

Telephone Literacy Survey

You can take this test yourself or give it to your friends. It was designed for telephone literacy surveys. It has been tested thoroughly, and it correlates well with other reading tests.¹

The survey consists of four checklists. The interviewer reads each item on the checklists and the subject responds with “yes” or “no” depending on whether the subject is familiar with the item.

Each checklist has a number of false items called “foils” aimed at preventing subjects from answering “yes” to all the items.

For each checklist, the score is the proportion of correctly identified real names or words minus the proportion of foils identified as being real names or words.

For example, if a person said "yes" to 10 of the 17 names of famous people on the CLT and to 2 of the 6 foils, the person's score for the CLT was $(10/17)$ minus $(2/6)$ or 58.8 minus $33.3 = 25.5$.

The Total Survey Score (the sum of the scores of all four checklists) on the following chart gives the Literacy Level.

| Total SurveyScore | Literacy Level | Level Name | Grade Range |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 0-20 | Level 1 | Rudimentary | 1-2 |
| 21-32 | Level 2 | Basic | 3-6 |
| 33-58 | Level 3 | Intermediate | 7-9 |
| 59-70 | Level 4 | Adept | 10-15 |
| 71-100 | Level 5 | Advanced | 16+ |

¹ West, R. F., K. E. Stanovich, & H. R. Mitchell. “Reading in the Real World and Its Correlates.” *Reading Research Quarterly*. 1993: 28, 35-50.

Sticht, T. G., C. R. Hofstetter, & C. H. Hofstetter, *Assessing Adult Literacy by Telephone*. San Diego: San Diego Consortium for Workforce Education & Lifelong Learning. 1995.

Author Recognition Test

I will now read you a list of names. Some of the people in this list are popular writers of books, magazines and/or newspaper columns, and some are not. Please just tell me if you recognize each one as a writer. Please do not guess. (10 real/5 foils)

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| a. Andrew Greeley | i. P.E. Bryant (foil) |
| b. Irving Wallace | j. James Michener |
| c. Nancy Roser (foil) | k. Sidney Sheldon |
| d. James Clavell | l. Gerald Duffy (foil) |
| e. Isabel Beck (foil) | m. J.R.R. Tolkien |
| f. Louis L'Amour | n. Joseph Wambaugh |
| g. Robert Tierney (foil) | o. Bob Woodward |
| h. Judith Krantz | |

Magazine Recognition Test

I will now read you a list of magazine names. Some of the names are real magazines, and some are not. Please listen to the names and tell me if you recognize each as an actual magazine. Please do not guess. (9 real/6 foils).

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| a. Harper's Magazine | i. Town & Country |
| b. Gentlemen's Quarterly | j. Health & Life (foil) |
| c. Fitness Today (foil) | k. Psychology Today |
| d. American Journal Review (foil) | l. Outdoor Times (foil) |
| e. New Yorker | m. Esquire |
| f. Trends American (foil) | n. Forbes |
| g. Ladies Home Journal | o. Motor Sports (foil) |
| h. Scientific American | |

Cultural Literacy Test

I will now read you a list of names of persons. Some of the people in this list are popular famous persons, and some are not. Please listen to each name and tell me if you know the person to be famous. Do not guess. (17 real/6 foils).

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| a. Ingmar Bergman | m. Reinhold Klieger (foil) |
| b. John Gottman (foil) | n. Rosa Parks |
| c. Steve Biko | o. Margaret Mead |
| d. Harry Houdini | p. Miriam Sexton (foil) |
| e. Paul Cezanne | q. Georgia O'Keefe |
| f. Marie Curie | r. Sylvia Plath |
| g. Dale Blyth (foil) | s. Cole Porter |
| h. Jean Jacques Rousseau | t. Walter Raleigh |
| i. Enrico Fermi | u. W. Patrick Dickson (foil) |
| j. Darwin Muir (foil) | v. Margaret Sanger |
| k. Carlos Fuentes | w. Greta Garbo |
| l. George Gershwin | |

Vocabulary Literacy Test

I will now read you a list of vocabulary words. Some of the words in this list are real words, and some are not. Please listen to the words and tell me if you know the word to be real. Please do not guess. (14 real/7 foils)..

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| a. absolution | l. nuance |
| b. arrate (foil) | m. irksome |
| c. nitrous | n. ubiquitous |
| d. audible | o. metention (foil) |
| e. ceiloplaty (foil) | p. neotatin |
| f. comectial (foil) | q. purview |
| g. confluence | r. nonquasity (foil) |
| h. connote | s. optimize |
| i. polarity | t. eventuate |
| j. disconcert | u. epicurean |
| k. ineffity (foil) | |