

# Critchlow Verbal Language Scales

## SKILL ASSESSED

Vocabulary

## Grade Level

K-8

## Language

- English
- Spanish

## Grouping

Individual

## Approximate Testing Time

15 Minutes

## Materials

- English Record Form (p. 110)
- Spanish Record Form (p. 111)

## Source

From *Dos Amigos*  
*Verbal Language Scales*  
by Donald E. Critchlow.

► **WHAT** The *Critchlow Verbal Language Scales* assess a student's vocabulary in English or Spanish. Vocabulary is assessed by asking a student to say the "opposite" of a series of words spoken by the examiner. The words on this assessment are arranged in increasing order of difficulty. Each scale contains 75 English or Spanish stimulus words.

► **WHY** As students progress through the grades, they build larger and larger vocabularies. A more advanced vocabulary enables students to better comprehend what they read and hear as well as to better express their thoughts. Measuring vocabulary provides an index of what a student has learned and how well equipped the student is for future learning.

► **HOW** Before beginning the test, determine that the student understands what an opposite is and can demonstrate this knowledge. For example say: "If it is not daytime, it is \_\_\_\_" or "If a child is not a boy, it is a \_\_\_\_" to help establish the concept of opposite.

Explain to the student that you are going to say a word and he or she is to respond with the opposite of that word. Begin with item 1 for all students, and discontinue testing after the child misses five consecutive words or completes the scale. Do not give credit for a response that is not listed.

Note that alternatives are sometimes provided for a stimulus or acceptable response. For example, the response to *absent* is listed as *present-here*, indicating that either response is correct. In the Spanish scale, the first stimulus is *muchacho-niño*. In this case, give the student the first stimulus, *muchacho*. If the student does

not give the correct response (*muchacha*), the stimulus *niño* should be given. If the student gives a correct response (*niña*), then he or she receives credit for that item.

► **WHAT IT MEANS** Count the number correct and refer to the scoring criteria below to identify the approximate vocabulary grade level. For students who score below their current grade level, provide direct instruction in specific vocabulary needed for school success.

Number Correct English	Number Correct Spanish	Vocabulary Grade Level
1–8	1–9	Grade K and below
9–12	10–13	Grade 1
13–17	14–17	Grade 2
18–21	18–20	Grade 3
22–26	21–24	Grade 4
27–30	25–28	Grade 5
31–34	29–32	Grade 6
35 and above	33 and above	Grade 7 and above

See also...

CORE Teaching  
Reading Sourcebook,  
Section VI: Vocabulary

► **WHAT'S NEXT?** For students with limited vocabulary, more intense support in developing other underlying reading skills may be warranted. Further testing of fluency, phonics, or phoneme segmentation ability may be indicated.

# Critchlow Verbal Language Scale

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Ask the student to say the opposite of each word. Discontinue testing after five consecutive errors.

STIMULUS	RESPONSE	STIMULUS	RESPONSE
_____ 1. boy .....	girl	_____ 39. multiply .....	divide
_____ 2. up .....	down	_____ 40. friend .....	enemy
_____ 3. front .....	back	_____ 41. difficult .....	easy
_____ 4. hot .....	cold	_____ 42. narrow .....	wide
_____ 5. brother .....	sister	_____ 43. wild .....	tame
_____ 6. dirty .....	clean	_____ 44. dangerous .....	safe
_____ 7. wet .....	dry	_____ 45. entrance .....	exit
_____ 8. crooked .....	straight	_____ 46. sharp .....	dull
_____ 9. young .....	old	_____ 47. imprisoned .....	free
_____ 10. off .....	on	_____ 48. falsehood .....	truth
_____ 11. shut .....	open	_____ 49. public .....	private
_____ 12. noisy .....	quiet	_____ 50. costly .....	cheap
_____ 13. dead .....	alive	_____ 51. lengthen .....	shorten
_____ 14. early .....	late	_____ 52. succeed .....	fail
_____ 15. empty .....	full	_____ 53. victory .....	defeat
_____ 16. near .....	far	_____ 54. stale .....	fresh
_____ 17. come .....	go	_____ 55. timid .....	bold-brave
_____ 18. north .....	south	_____ 56. maximum .....	minimum
_____ 19. lost .....	found	_____ 57. unite .....	separate
_____ 20. pretty .....	ugly-homely	_____ 58. profit .....	loss
_____ 21. sick .....	well	_____ 59. complex .....	simple
_____ 22. sour .....	sweet	_____ 60. create .....	destroy
_____ 23. add .....	subtract	_____ 61. vertical .....	horizontal
_____ 24. daughter .....	son	_____ 62. former .....	latter
_____ 25. remember .....	forget	_____ 63. bless .....	curse
_____ 26. false .....	true	_____ 64. loiter .....	hurry
_____ 27. love .....	hate	_____ 65. discord .....	harmony
_____ 28. heavy .....	light	_____ 66. gradual .....	sudden
_____ 29. tight .....	loose	_____ 67. diminish .....	increase
_____ 30. after .....	before	_____ 68. naive .....	sophisticated
_____ 31. laugh .....	cry	_____ 69. superfluous .....	necessary
_____ 32. smooth .....	rough	_____ 70. asset .....	liability
_____ 33. absent .....	present-here	_____ 71. tentative .....	permanent
_____ 34. strong .....	weak	_____ 72. clergy .....	laity
_____ 35. evening .....	morning	_____ 73. corpulent .....	slender
_____ 36. raw .....	cooked	_____ 74. epilogue .....	prologue
_____ 37. begin .....	end-stop	_____ 75. autocracy .....	democracy
_____ 38. same .....	different		

Score: \_\_\_\_\_ /75

# Critchlow Spanish Verbal Language Scale

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Tell the student: *Quiero que me digas lo contrario de cada palabra.* Discontinue testing after five consecutive errors.

STIMULUS	RESPONSE	STIMULUS	RESPONSE
_____ 1. muchacho.....	muchacha	_____ 39. multiplicar .....	dividir
_____ 2. niño.....	niña	_____ 40. entrada .....	salida
_____ 3. caliente .....	frío	_____ 41. mentira-falsedad.....	verdad
_____ 4. sucio .....	limpio	_____ 42. difícil .....	fácil
_____ 5. enfrente.....	detrás	_____ 43. liso.....	tosco-áspero
_____ 6. mojado .....	seco	_____ 44. fuerte.....	débil
_____ 7. hermano.....	hermana	_____ 45. costoso .....	barato
_____ 8. cerrar .....	abrir	_____ 46. encarcelado-aprisionado.....	libre
_____ 9. muerto.....	vivo	_____ 47. anterior.....	posterior
_____ 10. temprano.....	tarde	_____ primero.....	último
_____ 11. apagar.....	prender-encender	_____ 48. público.....	privado
_____ 12. joven.....	viejo-anciano	_____ 49. ganancia.....	pérdida
_____ 13. hija.....	hijo	_____ 50. salvaje .....	manso-doméstico
_____ 14. torcido.....	derecho-recto	_____ 51. alargar .....	acortar
_____ 15. cerca .....	lejos	_____ 52. rancio .....	fresco
_____ 16. perder .....	encontrar-hallar	_____ 53. triunfo-victoria.....	derrota
_____ 17. ruidoso.....	quieto-callado	_____ 54. complicado .....	simple-sencillo
_____ 18. vacío .....	lleno	_____ 55. tímido.....	valiente
_____ 19. venir.....	ir	_____ 56. unir.....	separar
_____ 20. enfermo.....	sano	_____ 57. peligroso.....	seguro
_____ 21. apretado.....	suelto	_____ 58. máximo .....	mínimo
_____ 22. bonito.....	feo	_____ 59. éxito.....	fracaso
_____ 23. agrio-ácido .....	dulce	_____ 60. ventaja .....	desventaja
_____ 24. norte.....	sur	_____ 61. vertical .....	horizontal
_____ 25. reír .....	llorar	_____ 62. bendecir .....	maldecir
_____ 26. recordar .....	olvidar	_____ 63. crear.....	destruir
_____ 27. pesado .....	ligero-liviano	_____ 64. inferior .....	superior
_____ 28. enemigo.....	amigo	_____ 65. ignorante .....	inteligente-sabio
_____ 29. igual .....	diferente-distinto	_____ 66. disminuir .....	aumentar
_____ 30. falso.....	cierto	_____ 67. convexo.....	cóncavo
_____ 31. crudo .....	cocido	_____ 68. ingenuo.....	sofisticado
_____ 32. noche .....	día	_____ 69. pasivo.....	activo
_____ 33. después .....	antes	_____ 70. autocracia.....	democracia
_____ 34. ausente.....	presente	_____ 71. corpulento.....	delgado
_____ 35. angosto-estrecho.....	ancho	_____ 72. amplificar .....	reducir
_____ 36. empezar.....	terminar	_____ 73. síntesis .....	análisis
_____ comenzar .....	acabar	_____ 74. intermitente.....	continuo
_____ 37. amor .....	odio	_____ 75. tentativo.....	permanente
_____ 38. sumar .....	restar-quitar-substraer		

Score: \_\_\_\_\_ /75