

We have added this page to allow you to carry out a simple check of the person's expressive language. First ask them to name object then to tell you what you do with it.

Time taken to complete

Expression:

Object	Name	Function
Comb		
Key		
Phone		
Book (closed)		
Pen		
Glasses		
Box (closed)		
Book (open)		
Pen (broken)		
Glasses (broken)		
Box (open)		

Stirling Understanding Screening Tool - SUST

This tool was developed in order to provide a quick way to gauge the comprehension level of adults with a communication difficulty. It is based on the understanding of information carrying words as used in the Derbyshire Language Assessment but adapted for adults. The objects used are all appropriate for adults and it has been designed to be used by people with little or no hand function.

"Information carrying words" is defined as the number of words that have to be understood in order for a sentence to be followed, taking account of all contextual cues¹.

Comprehension levels are:

- 1: comprehending primarily at the single information carrying word level
- 2: comprehending primarily at the two information carrying word level
- 3: comprehending primarily at three information carrying word level
- 4: primarily are able to comprehend at four information word level, and would have an ability to follow more abstract language.

¹ Knowles W and Masidlover M (1982) *Derbyshire Language Assessment*, Matlock: Derbyshire County Council.

Start on page 2 by laying out the objects described and following instructions.
If person fails all items in a section, stop.
If person fails some of items use page 3 to do a further check

Name:	Date:
Comments:	
Comprehension:	Expression:

Comprehension:

Time taken to complete

SCORE SHEET (first choice)

Comb: key: phone: 2 books: 2 pens (1 broken): 2 pairs glasses (1 broken): 2 boxes with lids

If person fails 3/3 STOP; If s/he fails 2/3 or 1/3 move to page 2

PUT OUT COMB, KEY, PHONE

Single word level	Yes	With sign	No
where's the comb?			
where's the phone?			
where's the key?			

If starting with the two word level – **Demonstrate stop. Do not score
ADD 1 BOOK, PEN, BROKEN PEN, GLASSES, BROKEN GLASSES.

Two word level	Yes	With sign	No
Show me the key and the book			
Show me the phone and the pen			
Show me the broken glasses			

BREAK FOR BRIEF CHAT

ADD BOX WITH OPEN LID, BOX WITH CLOSED LID, KEY, OPEN BOOKS, CLOSED BOOK

Three word level	Yes	With sign	No
Show me the key and the broken pen			
Show me the box that's open and a book			
Show me the book that's open and the phone			

BREAK FOR BRIEF CHAT

I'm going to ask you to do some different things like moving your body. Listen first and then do the things

Four word level	Yes	With sign	No
Shake your head and look at the door and the window			
Point to the window and then shut your eyes and yawn			
Look at/Give me the box that's shut and the glasses that are not broken			

SCORE SHEET (second choice)

Time taken to complete

PUT OUT PEN, GLASSES, 1 BOX

Single word level	Yes	With sign	No
where's the pen?			
where's the glasses?			
where's the box?			

ADD BOOK, COMB, BROKEN PEN

Two word level	Yes	With sign	No
Show me the box and the comb			
Show me the glasses and book			
Show me the broken pen			

BREAK FOR BRIEF CHAT

ADD BROKEN GLASSES, PHONE, BOX WITH OPEN LID

Three word level	Yes	With sign	No
Show me the comb and the broken glasses			
Show me the phone and the book that's shut			
Show me the box that's open and the key			

BREAK FOR BRIEF CHAT

I'm going to ask you to do some different things like moving your body. Listen first and then do the things

Four word level	Yes	With sign	No
Look at the ceiling and shake your head and then look at me			
Point to the door and the window and look at the broken pen			
Look at/Give me the book that's shut and the pen that's not broken			