

Visual Lexical Decision with 'Illegal' Nonwords:
Instructions for Use

In this Visual Lexical Decision task, nonwords are made up of letter-pairings that do not occur in written English and are almost impossible to pronounce. In this case, a decision about whether a string of letters is a word can be based purely on orthotactic (or phonotactic) characteristics and should therefore be easy to make, even with rudimentary word processing abilities. It can also be used with some severely impaired patients to get across the idea of making a 'lexical decision'.

The two word-sets included in this task are the same as those used in Visual Lexical Decision with regular and exception words [27].

Descriptive Statistics (for 27 control subjects):			
Exception Words	(n = 15)	Mean = 14.81	Std. Dev. = 0.56
Regular Words	(n = 15)	Mean = 14.96	Std. Dev. = 0.19
Nonwords	(n = 30)	Mean = 30	

Suggestions for Where to go next: If a subject finds even this simple task difficult to carry out accurately (making errors on nonword and word strings), test letter processing abilities (eg. [18], [19], [20]). Compare ability to process single letters with letters in words [21]. If a subject has particular difficulty with exception words, try further tasks that manipulate regularity (eg. Visual Lexical Decision [27], Oral Reading [35]).

If a subject finds this task straightforward, test with other Visual Lexical Decision tasks (eg. [25], [27]).

PALPALegality Decision Task

Name: _____

Date: _____

Only some of these items are real words. Others are 'made-up' words. **Please mark the words you recognise.**

fresh

like

lbao

long

ntai

bull

dread

ejla

kfei

prune

otge

rcehe

tnoas

shove

speed

bush

eutf

lend

rsene

mnee

tdha

dgaen

give

rbuk

broad

aemf

hwci

time

shine

steer

PALPA

Visual Lexical Decision with 'Illegal' Nonwords:

Presenter's Form

Name: _____	Date: _____
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Marking Instructions: Circle incorrect response in the appropriate column (W for incorrect word response and NW for incorrect nonword response)

Target	Type			Target	Type		
1. fresh	R		W	31. sieve	E		W
2. like	R		W	32. ngae		NW	
3. lbao		NW		33. most	E		W
4. long	R		W	34. dmie		NW	
5. ntai		NW		35. rsdo		NW	
6. bull	E		W	36. bind	E		W
7. dread	E		W	37. womb	E		W
8. ejla		NW		38. rldu		NW	
9. kfei		NW		39. clip	R		W
10. prune	R		W	40. pair	R		W
11. otge		NW		41. dtro		NW	
12. rcehe		NW		42. both	E		W
13. tnoas		NW		43. tbrei		NW	
14. shove	E		W	44. mist	R		W
15. speed	R		W	45. ctreu		NW	
16. bush	E		W	46. need	R		W
17. eutf		NW		47. mbuer		NW	
18. lend	R		W	48. dump	R		W
19. rsene		NW		49. kgero		NW	
20. mnee		NW		50. oostm		NW	
21. tdha		NW		51. lmafi		NW	
22. dgaen		NW		52. have	E		W
23. give	E		W	53. touch	E		W
24. rbuk		NW		54. nvae		NW	
25. broad	E		W	55. some	E		W
26. aemf		NW		56. twse		NW	
27. hwci		NW		57. tlpi		NW	
28. time	R		W	58. same	R		W
29. shine	R		W	59. dove	E		W
30. steer	R		W	60. ncao		NW	
Total Correct:							
Regular Words (R)				/15			
Exception Words (E)				/15			
Nonwords				/30			

Visual Lexical Decision with 'Illegal' Nonwords:

Marking Form

Name: _____	Date: _____
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Regular		Illegal Nonwords	
need		lbao	
same		ntai	
like		ejla	
long		kfei	
time		otge	
pair		eutf	
mist		mnee	
lend		tdha	
dump		rbuk	
clip		aemf	
fresh		rcehe	
speed		tnoas	
shine		rsene	
steer		dgaen	
prune		tbrei	
Total Correct	/15		
Misses			
Exception Words		Illegal Nonwords	
give		hwci	
have		ngae	
some		dmie	
most		rsdo	
both		ridu	
dove		dtro	
bush		nvae	
bull		twse	
bind		tlpi	
womb		ncao	
touch		ctreu	
broad		mbuer	
shove		kgero	
dread		oostm	
sieve		lmafi	
Total Correct	/15	Total Correct	/30
Misses		False Positive	