

Year 11 Trails A & B

Taken from: *Neuropsychological Assessment, Second Edition*, Muriel D. Lezak

The trail making test, originally part of the Army Individual Test Battery (1944), has enjoyed wide use as an easily administered test of visual conceptual and visuomotor tracking. Like most other tests involving motor speed and attention functions, the Trail Making Test is highly vulnerable to the effects of brain injury (Armitage, 1946; Reitan 1958; Spreen and Benton 1965). It is given in two parts, A and B. The patient must first draw lines to connect the consecutively numbered circles on one worksheet (Part A) and then connect the same number of consecutively numbered and lettered circles on another worksheet by alternating between the two sequences (Part B). The subject is urged to connect the circles “as fast as you can” without lifting the pencil from the paper.

Instructions:

Trailmaking Part A:

Sample: “*On this page [point] are some numbers. Begin at number one [point to 1] and draw a line from one to two [point to 2], two to three [point to 3], three to four [point to 4], and so on, in order, until you reach the end [point to last circle]. Draw the lines as fast as you can. Do not lift the pencil from the paper. Go.*”

Test: “*Good. Now the test is the same idea, but there are more numbers, this time from 1 to 25. Again, begin at number one [point to 1] and draw a line from one to two [point to 2], two to three [point to 3], three to four [point to 4], and so on, in order, until you reach the end [point to last circle]. Remember, connect the numbers as quickly as you can, keeping your pencil on the page the entire time.*”

Trailmaking Part B:

Sample: “*You will notice that this page has both numbers and letters. Begin at number one [point to 1], and draw a line from one to A [point to A], A to two [point to 2], two to B [point to B], B to three [point to 3], three to C [point to C], and so on until you have reached the end [point to the last circle]. Remember, first you have a number, then a letter and so on. Draw the lines as fast as you can. Do not lift the pencil from the paper. Go.*”

Test: “*Good. Now do this test the same way. Begin at number one [point to 1], and draw a line from one to A [point to A], A to two [point to 2], two to B [point to B], B to three [point to 3], three to C [point to C], and so on until you have reached the end [point to the last circle]. Remember, first you have a number, then a letter and so on. Draw the lines as fast as you can. Do not lift the pencil from the paper. Go.*”

For trailmaking, if the participant is close to finishing in 4 minutes, allow them to go over the allotted time. But, note at what point they were at 4:00, not with they finished. Errors made after 4:00 will be ignored. So enter the actual time it took them to complete Trails, but note the points and errors from where they were at 4:00.

The resulting data for each part (A & B) are the time to complete the test, the number of errors and the number of points connected.