

# Expository Scoring Scheme (ESS) Guide



## INTRODUCTION

The *Expository Scoring Scheme* (ESS) assesses the content and structure of an expository language sample, similar to how the Narrative Scoring Scheme (NSS) provides an overall measure of a student's skill in producing a narrative. The ESS is comprised of 10 characteristics for completing an expository language sample. The first 8 characteristics correspond to the topics listed on the planning sheet that is given to students. To ensure fair scoring, if the game or sport is unfamiliar, acquaint yourself with the procedure/rules, e.g., the card game web site (<http://www.pagat.com/>).

Samples contained in the SALT Expository reference database have all been coded for ESS. This database can be utilized to compare a student's expository skills to those of his/her typically-developing peers. Clinicians can compare individual characteristics of the ESS or the composite score using the database. The expository task may be repeated to assess progress of expository skills.

## SCORING GUIDELINES

### Assigning ESS Scores

The ESS is scored using a 0 - 5 point scale. 5 points are given for "proficient" use, 3 points for "emerging" use, and 1 point for "minimal" or "immature" use. Scores of 2 and 4 are undefined and require judgment. Scores of zero (0) can be assigned for poor performance on the task and/or telling about a different game or sport, conversing with the examiner, not completing/refusing the task, and when target components of the ESS are imitated. Significant factual errors reduce the score for that topic. Scores of NA (non-applicable) can be assigned for mechanical/examiner/operator errors such as interference from background noise, issues with recording (cut-offs, interruptions), and/or examiner not following protocol, examiner asking overly specific or leading questions rather than open-ended questions or prompts.

### Helpful Scoring Tips

- Be familiar with the topic of the expository, i.e., the game or sport being explained.
- Print the expository transcript.
- Read the transcript as fluidly/inclusively as possible, ignoring SALT transcription codes.
- Write comments and circle or flag key words/utterances such as those relating to terminology and rules.
- For *each* characteristic, review the ESS scoring rubric before assigning a score. Read the criteria along the continuum of points. Determine what is present in the transcript and score accordingly. This will insure intra- and inter-rater reliability.
- Frequently review what constitutes a score of 0 or NA. Explanations are given at the bottom of the ESS scoring rubric.
- Scoring the ESS is a subjective measure by nature; however, as you gain experience, the process of scoring will become reliable.
- When beginning to score, you may want to compare your scores against the training transcripts on the SALT website or with another scorer. The training transcripts were scored by several scorers experienced with the ESS.

## ESS SCORING RUBRIC

Refer to the scoring rubric on the next page for guidance when assigning scores to each of the ESS characteristics in an expository sample.

## Expository Scoring Scheme (ESS) Rubric

Characteristic	Proficient (5)	Emerging (3)	Minimal/Immature (1)
<b>Object</b>	Full description of the main objective	Mention of the main objective	Mention of winner but no or limited description how that is determined <b>OR</b> Description of another aspect of the contest, such as strategy or scoring
<b>Preparations</b>	<p><b>1) Playing Area</b> Labels place and provides details about shape &amp; layout <b>AND/OR</b></p> <p><b>2) Equipment</b> Labels items and provides detailed description, including function <b>AND/OR</b></p> <p><b>3) Player Preparations</b> Provides detailed description</p>	<p><b>1) Playing Area</b> Labels place and provides limited details about shape &amp; layout <b>OR</b></p> <p><b>2) Equipment</b> Labels items with limited description <b>OR</b></p> <p><b>3) Player Preparations</b> Provides some description</p>	<p><b>1) Playing Area</b> Labels place but no details about shape &amp; layout <b>OR</b></p> <p><b>2) Equipment</b> Labels items with no description <b>OR</b></p> <p><b>3) Player Preparations</b> Provides limited description</p>
<b>Start</b>	Describes initial situation and how play begins	Describes initial situation or how play begins, but not both	Limited description of the initial situation or how play begins
<b>Course of Play</b>	Detailed description of: A unit of play <b>AND/OR</b> Major roles <b>AND/OR</b> Major plays	Some description of: A unit of play <b>OR</b> Major roles <b>OR</b> Major plays	Limited description of: A unit of play <b>OR</b> Major roles <b>OR</b> Major plays
<b>Rules</b>	Clear statement of major rules and, when applicable, consequences for violations	Mentions major rules and, when applicable, consequences for violations but without full detail	Minimal or no mention of major rules or consequences for violations
<b>Scoring</b>	Full description of ways to score and point values	Incomplete description of ways to score and point values	Limited description of ways to score or point values
<b>Duration</b>	Clear description of: How long the contest lasts, including, when applicable, the units in which duration is measured <b>AND/OR</b> How the contest ends <b>AND/OR</b> Tie breaking procedures	Some description of: How long the contests lasts <b>OR</b> How the contest ends <b>OR</b> Tie breaking procedures	Limited description of: How long the contests lasts <b>OR</b> How the contest ends <b>OR</b> Tie breaking procedures
<b>Strategy</b>	Full description of some ways to win the contest that are not required by the rules but are what competent players do	Mention of some ways to win the contest that are not required by the rules but are what competent players do	Vague or incomplete mention of some ways to win the contest that are not required by the rules but are what competent players do
<b>Terminology</b>	Terms of game are clearly defined whenever introduced	Some terms of game defined, but not consistently or clearly	Terms of game introduced but not further defined
<b>Cohesion</b>	Topics follow a logical order <b>AND</b> Topics are completely covered before moving on to another; <b>AND</b> Smooth transitions between topics	Topics follow a logical order <b>OR</b> Topics are completely covered before moving on to another <b>OR</b> Smooth transitions between topics	Little discernable order to topics; Much jumping between topics; <b>AND</b> Abrupt transitions between topics
<p><b>Scoring:</b> Each characteristic receives a scaled score 0-5. Proficient characteristics=5, Emerging=3, Minimal/Immature=1. Scores in between (e.g., 2, 4) are undefined, use judgment. Significant factual errors reduce the score for that topic. Scores of 0, NA are defined below. A composite is scored by adding the total of the characteristic scores. Highest score=50.</p> <p><b>A score of 0 is given for student errors</b>, e.g., not covering topic, explaining a different game or sport, not completing/refusing task, student unintelligibility, abandoned utterances).</p> <p><b>A score of NA (non-applicable) is given for mechanical/examiner/operator errors</b>, e.g., interference from background noise, issues with recording (cut-offs, interruptions), examiner quitting before student does, examiner not following protocol, examiner asking overly specific or leading questions rather than open-ended questions or prompts.</p>			

## USING SALT TO ENTER ESS SCORES

Use **Edit menu** → **Insert Template** → **Expository Scoring Scheme** to insert the ESS plus line template at the bottom of your transcript. Then type the individual scores after each label.

ESS Template	Example of ESS Scoring
+ Preparations:	+ Preparations: 2
+ ObjectOfContest:	+ ObjectOfContest: 3
+ StartOfPlay:	+ StartOfPlay: 3
+ CourseOfPlay:	+ CourseOfPlay: 3
+ Scoring:	+ Scoring: 4
+ Rules:	+ Rules: 3
+ Strategy:	+ Strategy: 3
+ Duration:	+ Duration: 3
+ Terminology:	+ Terminology: 3
+ Cohesion:	+ Cohesion: 3

## ANALYZING THE ESS SCORES

- Use the **Analyze** → **Expository Scoring Scheme** report to list each individual ESS score along with the composite score.
- Use the **Database** → **Expository Scoring Scheme** report to list each individual ESS score along with the composite score. Scores are listed for your transcript and for the selected database samples.

## TRYING IT OUT

The free online training course, [1503: ESS – Expository Scoring Scheme](#), has practice transcripts. Compare your scores to those of our trained transcribers.

## REFERENCES

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