

Exercise Description: Language Comprehension Builder

The participant hears a sentence and sees two to four pictures that are possible representations of the sentence. The participant must identify and click the picture that represents the sentence.

Language Comprehension Builder's Goals

The goals of Language Comprehension Builder are to:

- Improve the participant's understanding of the relationship between words, grammar, and meaning (language structures)
- Increase the speed at which the participant identifies and understands rapid, successive changes in sound (listening accuracy)

How Language Comprehension Builder Accomplishes Its Goals

Language Comprehension Builder develops an understanding of language structures by helping the participant learn to attend to and understand spoken sentences in order to select visual representations of each sentence.

Language Comprehension Builder accomplishes this goal by presenting questions and sentences that involve a range of grammatical difficulty. The questions and sentences range from grammar level two to level eight; these levels roughly correspond to the age at which the grammar concepts in each group are typically mastered.

Language Comprehension Builder presents sentences and questions such as "Point to her" (level two) and "[Point to] The clown that is chasing the girl that is little is big" (level six). Questions and sentences from levels seven and eight (such as "[Point to] The cat is not being outrun by the dog") are presented throughout Language Comprehension Builder to expose the participant to more complex grammar, but the participant does not need to master levels seven and eight in order to advance in the exercise.

Language Comprehension Builder also helps the participant develop listening accuracy by first presenting highly stretched and emphasized words where the duration of each phoneme has been increased (for example, cat is initially presented as cccatt) and where the intensity of each rapidly changing sound (such as the /b/ in ba) has been enhanced relative to the vowel sound. As the participant progresses through the exercise, Language Comprehension Builder decreases the amount of stretch and emphasis, and eventually presents the words in natural speech.

How Scores Are Calculated for Language Comprehension Builder

The score for Language Comprehension Builder is based on how far the participant advances through the seven levels of lexical difficulty within each speech level, and on how far the participant progresses through the five speech levels (degrees of modification for listening accuracy). The aggregate score for Language Comprehension Builder and Block Commander determines the language structures score.

How Language Comprehension Builder's Goals Relate to Your School's Goals

Because Language Comprehension Builder helps participants learn to understand word modifications, such as past tense and passive voice, as well as to understand standard sentence

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structures, Language Comprehension Builder prepares participants to master more advanced skills related to language structures. These advanced skills, which are components of state curriculum goals, include:

- Understanding the different meanings conveyed by different sentence structures in order to master pre-reading, early reading, and early writing skills
- Understanding how different grammatical markers (such as plurals, possessives, past-tense forms, and personal pronouns) create distinctions in meaning, an understanding that enables participants to master early learning of reading and writing