

**Developmental Sentence Scoring (DSS)**  
 Reprinted from Laura Lee (1974)

Score	Indefinite pronouns/ noun modifiers	Personal pronouns	Main verbs	Secondary verbs
1	it, is, that	1st & 2nd person: I, me, my, mine, you, your(s)	<b>A.</b> Uninflected verb: I see you <b>B.</b> Copula, is or 's: <i>It's red</i> <b>C.</b> is + verb + ing: He is <i>coming</i>	
2		Reflexives: myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, themselves		Five early developing infinitives: I <i>wanna see</i> . (Want to see) I'm <i>gonna see</i> . (Going to see) I <i>gotta see</i> . (Got to see) <i>Lemme</i> [to] see. (Let me [to] see) <i>Let's</i> [to] play. (Let [us to] play)
3		<b>A.</b> Wh-pronouns: who, which, whose, whom, what, that, how many, how much <b>B.</b> Wh-word+infinitives: I know <i>what</i> to do. I know <i>who(m)</i> to take.	<b>A.</b> could, would, should, might + verb: <i>might come, could be</i> <b>B.</b> Obligatory does, did + verb <b>C.</b> Emphatic does, did + verb	
4	nothing, nobody, none, no one		<b>A.</b> can, will, may + verb: <i>may go</i> <b>B.</b> Obligatory do + verb: <i>don't go</i> <b>C.</b> Emphatic do + verb: <i>I do see</i>	Participle, present or past: I see a boy <i>running</i> I found the toy <i>broken</i>
5		Reflexives: myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, themselves		<b>A.</b> Early infinitival complements with differing subjects in kernels: I want you <i>to come</i> , Let him <i>[to] see</i> . <b>B.</b> Later infinitival complements: I had <i>to go</i> , I told him <i>to go</i> , I tried <i>to go</i> , He ought <i>to go</i> . <b>C.</b> Obligatory deletions: Make it <i>[to] go</i> . <b>D.</b> Infinitive with wh-word: I know what <i>to get</i> , I know how <i>to do it</i> .
6		<b>A.</b> Wh-pronouns: who, which, whose, whom, what, that, how many, how much <b>B.</b> Wh-word + infinitives: I know <i>what</i> to do. I know <i>who(m)</i> to take.	<b>A.</b> could, would, should, might + verb: <i>might come, could be</i> <b>B.</b> Obligatory does, did + verb <b>C.</b> Emphatic does, did + verb	

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7	<p><b>A.</b> any, anything, anybody, anyone</p> <p><b>B.</b> every, everything, everybody, everyone</p> <p><b>C.</b> both, few, many, each, several, most, least, much, next, first, last, second (etc.)</p>	<p>(his) own, one, oneself, whichever, whoever, whatever: Take <i>whatever</i> you like.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Passive with <i>get</i>, any tense</p> <p>Passive with <i>be</i>, any tense</p> <p><b>B.</b> must, shall + verb: <i>must come</i></p> <p><b>C.</b> have + verb + en: <i>I've eaten.</i></p> <p><b>D.</b> have got: I've got</p>	<p>Passive infinitival complement:</p> <p>With <i>get</i>: I have to <i>get dressed</i>. I don't want to <i>get hurt</i>.</p> <p>With <i>be</i>: I want to <i>be pulled</i>, It's going to <i>be locked</i>.</p>
8			<p><b>A.</b> have/had been + verb + ing</p> <p><b>B.</b> modal + have + verb + en: <i>may have eaten</i></p> <p><b>C.</b> modal + be + verb + ing: <i>could be playing</i></p> <p><b>D.</b> Other auxiliary combinations: <i>should have been sleeping</i></p>	<p>Gerund: <i>Swinging</i> is fun. I like <i>fishing</i>. He's staring <i>laughing</i>.</p>

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Score	Negatives	Conjunctions	Interrogative Reversals	Wh-questions
1	it, this, that + copula or auxiliary is, 's, + not: It's <i>not</i> mine., This is <i>not</i> a dog., That is <i>not</i> moving.		Reversal of copula: <i>Isn't it red?</i> <i>Were they there?</i>	Participle, present or past: I see a boy <i>running</i> I found the toy <i>broken</i>
2				<b>A.</b> who, what, what + noun: <i>Who</i> am I? <i>What</i> is he eating? <i>What</i> book are you reading? <b>B.</b> where, how many, how much, what...do, what...for: <i>Where</i> did to go? <i>How much</i> do you want? <i>What</i> is he doing? <i>What</i> is a hammer for?
3		and		
4	can't, don't		Reversal of auxiliary be: <i>Is he coming? Isn't he coming? Was he going?</i>	Participle, present or past: I see a boy <i>running</i> I found the toy <i>broken</i>
5	isn't, won't	<b>A.</b> but <b>B.</b> so, and so, so that <b>C.</b> or, if		When, how, how + adjective: <i>When</i> shall I come? How do you do it? <i>How big</i> is it?
6		because	<b>A.</b> Obligatory do, does, did: <i>Do they run? Does it bite? Didn't it hurt?</i> <b>B.</b> Reversal of modal: <i>Can you play? Won't it hurt? Shall I sit down?</i> <b>C.</b> Tag question: It's fun <i>isn't it?</i> It isn't fun, <i>is it?</i>	
7	All other negatives: <b>A.</b> Uncontracted negatives: I can <i>not</i> go. He has <i>not</i> gone. <b>B.</b> Pronoun-auxiliary or pronoun-copula contraction: I'm <i>not</i> coming. He's <i>not</i> here. <b>C.</b> Auxiliary-negative or copula-negative contraction: He <i>wasn't</i> going, He <i>hasn't</i> been seen, It <i>couldn't</i> be mine, They <i>aren't</i> big.			Why, what if, how come, how about + gerund: <i>Why</i> are you crying? <i>What if</i> I won't do it? <i>How come</i> he is crying? <i>How about</i> coming with me?

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8		<p><b>A.</b> where, when, how, while, whether (or not), til, until, unless, since, before, after, for, as, as + adjective + as, as if, like, that, than: I know <i>where</i> you are, Don't come <i>til</i> I call.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Obligatory deletions: I run faster <i>than</i> you [run], I'm <i>as big as</i> a man [is big] It looks <i>like</i> a dog [looks].</p> <p><b>C.</b> Elliptical deletions(score 0): That's <i>why</i> [I took it] I know <i>how</i> [I can do it].</p> <p><b>D.</b> Wh-words + infinitive: I know <i>how</i> to do it. I know <i>where</i> to go.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Reversal of auxiliary have: <i>Has he seen you?</i></p> <p><b>B.</b> Reversal with two or three auxiliaries: <i>Has he been eating? Couldn't he have waited? Could he have been crying? Wouldn't he have been going?</i></p>	<p>Whose, which, which + noun: <i>Whose</i> car is that? <i>Which</i> book do you want?</p>
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