

Tests of Dyslexia–Comprehensive (TOD™-C) Oral Reading Efficiency Test Score Interpretation

Although the format of the TOD Oral Reading Efficiency test (12C; ORE) is similar to that of commonly used oral reading fluency (ORF) tests (a passage read orally for 1 minute), the primary ORE score of interest is a standard score, not a traditional ORF score. To calculate the ORE standard score, the examiner first determines the words read correctly (WRC) score: using the graded passage in the TOD-C Record Form, the examiner references the word count to the right of the last complete line read, adds the number of additional words read in the last incomplete line read, and then counts and subtracts the number of errors from the number of words read. After recording this WRC score in the Words Read Correctly box, the examiner records the number of errors in the Number of Errors box and subtracts it from the WRC to get the Total Raw Score, which is transformed into a standard score using either Fall or Spring grade-based norms.

The ORE scoring process is designed to weight errors more heavily than the typical ORF formula because individuals with dyslexia tend to make more oral reading errors than typically developing readers. Thus, the Words Read Correctly – Number of Errors = Total Raw Score formula reflects a greater reduction due to errors than the total number of words read – errors formula typically used in ORF scoring.

As an example, a poor reader in third grade read a total of 24 words from the ORE Grade 3 passage but made 5 errors, resulting in 19 words read correctly. After recording the WRC (19), the examiner records and subtracts the number of errors (5). The score could be written as 19/5, which is one type of reporting procedure on ORF measures; the top number is the WRC, and the bottom number is the number of errors. The formula for obtaining the Total Raw Score (WRC – Number of Errors = Total Raw Score) yields 14 (i.e., $19 - 5 = 14$). Using either the norms tables or the WPS® Online Evaluation System™ (OES) scoring option, the examiner converts the Total Raw Score to a standard score, which is interpreted like all TOD standard scores and reflects the student's performance compared to that of their peers. Using Grade 3 Spring norms, the Total Raw Score of 14 yields a standard score of 72 and a percentile rank of 3.

While some examiners might assume it is appropriate to use the WRC as a gross estimate of oral reading fluency, there are limitations to this strategy. Most ORF scores are collected three times: early in the academic year, during mid-winter, and again in late spring. It is also typical to administer three 1-minute probes and take the median score. In contrast, TOD standardization data were collected over a 6-month period in the fall and a 6-month period in the spring and were based on reading one graded passage. Consequently, a TOD WRC score should not be directly compared to existing ORF normative data (e.g., see Hasbrouck & Tindal, 2017 "Oral Reading Fluency Norms," in the *TOD Dyslexia Interventions and Recommendations* guide) because the data collection schedule and the methodologies differ. Low performance on the ORE test, however, may indicate a need for progress monitoring using traditional ORF procedures.