Homophone Spelling:

Instructions for Use

This task looks at the ability to spell homophones correctly to dictation. Homophones share the same pronunciation as another word but have different spelling and meaning. Simply hearing the homophone does not allow the hearer to decide which word is intended. In this task, the meaning of the word is also given in a short definition, which is sufficient to disambiguate the intended spelling. If the speller is unable to use contextual information, then errors in writing the wrong homophone should occur (eg. Goodman, R. & Caramazza, A. (1986) **Language & Cognitive Processes**, **1**, 263 - 296; Schwartz, M., Marin, O.S.M. & Saffran, E. (1979) **Brain & Language**, **7**, 277 - 306). If the patient is unable to access specific information about word spellings, then regular words may be spelled with an appropriate spelling, yet still be the wrong homophone. In this case, there should be a tendency to spell exception words as they sound.

Special Points:

Find out about pre-morbid spelling ability.

Descriptive Statistics (for 27 control subjects):

Regular Homophones (n = 10) Mean = 9.19 Std. Dev. = 0.88

Exception Homophones (n = 10) Mean = 8.63 Std. Dev. = 1.18

Suggestions for Where to go next: A patient who finds it difficult to use meaning to disambiguate homophone spellings will make errors in which the wrong homophone spelling is produced. This particular pattern suggests that the patient may have difficulty in accessing a spelling lexicon directly from meaning. Whether the patient also makes errors in spelling exception words (that is, by spelling them phonically), may help you to begin to find out whether the patient relies on sub-lexical information about sound-spelling patterns, or whether the patient is able to use word-specific information about pronunciation and spelling that is uninfluenced by semantic knowledge. Another test of sound-spelling regularity in spelling to dictation is [44]. Compare performance in picture naming and spelling picture names [53]. In this task, half of the picture names are regular words and half are exception words.

PALPA

Homophone Spelling: Presenter's Form

Name:	Date:

Instructions to Subject: I'm going to say a word. Then I'm going to say what it means.
After I've finished, write down the word.

Target		Defined As:	Response
bear	e	large animal with shaggy hair and claws	
pale		turn white when frightened	
pain		suffering	
roll	e	move like a ball	
loan		lend something	
heir	e	person who succeeds to property	
mail		what the postman delivers	
gait		way of walking	
haul		pull with violence or effort	
meat		flesh of animals	
week		space of 7 days	
great	e	big or large	
dough	e	mass of unbaked bread	
steel		iron containing carbon, used for building	
break	e	shatter or crush something	
suite	e	furniture to sit on	
chute	e	a sloping trough	
scene	e	place of action in a play	
profit		financial gain	
colonel	e	officer commanding a regiment	

Homophone Spelling:

Marking Form

Name	Date:

Regular	Spelled As:
1 mail	
2 pain	
3 week	
4 haul	
5 meat	
6 gait	
7 loan	
8 pale	
9 steel	
10 profit	
Total Correct	/10
Exception	
1 bear	
2 roll	
3 heir	
4 suite	
5 dough	
6 chute	
7 scene	
8 great	
9 break	
10 colonel	
Total Correct	/10