Test for Auditory Comprehension of Language,  
Third Edition  
(TACL-3)

Publisher/Date:  
• PRO-ED, Inc., 8700 Shoal Creek Blvd., Austin, TX 78758-6897. Published, 1999.

Purpose:  
• Individually-administered measure of receptive spoken vocabulary, grammar, and syntax for children ages 3-00 to 9-11.

Provides:  
• 139-items are grouped into three subtests: Vocabulary, Grammatical Morphemes, and Elaborated Phrases and Sentences. A Total score is provided.

Standardization Issues:  
• Norms included 1,102 children, with demographics matched to US Census data (2000) for gender, ethnicity, disability, and SES. The notable exception included fewer students from urban areas (55% vs. 75%) and more from rural areas (47% vs. 25%).

Reliability and Validity Issues:  
• Internal consistencies for the total sample were excellent and all within the .90s with the exception of Vocabulary at ages 5 (.89) and 9 (.84). Consistency was also demonstrated across subgroups as well (gender, ethnicity, and disability). Evidence of score stability over time is presented but based on a very limited group size. Interrater reliabilities for subtests and the Total quotient were good. New validity studies were conducted and evidence gathered support its validity.

Additional Points:  
• The manual makes reference to potential use of the test with adults, though the norms only extend to 9 years, 11 months and the technical (psychometric) data only applies to children.  
• Group differentiation studies found boys and girls scoring fairly consistently across the subtests and total score. Hispanics scored similarly to the ADHD and LD groups, and African Americans tended to score lower, but still broadly within the normal range. With LD and ADHD groups still scoring broadly within average, the test cannot be considered to be particularly useful in distinguishing these populations from their normal-counterparts.
• Item analysis was performed to examine for bias, resulting in the elimination of three items.

• NOTE: At the time of this summary, TACL-4 is being released. Independent reviews and studies have not been available.