

Critchlow Verbal Language Scales

SKILL ASSESSED

Vocabulary

Grade Level

K-8

Language

- English
- Spanish

Grouping

Individual

Approximate Testing Time

15 Minutes

Materials

- English Record Form (p. 110)
- Spanish Record Form (p. 111)

Source

From *Dos Amigos*
Verbal Language Scales
by Donald E. Critchlow.

► **WHAT** The *Critchlow Verbal Language Scales* assess a student's vocabulary in English or Spanish. Vocabulary is assessed by asking a student to say the "opposite" of a series of words spoken by the examiner. The words on this assessment are arranged in increasing order of difficulty. Each scale contains 75 English or Spanish stimulus words.

► **WHY** As students progress through the grades, they build larger and larger vocabularies. A more advanced vocabulary enables students to better comprehend what they read and hear as well as to better express their thoughts. Measuring vocabulary provides an index of what a student has learned and how well equipped the student is for future learning.

► **HOW** Before beginning the test, determine that the student understands what an opposite is and can demonstrate this knowledge. For example say: "If it is not daytime, it is ____" or "If a child is not a boy, it is a ____" to help establish the concept of opposite.

Explain to the student that you are going to say a word and he or she is to respond with the opposite of that word. Begin with item 1 for all students, and discontinue testing after the child misses five consecutive words or completes the scale. Do not give credit for a response that is not listed.

Note that alternatives are sometimes provided for a stimulus or acceptable response. For example, the response to *absent* is listed as *present-here*, indicating that either response is correct. In the Spanish scale, the first stimulus is *muchacho-niño*. In this case, give the student the first stimulus, *muchacho*. If the student does

not give the correct response (*muchacha*), the stimulus *niño* should be given. If the student gives a correct response (*niña*), then he or she receives credit for that item.

► **WHAT IT MEANS** Count the number correct and refer to the scoring criteria below to identify the approximate vocabulary grade level. For students who score below their current grade level, provide direct instruction in specific vocabulary needed for school success.

Number Correct English	Number Correct Spanish	Vocabulary Grade Level
1–8	1–9	Grade K and below
9–12	10–13	Grade 1
13–17	14–17	Grade 2
18–21	18–20	Grade 3
22–26	21–24	Grade 4
27–30	25–28	Grade 5
31–34	29–32	Grade 6
35 and above	33 and above	Grade 7 and above

See also...

CORE Teaching
Reading Sourcebook,
Section VI: Vocabulary

► **WHAT'S NEXT?** For students with limited vocabulary, more intense support in developing other underlying reading skills may be warranted. Further testing of fluency, phonics, or phoneme segmentation ability may be indicated.

Critchlow Verbal Language Scale

Name _____ Grade _____ Date _____

Directions: Ask the student to say the opposite of each word. Discontinue testing after five consecutive errors.

STIMULUS	RESPONSE	STIMULUS	RESPONSE
_____ 1. boy	girl	_____ 39. multiply	divide
_____ 2. up	down	_____ 40. friend	enemy
_____ 3. front	back	_____ 41. difficult	easy
_____ 4. hot	cold	_____ 42. narrow	wide
_____ 5. brother	sister	_____ 43. wild	tame
_____ 6. dirty	clean	_____ 44. dangerous	safe
_____ 7. wet	dry	_____ 45. entrance	exit
_____ 8. crooked	straight	_____ 46. sharp	dull
_____ 9. young	old	_____ 47. imprisoned	free
_____ 10. off	on	_____ 48. falsehood	truth
_____ 11. shut	open	_____ 49. public	private
_____ 12. noisy	quiet	_____ 50. costly	cheap
_____ 13. dead	alive	_____ 51. lengthen	shorten
_____ 14. early	late	_____ 52. succeed	fail
_____ 15. empty	full	_____ 53. victory	defeat
_____ 16. near	far	_____ 54. stale	fresh
_____ 17. come	go	_____ 55. timid	bold-brave
_____ 18. north	south	_____ 56. maximum	minimum
_____ 19. lost	found	_____ 57. unite	separate
_____ 20. pretty	ugly-homely	_____ 58. profit	loss
_____ 21. sick	well	_____ 59. complex	simple
_____ 22. sour	sweet	_____ 60. create	destroy
_____ 23. add	subtract	_____ 61. vertical	horizontal
_____ 24. daughter	son	_____ 62. former	latter
_____ 25. remember	forget	_____ 63. bless	curse
_____ 26. false	true	_____ 64. loiter	hurry
_____ 27. love	hate	_____ 65. discord	harmony
_____ 28. heavy	light	_____ 66. gradual	sudden
_____ 29. tight	loose	_____ 67. diminish	increase
_____ 30. after	before	_____ 68. naive	sophisticated
_____ 31. laugh	cry	_____ 69. superfluous	necessary
_____ 32. smooth	rough	_____ 70. asset	liability
_____ 33. absent	present-here	_____ 71. tentative	permanent
_____ 34. strong	weak	_____ 72. clergy	laity
_____ 35. evening	morning	_____ 73. corpulent	slender
_____ 36. raw	cooked	_____ 74. epilogue	prologue
_____ 37. begin	end-stop	_____ 75. autocracy	democracy
_____ 38. same	different		

Score: _____ /75

Critchlow Spanish Verbal Language Scale

Name _____ Grade _____ Date _____

Directions: Tell the student: *Quiero que me digas lo contrario de cada palabra.* Discontinue testing after five consecutive errors.

STIMULUS	RESPONSE	STIMULUS	RESPONSE
_____ 1. muchacho.....	muchacha	_____ 39. multiplicar	dividir
_____ 2. niño.....	niña	_____ 40. entrada	salida
_____ 3. caliente	frío	_____ 41. mentira-falsedad.....	verdad
_____ 4. sucio	limpio	_____ 42. difícil	fácil
_____ 5. enfrente.....	detrás	_____ 43. liso.....	tosco-áspero
_____ 6. mojado	seco	_____ 44. fuerte.....	débil
_____ 7. hermano.....	hermana	_____ 45. costoso	barato
_____ 8. cerrar	abrir	_____ 46. encarcelado-aprisionado.....	libre
_____ 9. muerto.....	vivo	_____ 47. anterior.....	posterior
_____ 10. temprano.....	tarde	_____ primero.....	último
_____ 11. apagar.....	prender-encender	_____ 48. público.....	privado
_____ 12. joven.....	viejo-anciano	_____ 49. ganancia.....	pérdida
_____ 13. hija.....	hijo	_____ 50. salvaje	manso-doméstico
_____ 14. torcido.....	derecho-recto	_____ 51. alargar	acortar
_____ 15. cerca	lejos	_____ 52. rancio	fresco
_____ 16. perder	encontrar-hallar	_____ 53. triunfo-victoria.....	derrota
_____ 17. ruidoso.....	quieto-callado	_____ 54. complicado	simple-sencillo
_____ 18. vacío	lleno	_____ 55. tímido.....	valiente
_____ 19. venir.....	ir	_____ 56. unir.....	separar
_____ 20. enfermo.....	sano	_____ 57. peligroso.....	seguro
_____ 21. apretado.....	suelto	_____ 58. máximo	mínimo
_____ 22. bonito.....	feo	_____ 59. éxito.....	fracaso
_____ 23. agrio-ácido	dulce	_____ 60. ventaja	desventaja
_____ 24. norte.....	sur	_____ 61. vertical	horizontal
_____ 25. reír	llorar	_____ 62. bendecir	maldecir
_____ 26. recordar	olvidar	_____ 63. crear.....	destruir
_____ 27. pesado	ligero-liviano	_____ 64. inferior	superior
_____ 28. enemigo.....	amigo	_____ 65. ignorante	inteligente-sabio
_____ 29. igual	diferente-distinto	_____ 66. disminuir	aumentar
_____ 30. falso.....	cierto	_____ 67. convexo.....	cóncavo
_____ 31. crudo	cocido	_____ 68. ingenuo.....	sofisticado
_____ 32. noche	día	_____ 69. pasivo.....	activo
_____ 33. después	antes	_____ 70. autocracia.....	democracia
_____ 34. ausente.....	presente	_____ 71. corpulento.....	delgado
_____ 35. angosto-estrecho.....	ancho	_____ 72. amplificar	reducir
_____ 36. empezar.....	terminar	_____ 73. síntesis	análisis
_____ comenzar	acabar	_____ 74. intermitente.....	continuo
_____ 37. amor	odio	_____ 75. tentativo.....	permanente
_____ 38. sumar	restar-quitar-substraer		

Score: _____ /75