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## Jebsen-Taylor Hand Function Test

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### Synonyms

[The Jebsen](#)

### Definition

The Jebsen-Taylor function test was designed to provide a short, objective test of hand functions commonly used in activities of daily living (ADL). The target patient population includes adults with neurological or musculoskeletal conditions involving hand disabilities although there may be other patient populations with hand dysfunction may be appropriate. The test was developed to be used by health professionals working in restoration of hand function. It consists of seven items that include a range of fine motor, weighted and non-weighted hand function activities which are timed: writing (copying) a 24-letter sentence, turning over a 3 × 5" card, picking up small common objects such as a coin and bottle-cap, simulated feeding using a teaspoon and five kidney beans, stacking checkers, picking up large light objects such as an empty tin can, and picking up and moving large weighted cans. The results

are measured objectively using a stop watch. This technique allows for a continuum of scores. The mean times taken for completion of each subtest and the standard deviations were obtained for each age group. The client's timed scores are compared to these norms. The test measures speed, not quality. The test takes approximately 45 min to complete. No formal training is necessary to administer; evaluators can refer to the manual for instructions. This assessment is also available in Portuguese.

### Current Knowledge

The Jebsen was developed by Jebsen, R.H., Taylor, N., Trieschman, R.B., Trotter, M.J., and Howard, L.A. in 1969. A modified version was evaluated by Bovend'Eerd et al., in 2004 and included three test items (turning over cards, stacking four cones, and spooning five kidney beans into a bowl). An Australian version has also been developed and includes the original test items plus a grip strength measurement using a dynamometer (Agnews and Maas 1982).

### See Also

► [Manual Dexterity](#)

## Further Readings

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