

# TNL2 Narrative Samples Database

Samples used to norm the TNL-2: Test of Narrative Language - Second Edition (Gillam & Pearson, 2017)

Database	Context (Subgroup)	Age Range	# Samples	Location
<b>TNL2 Narrative Samples</b>	<b>Nar (TNL2)</b>	<b>4;0 – 14;11</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>USA</b>

## Participants

The “TNL2 Narrative Samples” reference database consists of narrative samples from 778 children, ranging in age from 4;0 to 14;11, including 41 four-year-olds, 59 five-year-olds, 73 six-year-olds, 103 seven-year-olds, 114 eight-year-olds, 122 nine-year-olds, 109 ten-year-olds, 81 eleven-year-olds, 29 twelve-year-olds, 29 thirteen-year-olds, and 18 fourteen-year-olds. The children were in grades PK, K, 1 - 8. The normative sample is representative of the United States as a whole with an equal percentage of male and female participants. Children came from four US regions (Northeast, South, Midwest, and West). Their primary language was English. The race distribution of the children in the sample is 78% white, 14% black or African-American, 5% Asian/Pacific Islander, 2% two or more races, and <1% American Indian/Eskimo/Aleut. Hispanic status consisted of 22% yes and 78% no. Twelve percent of the sample had been identified with a disability. This is consistent with US Department of Education disability statistics. The exceptionality distribution of the sample was 5% Specific Learning Disability (including Developmental Language Disorder), 3% Intellectual Disability, 2% Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, 1% Physically Impaired, 1% Other Disability.

## Elicitation Information

The elicitation format consists of children listening to an adult model of three types of stories, answering comprehension questions, and then producing a similar type of story. Examiners collected data on children's ability to tell stories in three formats: (1) a script-like story (2) a personal-like story (3) a fictional story. The examiner scripts and picture stimuli used to elicit the narratives are available in the TNL-2: Test of Narrative Language –Second Edition (Gillam & Pearson, 2017).

- **Task 1: McDonald’s – Script-like Story (picture cue)**  
In the first narrative task, the examinee retells a McDonald’s script about two children who go to McDonald’s with their mother. The script-like story, told to the examinee prior to the production task, contains a number of events that children experience when they eat at a fast food restaurant. The examinee

retells the story while looking at the single-picture cue.

- **Task 2: Late For School – Personal-like Story (five sequenced pictures)**

In the second production task, examinees create a story that corresponds to a series of pictures about a boy who wakes up late for school.

- **Task 3: Aliens – Fictional Story (single picture)**

In the third narrative production task, the examinee creates a story that corresponds to a picture of two children who see an alien family get out of a spaceship that lands in a park.

### Transcription Notes

Language samples were transcribed according to SALT standard codes and conventions by undergraduate and graduate students in Communication Sciences and Disorders who completed SALT training on transcription and reached 90% or better agreement on three training transcripts. Utterances were segmented into C-units, which were defined as groups of words that could not be further divided without loss of their essential meaning. After the audio file was transcribed by one research assistant, a second research assistant listened to the tape and marked disagreements with any of the original segmentation and/or coding decisions. All disagreements were resolved by a PhD level research coordinator who listened to the tape as she made a third pass through the transcripts.

All samples were timed, with separate timing markers inserted for each task. Gender, age, and grade information was included in the header. Parentheticals were marked with double parentheses, e.g., *The boy ((I don't know his name)) order/ed a sandwich*. Pauses of two or more seconds within and between utterances were marked.

### Coding Notes

- [EO:word] marks overgeneralization error
- [EP:word] marks pronoun error
- [EW] marks an extraneous or unnecessary word in the utterance that, if omitted, would make the utterance syntactically correct, e.g., *C And he shout/ed and[EW] to the frog.*
- [EW:word] marks other word-level error
- [EU] marks utterance-level error (*also marks utterances with 3 or more errors*)
- [FP] marks filled pause words such as *like*, e.g., *You (like[FP]) get six card/s.*

Transcript Format:

Each transcript contains all three stories. The stories were separated by plus lines with the headers +[BeginMcDonalds], +[EndMcDonalds], +[BeginLateForSchool], +[EndLateForSchool], +[BeginAliens], +[EndAliens]. Timing lines show the elapsed time for each task in the transcript.

For example,

```
+ [BeginMcDonalds]
- 0:00
C The boy and the girl came home.
C And they wanted to go eat.
E Ok.
C .....
C And that's all I know.
- 1:05
+ [EndMcDonalds]

+ [BeginLateForSchool]
- 2:20
C The boy woke up.
C And he was late for school.
C .....
C The end.
- 4:15
+ [EndLateForSchool]

+ [BeginAliens]
- 4:55
C A boy and a girl were walking in a park.
C They saw a big ship land.
E Mhm.
C .....
C And that's it.
- 7:10
+ [EndAliens]
```

## Using SALT to Compare Samples to the “TNL2 Narrative Samples” Database

SALT looks at the “+ Context” and “+ Subgroup” plus lines in your transcript to determine which database to pre-select. To pre-select the “TNL2 Narrative Samples” database, include the following plus lines in your transcript:

- + Context: Nar
- + Subgroup: TNL2

Although you can type these plus lines into your transcript, the easiest way is to select the correct sampling context (Nar) and subgroup (TNL2) when first creating a new transcript (by completing the New Transcript Header information dialogue box).

When selecting language samples for comparison, you have the option including all three stories or restricting the selection to a specific task by specifying one of the following subgroup/story options:

- All 3 Stories - all three narrative tasks
- McDonalds - the first narrative task only (script retell)
- LateForSchool - the second narrative task only (five sequenced pictures)
- Aliens - the third narrative task only (single picture)

To compare your entire transcript (three narrative tasks) to entire transcripts in the database, use the default Subgroup/Story setting “All 3 Stories”. To compare a specific task you would change the current transcript cut (Setup menu --> Transcript Cut) which determines the section of your transcript that you want included in the comparison. For example, to compare the section of your transcript which contains the narrative based only on McDonalds, you would change the transcript cut to begin with the line containing the code [BeginMcDonalds] and end with the line containing the code [EndMcDonalds]. Then you would compare this section of your transcript to the same task from the database by selecting the “McDonalds” subgroup/story.

## Acknowledgements

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