 810 adaptive levels, which are composed of 3 frequency ranges, 6 sweep durations, and 45 different lengths of time between sweep durations. The score for Circus Sequence determines the listening accuracy score.

How Circus Sequence's Goals Relate to Your School's Goals

Because Circus Sequence help participants learn to discriminate rapid, successive sounds so they can better hear and comprehend the rapid sound changes that make up spoken language, Circus Sequence prepares participants to master more advanced language skills. These advanced skills, which are components of state curriculum goals, include:

- Learning to respond to directions and class discussions
- Remembering questions, directions, and information
- Learning to read and becoming better readers