

Recommendations for UK Users of the Tests of Dyslexia (TOD) Regarding Americanisms

Most of the tests and items in the Tests of Dyslexia (TOD) use spelling and words that are universal among English-speaking countries. However, there are some tests and items that contain words or concepts that are strictly American and may not be applicable in the same way outside of the United States. Recommendations for managing Americanisms in the TOD-S and TOD-C are described below. The TOD-E does not appear to have any potentially problematic items.

TOD-S

Test 2S: Letter and Word Choice, Test 3Sa: Word Reading Fluency, and Test 3Sb: Question Reading Fluency in the TOD-S contain the greatest number of potentially problematic Americanisms. There are some items that use American spelling (e.g., *color* vs. *colour*) which do not need to be changed because the alternate spelling should not affect the examinee's ability to understand and answer the item. To address the items where a change is needed to ensure the examinees can understand the question, British English versions of all three TOD-S booklets were created.

If you choose to use the digital administration of TOD-S, the original TOD-S items will be shown rather than the changes described below.

The British English TOD-S booklets contain the following changes to spelling and/or words:

Test 2S: Letter and Word Choice

Item 36, *mustache*: Changed all response options to start with *mou* instead of *mu*.

Item 52, *maneuver*: Changed all response options to include additional vowels.

Test 3Sa: Word Reading Fluency

Item 13: Changed *mom* to *mum*.

Test 3Sb: Question Reading Fluency

Item 19: Changed *gas* to *petrol*.

Item 22: Changed *tire* to *tyre*.

Item 24: Changed *tire* to *tyre*.

Item 25: Changed *candy* to *cake*.

Item 36: Changed *closet* to *wardrobe*.

Item 70: Changed *turtle* to *tortoise*.

Item 74: Changed *jello* to *jelly* and *quarter* to *coin*.

Item 75: Changed *dime* to *coin*.

The following items have suggested prompts or scoring changes:

Test 2S: Letter and Word Choice

For Item 53, the correct American response is *ostracize* and the UK spelling of *ostracise* is included as one of the wrong answers. When you add up the raw scores on the TOD-S paper form, be sure to mark as correct the spelling that is accurate for the UK. Note that if you use the digital administration, it will only score the American spelling as correct, which would lead to a standard score difference of 2–5 points for all standard scores <110.

Test 3Sb: Question Reading Fluency

Items 81, 88, and 89 contain words or concepts that aren't frequently used outside of America: *baseball*, *yardstick*, and *check out a book*. Because these items are near the end of a timed test, it is unlikely that examinees will reach them. If you have an examinee who reaches any of these items and you see they are struggling, you should say "you can skip this one and move on to the next item."

TOD-C

Most tests and items in the TOD-C contain spellings, usage, and concepts that are universal. Some items use American spelling (e.g., *traveling* vs. *travelling*) but do not need to be changed because the alternate spelling should not affect the examinee's ability to understand and answer the item. We have suggested prompts or scoring changes for the following items:

Test 9C: Word Memory

For Sample A, replace *mom* with *mum* when presenting the sample.

Test 10C: Picture Analogies

Item 9 refers to baseball, which is culturally American. You may skip this item and go straight from Item 8 to Item 10. With the exception of standard scores >115, a raw score difference of 1 point converts to a 2- to 3-point difference in standard scores across the age range of the test. This will have a negligible impact on scoring.

Test 11C: Irregular Word Reading

Pronunciation of Item 36, *lieutenant*, varies between the US and UK and therefore you should score it correct as appropriate for your country or region.

Test 12C: Oral Reading Efficiency

Grade 2: The word *fall* is used as a noun three times before it is explained later in the passage that another word for *fall* is *autumn*. You may want to tell the examinee ahead of time that "*fall* is an American word for *autumn*."

Test 15C: Regular Word Spelling

There are two items that use words that are uncommon in the UK. When reading the item aloud to the examinee, you may wish to make the following changes:

Item 26: Define the spelling word by saying "The *elevator*, or *lift*, was full of people."

Item 31: Say *dustbin* instead of *garbage can* when you read the sentence.

Test 16C: Silent Reading Efficiency

This test contains several words that are used infrequently outside the US. However, given that this is a test of reading comprehension, the words make sense in context and therefore should not impact an examinee's ability to understand and respond to the questions.

Sample D: *store* and *fall* (vs. *shop* and *autumn* in the UK)

Question 6: *grade* (vs. *year* in the UK)

Questions 8 and 9: *Mom* (vs. *Mum* in the UK)

Question 11: *Elementary* (vs. *Primary* in the UK)

Question 18: *dirt* (vs. *soil* in the UK)

Question 22: *vacation* (vs. *holiday* in the UK)