Standardized Achievement Tests

Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test

A measure of receptive vocabulary for Standard American English
The Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (PPVT) is given to measure an individual’s receptive vocabulary, or how well a person understands spoken English. The test is norm references and can be given to people from the age of 2 all the way up to 90+. It helps to detect language impairments in both readers and non-readers (because the test is verbal) and can measure an individual’s language potential. It can also help in diagnosing reading disabilities and in designing intervention strategies based on the results.

The current version of the test is the PPVT4. There are two sets of 228 questions. One set could be used for initial testing prior to any intervention, while the second set of questions can be used after interventions to check for progress.

Who administers the test?

- Psychologist
- Special Education Teacher
- Speech and Language pathologist
- Classroom Teacher

The test is simple to administer and the instructions are easy to follow for the examinee. Examinees are told to look at the pages before them and choose from one of four pictures each time. Looking at the page to the right, the examiner might ask, “Which picture shows laughing?” The examinee may then either answer by pointing to the correct picture or by saying which number is the right picture.

The PPVT4 is untimed but generally takes 10-15 minutes to complete.
Strengths

- Untimed but generally quick to complete
- Can be used with children and adults
- No reading, writing or even speaking required
- Easy to administer and score
- Instructions are simple and easy to follow
- Norm-referenced results help with validity
- Content of the assessment is appropriate for diverse populations

Weaknesses

- Not suited for English language learners (ELL)
- Not suited for individuals with severe visual impairments
- The examinee has a 25% chance of guessing correctly instead of actually knowing the answer
- Test itself is expensive to purchase

References


