

AB Short Word List

Instructions



Performing the AB Short Word List Test (ABSWL)

The Arthur Boothroyd Short Word List was first devised in 1968. It consists of 15-word lists, with each list containing 10 words. Each word has three phonemes constructed as consonant – vowel – consonant with 30 phonemes, 10 vowels and 20 consonants present in each list. We use an 8 list subset (2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15) of the original 15-word lists as some of the original words are not commonly used. The lists were selected after consultation with a range of audiology professionals.

	List 2	List 5	List 6	List 8	List 11	List 13	List 14	List 15
1	Fish	Fib	Fill	Bath	Man	Kiss	Wish	Hug
2	Duck	Tatch	Catch	Hum	Hip	Buzz	Dutch	Dish
3	Gap	Sum	Thumb	Dip	Thug	Hash	Jam	Ban
4	Cheese	Heel	Heap	Five	Ride	Thieve	Heath	Rage
5	Rail	Wide	Wise	Ways	Siege	Gate	Laze	Chief
6	Hive	Rake	Rave	Reach	Veil	Wife	Bike	Pies
7	Bone	Goes	Goat	Joke	Chose	Pole	Rove	Wet
8	Wedge	Shop	Shone	Noose	Shoot	Wretch	Pet	Cove
9	Moss	Vet	Bed	Got	Web	Dodge	Fog	Loose
10	Tooth	June	Juice	Shell	Cough	Moon	Soon	Moth

Scoring the AB test:

Three points are assigned to each word in the AB Word Lists, one for each phoneme.

Test word - MAN Response - PAN XVV Score = 2

Test word - SHOOT Response - SHOOTS VVX Score = 2 (additional S is an error)

For each word list a percentage score is obtained by calculating the points awarded out of 30. Therefore, if a child scores 20 in one list, the percentage score is $(20/30) \times 100\% = 66\%$.

Critical Differences:

Care should be taken when comparing results between two settings, such as two different hearing aids, as a minimal difference between scores needs to be sufficient for a level of confidence to be established. Tables of critical differences can be found in Speech Audiometry, (2nd Edition), p.174 Whurr 1997 M.Martin (Ed) R. Green.

Further details of the AB Short word list can be found at

Developments in Speech Audiometry. British Journal of Audiology (formerly Sound), 2, 3.10. Boothroyd A (1968)