

# Development of a test of sentence comprehension for adult speakers of Danish as a second language

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The present article describes the development and validation of a new test of sentence comprehension for adult speakers of Danish as a second language. We constructed a multiple-choice picture-selection test to assess comprehension of orally presented sentences varying by structure as well as complexity. We administered the test to 365 participants in Danish courses and reading courses, including 264 adult speakers of Danish as a second language and 101 adult speakers of Danish as a first language. The results demonstrated the reliability and the validity of the new test of sentence comprehension. We analyzed the responses of the participants and found that the easiest and the most difficult test items for the second language learners were also among the easiest and most difficult items for the native speakers of Danish. Generally, the easier items included a short sentence, were relatively simple in structure and had the subject first. In comparison, the more difficult items were long, typically included complex subjects and did not have the subject first.

**KEYWORDS:** sentence comprehension; grammar; assessment; Danish as a second language