

# Frontal Assessment Battery (FAB)

<https://www.psychdb.com/cognitive-testing/fab>



Patient Name:

Administered by:

Date:

## Instructions

The FAB is a brief cognitive and behavioural battery that can be used at the bedside to assess frontal lobe functions. The FAB has validity in distinguishing frontotemporal dementia from other types of dementias such as early-stage Alzheimer's. The total maximum score is 18, with higher scores indicating better performance.

## Reference

Dubois, B., Slachevsky, A., Litvan, I., & Pillon, B. F. A. B. (2000). The FAB: a frontal assessment battery at bedside. *Neurology*, 55(11), 1621-1626.

### 1. Similarities (Conceptualization)

"In what way are they alike?":

- **A banana and an orange**  
(answer: fruits)
- **A table and a chair**  
(answer: furniture)
- **A tulip, a rose, and a daisy**  
(answer: flowers)

If the patient says, "they are not alike" (total failure) or "both have peels" (partial failure) help the patient with a prompt by saying: "both a banana and an orange are..." However, credit 0 points for the first item. Do not help the patient for the last two items after this.

**3 correct** (3 points)

**2 correct** (2 points)

**1 correct** (1 point)

**0 correct** (0 points)

### 2. Lexical Fluency

"Say as many words as you can beginning with the letter 'S,' any words except surnames or proper nouns."

The time allowed is 60 seconds

If the patient gives no response during the first 5 seconds, say: "for instance, snake." If the patient pauses for 10 seconds, prompt them by saying: "any word beginning with the letter 'S.'" Word repetitions or variations (i.e. - "shoe," "shoemaker"), surnames, or proper nouns are *not* counted as correct responses.

**>9 words** (3 points)

**6 to 9 words** (2 points)

**3 to 5 words** (1 point)

**<3 words** (0 points)

### 3. Motor Series ("Luria's Test")

Tell the patient: "Look carefully at what I'm doing."

The examiner, seated in front of the patient, performs alone **3 times** using the left hand the series of Luria motions of "fist-edge-palm."

Prompt the patient: "Now, with your *right* hand do the same series, first with me, then alone."

The examiner performs the series **3 times** in total with the patient

Now tell the patient: "Now, do it on your own."

Observe the patient's actions

**FIST**



**EDGE**

(Bird's Eye View)



**PALM**

(Bird's Eye View)



**Patient performs 6 correct consecutive series alone** (3 points)

**Patient performs at least 3 correct consecutive series alone** (2 points)

**Patient fails alone, but performs three correct consecutive series with the examiner** (1 point)

**Patient cannot perform three correct consecutive series even with the examiner** (0 points)

<b>4. Conflicting Instructions</b>	
<p><b>Tell the patient: "Tap twice when I tap once."</b> To be sure that the patient has understood the instructions, do a series of <b>3 trial runs</b> first: 1-1-1</p> <p><b>Tell the patient: "Tap once when I tap twice."</b> To be sure that the patient has understood the instruction, do a series of <b>3 trial runs</b> first: 2-2-2</p> <p><b>The examiner now performs the actual following series:</b> 1-1-2-1-2-2-2-1-1-2</p>	<p><b>No error</b> (3 points)</p> <p><b>1 or 2 errors</b> (2 points)</p> <p><b>&gt;2 errors</b> (1 point)</p> <p><b>Patient taps like the examiner at least 4 consecutive times</b> (0 points)</p>
<b>5. Go-No Go</b>	
<p><b>Tell the patient: "Tap once when I tap once."</b> To be sure that the patient has understood the instruction, do a series of <b>3 trial runs</b> first: 1-1-1</p> <p><b>Tell the patient: "Do not tap when I tap twice."</b> To be sure that the patient has understood the instruction, do a series of <b>3 trial runs</b> first: 2-2-2</p> <p><b>The examiner now performs the actual following series:</b> 1-1-2-1-2-2-2-1-1-2</p>	<p><b>No error</b> (3 points)</p> <p><b>1 or 2 errors</b> (2 points)</p> <p><b>&gt;2 errors</b> (1 points)</p> <p><b>Patient taps like the examiner at least 4 consecutive times</b> (0 points)</p>
<b>6. Prehension Behaviour (Grasp Reflex)</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The examiner is seated in front of the patient.</b></li> <li><b>Place the patient's hands palm up on his/her knees.</b></li> <li><b>Without saying anything or looking at the patient, the examiner brings his/her hands close to the patient's hands and touches the palms of both the patient's hands, to see if he/she will spontaneously take them.</b></li> <li><b>If the patient takes the hands, the examiner will try again after asking him/her: "Now, do not take my hands."</b></li> </ol>	<p><b>Patient does not take the examiner's hands</b> (3 points)</p> <p><b>Patient hesitates and asks what he/she has to do</b> (2 points)</p> <p><b>Patient takes the hands without hesitation</b> (1 point)</p> <p><b>Patient takes the examiner's hand even after he/she has been told not to do so</b> (0 points)</p>
	<b>Total Score</b> <b>/18</b>

**Interpretation**  
For age and education normative values, visit: <https://www.psychdb.com/cognitive-testing/fab#norms>