



CEL F5
Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals

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Overview of the CELF-5 Assessment Process

The CELF-5 battery presents an assessment process that takes into account the initial steps of the clinical decision-making, including:

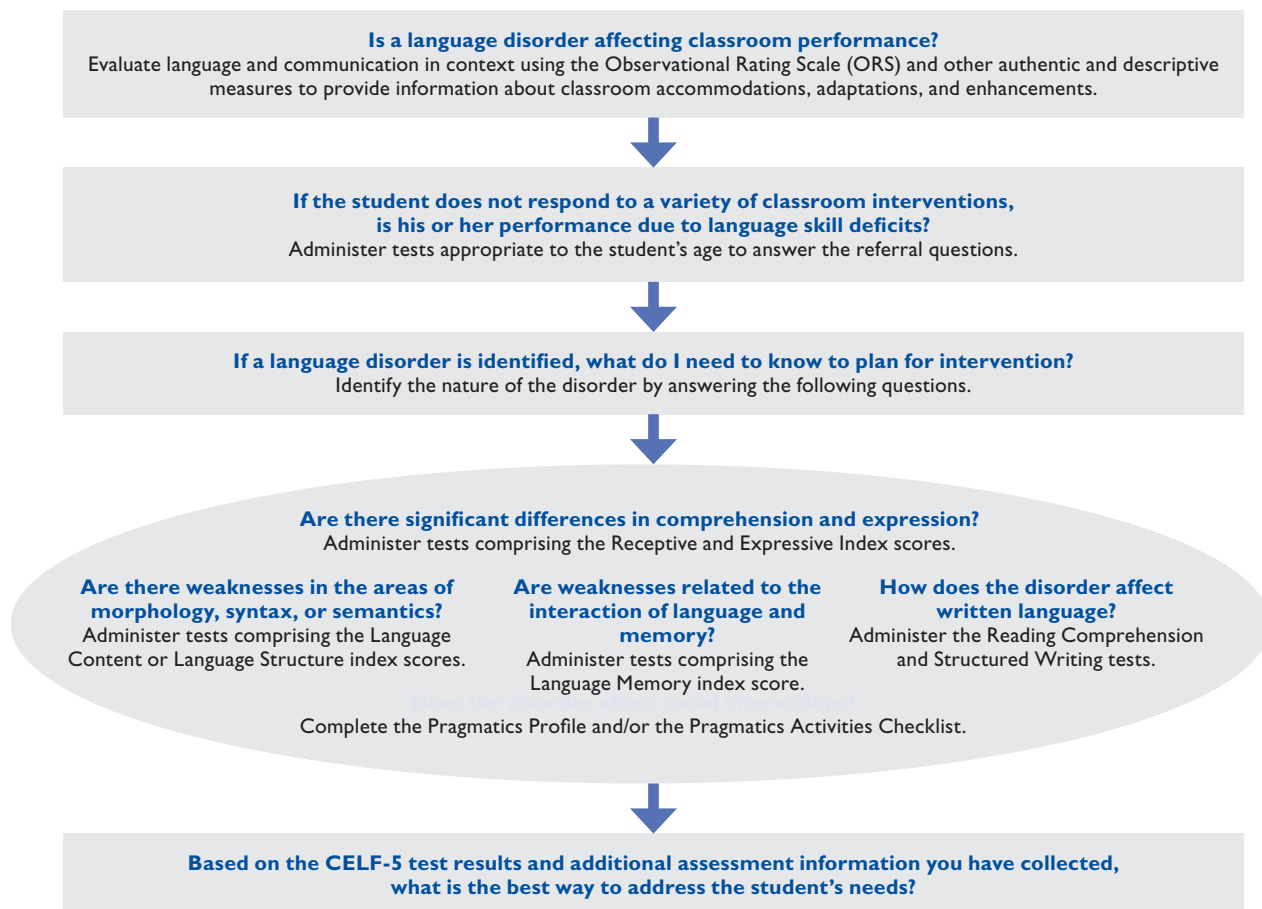
- Recommending classroom language adaptations and accommodations
- Determining eligibility for in-classroom interventions or direct services
- Providing norm-referenced information that aids in the diagnosis of a language disorder and determines eligibility for services
- Identifying communication strengths and weaknesses
- Identifying deficits in reading comprehension and written expression
- Planning curriculum-relevant intervention
- Measuring treatment efficacy

(Salvia, Ysseldyke, & Bolt, 2013).

With this revision of CELF, clinicians can evaluate a student's general language ability and obtain information that assists in determining if the student has a language disorder by administering four to six tests. Once it is determined that a student has a language disorder, the assessment process can extend to:

- Identifying significant differences in comprehension and expression
- Determining if the student has weaknesses in the area of morphology and syntax or semantics
- Determining how the oral language disorder affects the student's written language skills
- Determining if the disorder affects the student's social language interactions

CELF-5 provides efficiency and flexibility to administer only the tests needed to correspond to the objectives for assessment and evaluation. The CELF-5 assessment process is illustrated in the figure below.



CELF-5 Diagnostic Battery Features

As a diagnostic battery, CELF-5 is an important part of the total assessment process that can be used to collect evidence about a student’s communication abilities in multiple contexts. The CELF-5 has a better balance of items across receptive and expressive modalities and language content and structure than its predecessors. It maintains standardized test scores and composite scores (Core Language and Index scores) to enhance clinical decision making. Growth Scale Values have been added to help measure student progress over time. In previous versions of CELF, each group of test items assessing a specific language skill was called a subtest. CELF-5 has been developed and researched to enable examiners to use each group of items independently of the others. Consequently, each group of items that makes up CELF-5, (e.g., Linguistic Concepts, Semantic Relationships, Understanding Spoken Paragraphs) is referred to as a test.

The CELF-5 battery includes tests from previous editions and new tests for evaluating word meanings and vocabulary (semantics), word and sentence structure (morphology and syntax), the rules of oral language used in responding to and conveying messages (pragmatics), and the recall and retrieval of spoken language (memory). It also includes the Observational Rating Scales (ORS) for authentic evaluation of communication in academic settings. To meet the clinician’s needs for a standardized measure of pragmatic skills, standard scores are now reported for the Pragmatics Profile. The Pragmatics Activities Checklist was added to assess social language skills during authentic conversational interactions. There are also new tests for evaluating aspects of literacy (reading comprehension and written language production).

Summary of New Tests and Test Modifications

CELF-5 Test	New or Modified Test
Observational Rating Scale	Parent, teacher, and student each rate the student’s classroom interaction and communication skills.
Sentence Comprehension	Formerly “Sentence Structure” in CELF-4; the student demonstrates understanding of sentence of increasing length and complexity by pointing to pictures
Linguistic Concepts	Formerly part of “Concepts & Following Directions” in CELF-4; now a separate test examining comprehension of basic concepts. Only 5–8 year old students take this test.
Word Structure	Modified from CELF-4; slight increase in number of test items increased reliability
Word Classes	Now one continuous set of test items (rather than two different tests), expressive portion of the test now an optional part of extension testing (saving administration time)
Following Directions	Now evaluate students’ ability to follow directions of increasing length and complexity separately from comprehension of basic concepts
Formulated Sentences	Modifications to test items and art based on user feedback
Recalling Sentences	Modifications to test items based on user feedback
Understanding Spoken Paragraphs	Now includes questions about social content, as well as questions about a main idea, details, making inferences, event sequences, and prediction
Word Definitions	Simplified I,0 scoring
Sentence Assembly	Modified from CELF-4; ceiling extended to include more difficult test items
Semantic Relationships	Modified from CELF-4; ceiling extended to include more difficult test items
Reading Comprehension	New test in which the student responds to questions about passages he or she reads
Structured Writing	New test in which the student completes a short story by completing a sentence and writing one or more additional sentences
Pragmatics Profile	Modified from CELF-4; now includes standard scores and information about cultural considerations when rating responses
Pragmatics Activities Checklist	New test in which you engage the student in interactive activities presented as “breaks” during testing

For more information and examples of Stimulus Book and Record Form pages, go to PearsonClinical.ca

Table 4.4 Type of Scores Available for Tests and Index Scores

Test or Index	Scaled Score	Standard Score (Composite)	Test-Age Equivalent	Criterion Cut Score	Growth Scale Value
Sentence Comprehension	X		X		X
Linguistic Concepts	X		X		X
Word Structure	X		X		X
Word Classes	X		X		X
Following Directions	X		X		X
Formulated Sentences	X		X		X
Recalling Sentences	X		X		X
Understanding Spoken Paragraphs	X		X		X
Word Definitions	X		X		X
Sentence Assembly	X		X		X
Semantic Relationships	X		X		X
Pragmatics Profile	X		X		X
Reading Comprehension	X				
Structured Writing	X				
Pragmatics Activities Checklist				X	
Core Language Score		X	X*		
Receptive Language Index		X	X*		
Expressive Language Index		X	X		
Language Content Index		X	X*		
Language Structure Index		X	X		

*Test-age equivalents are not available for all ages because there are no test-age equivalents available for Understanding Spoken Paragraphs

**For more information about CELF-5, please visit
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