CALI – Categories and Attributes of Language Inventory

The Categories and Attributes of Language Inventory (CALI) examines the ability to form word relationships through the use of categorization, association, and attributes. It identifies areas of strength and need for word recall and knowledge.

The examiner states, 'Tell me all you know about (name the word)' and then records what is said according to type of response and ranks with #1 being the first word or phrase said and continuing in order of expression.

Use the Practice activity to prompt for all word relationship areas.   If no initial response is given, ask one of the question to elicit a response.

No prompt is given for test items.

word	R	Function	What does it do?, How do you use it?, What is the action associated with it?
	A	Description	Color, size, shape, length, width,
	N	Parts	What are specific parts of the item?
	K	Location	Where do you see the item? Where is it found? Where is used?
	I	Category	What group does it belong to?
	N	association	What people or thing go with the item?
	G	composition	What is it made of?

Example/Practice

pencil	2	Function	Write with it, draw with it, hold it, point it
	1	Description	Long, thin, sharpened to a point at one end
	5	Parts	'lead'(graphite) tip, eraser
	3	Location	On a desk, in your hand, in a backpack, at school
	6	Category	Writing instrument
	4	Association	Paper, school, notes, pen, desk,
	7	Composition	Made of wood or plastic, has lead inside, has graphite inside

Scoring and Behavior notes: There is no ceiling.   All items are administered.   Professional judgement is used to determine which type of response is appropriate.   Note speed of response and effort.

Name: _____ Grade:_____ Date: _____   Examiner: _____

banana	Function	
	Description	
	Parts	
	Location	
	Category	
	Association	
	Composition	

book	Function	
	Description	
	Parts	
	Location	
	Category	
	Association	
	Composition	

car	Function	
	Description	
	Parts	
	Location	
	Category	
	Association	
	Composition	

elephant	Function	
	Description	
	Parts	
	Location	
	Category	
	Association	
	Composition	

bed	Function	
	Description	
	Parts	
	Location	
	Category	
	Association	
	Composition	

boat	Function	
	Description	
	Parts	
	Location	
	Category	
	Association	
	Composition	

spoon	Function	
	Description	
	Parts	
	Location	
	Category	
	Association	
	Composition	

flower	Function	
	Description	
	Parts	
	Location	
	Category	
	Association	
	Composition	

Results:

Response areas ranked #1 and #2.　　Strengths - _____

Response areas with no response.　　Areas in need of instruction - _____

Vocabulary choice: (Circle 1)　　above grade level　　on grade level　　below grade level　　significantly below grade level

Response characteristic: (Circle 1)　　quick & easy　　cautious　　thoughtful　　labored　　hesitant　　disinterested　　rushed through

Language complexity: (Circle 1)　　used detailed phrases and sentences　　used simple phrases and sentences　　used one word responses

Comment:

_____
_____