

PEABODY PICTURE VOCABULARY TEST – THIRD EDITION (PPVT-III)

Author:	Dunn, L. M., & Dunn, L. M.
Date:	1997
Construct:	Child Development
Standardized:	Yes
Instrument Type(s):	Direct child/adult assessment
Uses of Information:	PPVT-III can be used to measure receptive vocabulary. PPVT-III can screen for verbal ability, giftedness, and mental retardation in persons for whom English is the spoken language in the home, community, and school; it can measure English language proficiency for persons for whom English is a second language. Because it requires no reading or writing and is easy to administer, PPVT-III is useful in testing preschool children and is fair to persons with written-language problems and disabilities such as autism, withdrawn personalities, psychotic symptoms, severe cerebral palsy, and moderate visual disabilities.
Environment:	School, clinical, vocational, research
Description:	The PPVT-III is the third edition of a highly successful vocabulary test that has been in use since 1959. It is used for screening special students, job candidates, and to assess vocabulary of non-English-speaking students, ranging in age from 2 through 90+ years. The PPVT-III tests for listening comprehension of standard English. It has two parallel forms, Forms IIIA and IIIB, each with 4 training items (for administering the test) and 204 test items grouped into 17 sets of 12 items arranged in order of increasing difficulty. In the test, the examiner orally presents a stimulus word with a set of pictures and the test taker is asked to select the picture that best represents the word's meaning. The examiner administers the item sets until the child's "basal" and "ceiling" sets are found, a process that usually takes five item sets. The basal set is the item set in which the child makes one or no errors and the ceiling set is the item set in which the child makes eight or more errors.
References:	Dunn & Dunn (1997)



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Cost:	PPVT-III Form IIIA and IIIB Test Kits: \$299.99 (includes picture plates, 2 norms booklets, 2 examiner's manuals, and 1 package (25) of performance records for each form) PPVT-III Form IIIA and IIIB Test Kit with ASSIST: \$398.99
Availability of Test Manual:	Yes. The test manual includes information on uses, administration, and scoring; test construction, standardization, and norms development; and reliability and validity and other technical data. The examiners' manual describes various modifications that can be made in administering the test to accommodate various disabilities.
Contact Information:	American Guidance Services Publishing Tel: 800.328.2560 Web: www.agsnet.com
Instructions:	Instructions for using the test are included in the training manual.
Administrator:	Educators, counselors, psychologists, and clinicians
Qualification:	Level B Test User Qualification: User has completed graduate training in measurement, guidance, individual psychological assessment, or special appraisal methods appropriate for a particular test.
Training Required:	Although formal training in psychometrics is not required, the examiners should be thoroughly familiar with the test materials and well-trained in administering and scoring the test.
Administration Time:	It takes approximately 12 minutes to administer 5 sets.
Respondents:	Only persons with formal training in psychological testing and statistics should interpret the results of the PPVT-III.



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Scales/ Item Options:

No subscales

Items represent 20 content categories (verbs [actions], adjectives, and nouns). Pictures are presented in a multiple-choice format of four pictures per item. The examiner presents a verbal stimulus from the Performance Record while the examinee looks at a plate of four numbered black-and-white drawings. The examinee must select by pointing to or saying the number of the picture that best depicts the verbal stimulus. A spoken response is not required.

Scoring:

Hand-scoring: The examiner enters the number associated with the picture selected by the examinee on the performance record form and draws a “slash” through the letter “E” under the error column for each error. The raw score is obtained by subtracting the total number of errors above the examinee’s basal set from the number associated with the most difficult item answered correctly in the examinee’s ceiling set. Using several tables, raw scores can be converted into different types of age-adjusted standardized scores. One table converts the raw score into a standard score. A second table converts the standard score into percentile rank, normal curve equivalent, and stanine. Finally, a third table converts the examinee’s raw score into the age equivalent performance. A scoring software program is available for purchase. The software scores the test and converts the raw scores into standard scores, percentiles, stanines, normal curve equivalents, and age equivalents.

Languages:

English and Spanish

Psychometric Properties:

Reliability: Internal consistency (Cronbach’s alpha) was .93 for Form IIIA for both ages 2 years, 6 months and 3 years. For Form IIIB, the alphas were .93 and .92, respectively. Test-retest reliability (with an approximately 1-month interval between tests) correlation coefficients for ages 2 years, 6 months through 5 years, 11 months were .92 for Form IIIA and .91 for Form IIIB.



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Validity: For concurrent validity, tests that compared PPVT-III with intelligence tests were conducted and the results were corrected for norm group variability. Corrected correlation coefficients ranged from .82 to .92 with the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children—Third Edition verbal, performance, and full scale IQ scales; .76 to .91 with the Kaufman Adolescent and Adult Intelligence Test crystallized, fluid, and composite IQ tests; .62 to .82 with the Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test vocabulary, matrices, and composite tests; and .63 to .83 with the Oral and Written Language Scales (OWLS) listening comprehension, oral expression, and composite scales. However, all of these tests were performed on persons older than 3 (i.e., validity information not available on children from 0-3). No information available on predictive validity.

*Prepared by the National Center on Child Abuse Prevention Research
Prevent Child Abuse America
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References:

- ⇒ ACF, OPRE: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/ehs/perf_measures/reports/resources_measuring/res_meas_toc.html
- ⇒ American Guidance Services Publishing (AGS): <http://www.agsnet.com/group.asp?nGroupInfoID=a12010>

