What is PsycTESTS? What will I find in it?

PsycTESTS is a database that provides information about psychological tests and measures. It includes citations to articles that discuss the test and how it can be used. Some information about the test is taken from the articles and presented right in the database. In many cases, the full test (or a document with a selection of test items) is available to download as well.

How can I use the tests I find in PsycTESTS?

Look for the Permissions field, highlighted below. When it reads “May use for Research/Teaching,” the test can be used for non-commercial research or educational purposes. This also permits general use in a clinical setting. However, it is important to note that most tests in the database do not include all the materials you need to administer and score the test. Although the test text itself is provided, supplemental material such as instructor guides and answer sheets typically are not.

To use a test for commercial gain or to reproduce it for other uses, you are required to contact the copyright owner for permission. For example, republishing a test or reproducing it on the open internet require copyright owner permission, as does using a test in research intended to support commercial gain.

To contact the author or publisher for permission, use the information provided in the Test Development Record (see page 4 for details), highlighted below. Even if you are not using the test in a commercial setting, you may wish to contact the author for additional information about the test that will help you understand how best to administer it and interpret the results.
Can I search PsycTESTS at the same time as other databases?

You can search PsycTESTS in combination with any other databases available to you on APA PsycNET. But you’ll be able to search more specifically if you choose to search only PsycTESTS, as shown here.

What search options does PsycTESTS have?

There are a lot of search options, which can help you research more efficiently. Maybe you want a test developed for a particular population or age group. Do you only want to look at tests that are administered in an interview rather than as a questionnaire? You can set those options at the start.
You can also limit your results to those with a full or partial version of the test, and specify the date range in which the test was published in the literature.

If you prefer to start your search off broadly and then adjust based on your results, you can use the “Narrow Results by” bar on the left of your results page. Note that each individual result also shows the psychological construct the test is meant to measure, and contains links to the summary of the test as well as the test itself, when available.

**Expert Tip:** Use the PsycTESTS Classification to limit to a general area of psychology. It’s available on the Advanced Search Screen and in the “Narrow Results by” bar on the search results page.
When I’m searching for articles, I can read an abstract to help me decide if it’s a useful article. Are there abstracts for the tests?

Here’s a look at what you’ll see when you click a test name in your results list. A summary and other basic information about the test is provided, along with tabs that include information from articles about the test. And, of course, there’s also a Links box – this is where you’ll find the full test and any supporting documentation that may be available.

I noticed the tabs under the summary have citations on them. What are these for?

The tabs under the test summary report on articles that discuss the test. Note that you will not see each of these tabs for every test in the database.

**Test Development**: The article here discusses the development of the test. You’ll see this for most of the tests in the database.

**Test Reviews**: The article here reviews the test – this is available for a small percentage of the tests.

**Test Use**: The article here reports on a new use of the test – for example, a researcher may have taken a test designed for adults and administered it to teenagers. This is also available for a small percentage of tests.
To look at more information about the test, click on the link above one of the citations.

**Expert Tip:** Sometimes, instead of tabs, you may see a link that says “Test Primary Data.” This means that we have been unable to identify an article about the test. This is most often the case for tests available through commercial publishers and for historical tests (right now, the oldest tests in PsycTESTS are from the late 1890s). The Test Primary Data link will pull up additional information about the test, including contact information for the publisher if the test is available commercially.
Do you include reliability or validity information for the tests? What about the factor analysis?

Yes! Click on the link to the Test Development Record, highlighted on the previous page. You’ll see a variety of information about the test displayed right in the database. This includes the format of the test and how many items or questions it contains, how it's administered, and the reliability, validity, and factor analysis. You may still need to find the full text of the article, but this information should help you determine if this test will fit your needs.

**Expert Tip:** Information about the test’s reliability, validity, and factor analysis is taken directly from the article that’s referenced in the “Reported in” field at the top of the tab. Note that if the authors do not report this information in the article, then it will not be provided. (See the Validity field in the screenshot above for an example.)
Is there a way to find other versions of the test?

If any other versions of a test are included in the PsycTESTS database, you’ll see links to them just above the abstract. This includes versions such as short forms, long forms, translations or other versions that have been developed.

I want to read one of the articles linked from the test. How do I find it?

The citation to the article in each of these tabs is provided right at the top, in the “Reported in” field. You can use that information to track down the article. If you’re not sure how to do this, ask a librarian for help.

Can I use a test I found for a class assignment or in an article I’m writing?

In most cases, yes! If the full test is available, open the file and look at the Permissions line. In most cases you’ll see this:

This means that you can use the test for a class assignment (perhaps you need to write a test review, or compare several tests that measure the same disorder) or use and cite it as part of your research into developing your own test.
Can I administer these tests to patients or participants in a study?

If the full test is available, open the file and look at the Permissions line. If you see the same statement as displayed above, the test can be used for non-commercial research or educational purposes. This also permits general use in a clinical setting. To use a test for commercial gain or to reproduce it for other uses, you are required to contact the copyright owner for permission. For example, republishing a test or reproducing it on the open internet require copyright owner permission, as does using a test in research intended to support commercial gain.

Can I save the search I just did, or the tests I found?

If you’re going to need to do this same search again in the future, you may want to use the tools at the top of the search results page to automate the process. You can set up an email alert for new tests that match your search criteria or get them via an RSS feed. You can also save a permalink to your results list (handy for sharing what you’ve found with classmates, researchers in your lab, or members of your journal club) or save your search and come back to run it manually.

Some additional options will appear on the search results screen and elsewhere throughout your results. When these icons are displayed, the articles under them will have checkboxes. Once you’ve made your selections, you can save them as a downloadable file, print them, email them, export them to software like RefWorks, EndNote, or Mendeley, or add them to a list in your My PsycNET account.
What if I see a login when I try to save something?

Some of the options mentioned above will require that you set up a free account on APA PsycNET. If that’s the case, you’ll see this login appear.

Click on the “Not Registered?” link and you can quickly set up an account. You can also log in with Google. Access your account at any time from the top right of any APA PsycNET page. Click on the Login link or the My PsycNET link.

I still have questions! Who can I ask?

Ask your librarian!

Use the Help link at the top right of any APA PsycNET page to access specialized help for PsycTESTS and more general help for using the APA PsycNET interface.
