See the full article at: <https://doi.org/10.55593/ej.26103a15>

### Appendix 1: The modified VST used in the think-aloud tests

***Vocabulary Size Test***

[Note: The original monolingual 14000, 140 item version of this test is available as a PDF at <https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/lals/resources/paul-nations-resources/vocabulary-tests>. This version was adapted to a 70-item version by removing 5 items from each 10-item band and adding a DK option. The test was also re-ordered so that participants would encounter high and low frequency words throughout the test.

**Test Instructions**

**• There are 70 questions in this test.**

**• Look at the word and an example of the word in use.**

**• Choose the meaning that most closely matches the highlighted words in the example sentence.**

**• If you don’t know the word do not guess and circle ‘no’.**

**• Once you have circled ‘no’, please go back and try to guess the correct answer to the best of your ability.**

*Example:*

SHOE: Where is your **shoe**?

a.) the person who looks after you

b.) the thing you keep your money in

c.) the thing you use for writing

d.) the thing you wear on your foot

e.) I don’t know

*Circle the letter a-d with the closest meaning to the key word in the question.*

1. SEE: They **saw** it.

1. cut
2. waited for
3. looked at
4. started
5. I don’t know

2. MAINTAIN: Can they **maintain** it?

1. keep it as it is
2. make it larger
3. get a better one than it
4. get it
5. I don’t know

3. SOLDIER: He is a **soldier**.

1. person in a business
2. student
3. person who uses metal
4. person in the army
5. I don’t know

4. SCRUB: He is **scrubbing** it.

1. cutting shallow lines into it
2. repairing it
3. rubbing it hard to clean it
4. drawing simple pictures of it
5. I don’t know

5. WEEP: He **wept**.

1. finished his course
2. cried
3. died
4. worried
5. I don’t know

6. LATTER: I agree with the **latter**.

1. man from the church
2. reason given
3. last one
4. answer
5. I don’t know

7. DEFICIT: The company had a large **deficit**.

1. spent a lot more money than it earned
2. went down a lot in value
3. had a plan for its spending that used  a lot of money
4. had a lot of money in the bank
5. I don’t know

8. DEVIOUS: Your plans are **devious**.

1. tricky
2. well-developed
3. not well thought out
4. more expensive than necessary
5. I don’t know

9. EXCRETE: This was **excreted** recently.

1. pushed or sent out
2. made clear
3. discovered by a science experiment
4. put on a list of illegal things
5. I don’t know

10. PERIOD: It was a difficult **period.**

1. question
2. time
3. thing to do
4. book
5. I don’t know

11. BUTLER: They have a **butler**.

1. man servant
2. machine for cutting up trees
3. private teacher
4. cool dark room under the house
5. I don’t know

12. PALETTE: He lost his **palette.**

1. basket for carrying fish
2. wish to eat food
3. young female companion
4. artist's board for mixing paints
5. I don’t know

13. WHIM: He had lots of **whims.**

1. old gold coins
2. female horses
3. strange ideas with no motive
4. sore red lumps
5. I don’t know

14. BAWDY: It was very **bawdy.**

1. unpredictable
2. enjoyable
3. rushed
4. rude
5. I don’t know

15. UBIQUITOUS: Many weeds are **ubiquitous.**

1. are difficult to get rid of
2. have long, strong roots
3. are found in most countries
4. die away in the winter
5. I don’t know

16. SOLILOQUY: That was an excellent **soliloquy!**

1. song for six people
2. short clever saying with a deep  meaning
3. entertainment using lights and music
4. speech in the theatre by a character  who is alone
5. I don’t know

17. UPSET: I am **upset.**

1. tired
2. famous
3. rich
4. unhappy
5. I don’t know

18. PATIENCE: He has no **patience.**

1. will not wait happily
2. has no free time
3. has no faith
4. does not know what is fair
5. I don’t know

19. RESTORE: It has been **restored.**

1. said again
2. given to a different person
3. given a lower price
4. made like new again
5. I don’t know

20. JUG: He was holding a **jug.**

1. A container for pouring liquids
2. an informal discussion
3. A soft cap
4. A weapon that explodes
5. I don’t know

21. DINOSAUR: The children were pretending to be **dinosaurs.**

1. robbers who work at sea
2. very small creatures with human  form but with wings
3. large creatures with wings that  breathe fire
4. animals that lived a long time ago
5. I don’t know

22. COMPOUND: They made a new **compound.**

1. agreement
2. thing made of two or more parts
3. group of people forming a business
4. guess based on past experience
5. I don’t know

23. CANDID: Please be **candid.**

1. be careful
2. show sympathy
3. show fairness to both sides
4. say what you really think
5. I don’t know

24. TUMMY: Look at my **tummy.**

1. cloth to cover the head
2. stomach
3. small furry animal
4. thumb
5. I don’t know

25. QUIZ: We made a **quiz.**

1. thing to hold arrows
2. serious mistake
3. set of questions
4. box for birds to make nests in
5. I don’t know

26. NUN: We saw a **nun**.

1. long thin creature that lives in the  earth
2. terrible accident
3. woman following a strict religious life
4. unexplained bright light in the sky
5. I don’t know

27. HAUNT: The house is **haunted.**

1. full of ornaments
2. rented
3. empty
4. full of ghosts
5. I don’t know

28. COMPOST: We need some **compost**.

1. strong support
2. help to feel better
3. hard stuff made of stones and sand  stuck together
4. rotted plant material
5. I don’t know

29. PREMIER: The **premier** spoke for an hour

1. person who works in a law court
2. university teacher
3. adventurer
4. head of the government
5. I don’t know

30. ACCESSORY: They gave us some **accessories.**

1. papers allowing us to enter a country
2. official orders
3. ideas to choose between
4. extra pieces
5. I don’t know

31. THRESHOLD: They raised the **threshold.**

1. flag
2. point or line where something changes
3. roof inside a building
4. cost of borrowing money
5. I don’t know

32. OLIVE: We bought **olives.**

1. oily fruit
2. scented pink or red flowers
3. men's clothes for swimming
4. tools for digging up weeds
5. I don’t know

33. QUILT: They made a **quilt.**

1. statement about who should get their property when they die
2. firm agreement
3. thick warm cover for a bed
4. feather pen
5. I don’t know

34. STEALTH: They did it by **stealth.**

1. spending a large amount of money
2. hurting someone so much that they  agreed to their demands
3. moving secretly with extreme care and  quietness
4. taking no notice of problems they met
5. I don’t know

35. SHUDDER: The boy **shuddered**.

1. spoke with a low voice
2. almost fell
3. shook
4. called out loudly
5. I don’t know

36. BRISTLE: The **bristles** are too hard.

1. questions
2. short stiff hairs
3. folding beds
4. bottoms of the shoes
5. I don’t know

37. TIME: They have a lot of **time**.

1. money
2. food
3. hours
4. friends
5. I don’t know

38. MONOLOGUE: Now he has a **monologue.**

1. single piece of glass to hold over his  eye to help him to see better
2. long turn at talking without being  interrupted
3. position with all the power
4. picture made by joining letters  together in interesting ways
5. I don’t know

39. ERRATIC: He was **erratic.**

1. without fault
2. very bad
3. very polite
4. unsteady
5. I don’t know

40. NULL: His influence was **null.**

1. had good results
2. was unhelpful
3. had no effect
4. was long-lasting
5. I don’t know

41. KINDERGARTEN: This is a good **kindergarten.**

1. activity that allows you to forget your worries
2. place of learning for children too young for school
3. strong, deep bag carried on the back
4. place where you may borrow books
5. I don’t know

42. ECLIPSE: There was an **eclipse.**

1. a strong wind
2. a loud noise of something hitting the water
3. The killing of a large number of people
4. The sun hidden by a planet
5. I don’t know

43. FIGURE: Is this the right **figure?**

1. answer
2. place
3. time
4. number
5. I don’t know

44. HALLMARK: Does it have a **hallmark?**

1. stamp to show when to use it by
2. stamp to show the quality
3. mark to show it is approved by the royal family
4. Mark or stain to prevent copying
5. I don’t know

45. PURITAN: He is a **puritan.**

1. person who likes attention
2. person with strict morals
3. person with a moving home
4. person who hates spending money
5. I don’t know

46. WEIR: We looked at the **weir.**

1. person who behaves strangely
2. wet, muddy place with water plants
3. old metal musical instrument played  by blowing
4. thing built across a river to control  the water
5. I don’t know

47. AWE: They looked at the mountain with **awe.**

1. worry
2. interest
3. wonder
4. respect
5. I don’t know

48. PEASANTRY: He did a lot for the **peasantry**.

1. local people
2. place of worship
3. businessmen's club
4. poor farmers
5. I don’t know

49. EGALITARIAN: This organization is **egalitarian.**

1. does not provide much information about itself to  the public
2. dislikes change
3. frequently asks a court of law for a judgement
4. treats everyone who works for it as if they are equal
5. I don’t know

50. MYSTIQUE: He has lost his mystique.

1. his healthy body
2. the secret way he makes other people think he has special power or skill
3. the woman who has been his lover while he is married to someone else
4. the hair on his top lip
5. I don’t know

51. UPBEAT: I'm feeling really **upbeat** about it.

1. upset
2. good
3. hurt
4. confused
5. I don’t know

52. MUSSEL: They bought **mussels.**

1. small glass balls for playing a game
2. shellfish
3. large purple fruits
4. pieces of soft paper to keep the clothes clean when eating
5. I don’t know

53. YOGA: She has started **yoga**.

1. handwork done by knotting thread
2. a form of exercise for body and mind
3. a game where a cork stuck with feathers is hit between two players
4. a type of dance from eastern countries
5. I don’t know

54. COUNTERCLAIM: They made a **counterclaim**.

1. a demand made by one side in a law case  to match the other side's demand
2. a request for a shop to take back things with faults
3. An agreement between two companies to exchange work
4. a top cover for a bed
5. I don’t know

55. PUMA: They saw a **puma.**

1. small house made of mud bricks
2. tree from hot, dry countries
3. very strong wind that sucks up  anything in its path
4. large wild cat
5. I don’t know

56. HAZE: We looked through the **haze.**

1. small round window in a ship
2. unclear air
3. strips of wood or plastic to cover a window
4. list of names
5. I don’t know

57. SPLEEN: His **spleen** was damaged.

1. knee bone
2. organ found near the stomach
3. pipe taking wastewater from a house
4. respect for himself
5. I don’t know

58. REPTILE: She looked at the **reptile**.

1. old hand-written book
2. animal with cold blood and a hard outside
3. person who sells things by knocking on  doors
4. picture made by sticking many small  pieces of different colors together.
5. I don’t know

59. ALUM: This contains **alum.**

1. a poisonous substance from a common plant
2. a soft material made of artificial threads
3. a tobacco powder once put in the nose
4. a chemical compound usually involving  aluminium
5. I don’t know

60. STONE: He sat on a **stone.**

1. hard thing
2. kind of chair
3. soft thing on the floor
4. part of a tree
5. I don’t know

61. TALON: Just look at those **talons!**

1. high points of mountains
2. sharp hooks on the feet of a hunting bird
3. heavy metal coats to protect against weapons
4. people who make fools of themselves without realizing it
5. I don’t know

62. ROUBLE: He had a lot of **roubles.**

1. very precious red stones
2. distant members of his family
3. Russian money
4. moral or other difficulties in the mind
5. I don’t know

63. JOVIAL: He was very **jovial.**

1. low on the social scale
2. likely to criticize others
3. full of fun
4. friendly
5. I don’t know

64. COMMUNIQUE: I saw their **communiqué**

1. critical report about an organization
2. garden owned by many members of a community
3. printed material used for advertising
4. official announcement
5. I don’t know

65. POOR: We are **poor.**

1. have no money
2. feel happy
3. are very interested.
4. do not like to work hard
5. I don’t know

66. CANONICAL: These are canonical examples.

1. examples which break the usual rules
2. examples taken from a religious book
3. regular and widely accepted examples
4. examples discovered very recently
5. I don’t know

67. ATOP: He was **atop** the hill.

* 1. at the bottom of
	2. at the top of
	3. on this side of
	4. on the far side of
	5. I don’t know

68. MARSUPIAL: It is a **marsupial.**

1. an animal with hard feet
2. a plant that grows for several years
3. a plant with flowers that turn to face  the sun
4. an animal with a pocket for babies
5. I don’t know

69. AUGUR: It **augured** well.

1. promised good things for the future
2. agreed well with what was expected
3. had a color that looked good with something else
4. rang with a clear, beautiful sound
5. I don’t know

70. DRAWER: The **drawer** was empty.

1. sliding box
2. place where cars are kept
3. cupboard to keep things cold
4. animal house
5. I don’t know