

# LiSN-S

## Listening in Spatialized Noise – Sentences Test

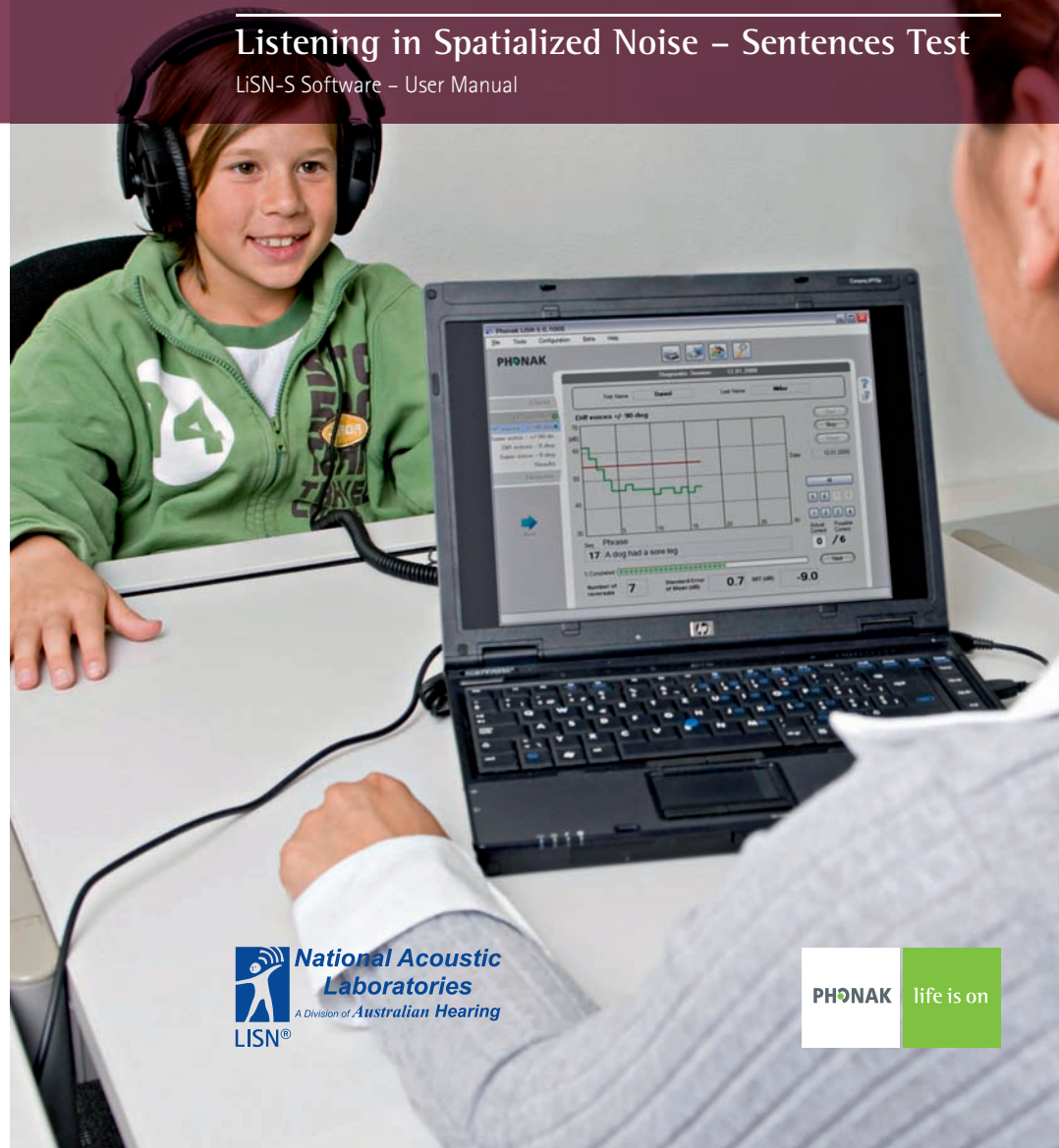
LiSN-S Software – User Manual

Developed by National Acoustic Laboratories  
Distributed by Phonak

Made in Switzerland

089-3006-02/V1.01/2009-5/visu1/Printed in Switzerland, © Phonak AG, all rights reserved

[www.LiSN-S.com](http://www.LiSN-S.com)  
[www.phonak.com](http://www.phonak.com)



**National Acoustic  
Laboratories**  
A Division of *Australian Hearing*  
LISN®

**PHONAK** life is on

---

## Content

1	Welcome	6	9	How to administer the LiSN-S test	17
2	Legal hint	6	▪ Select the "Test language"	17	
3	The LiSN-S package	7	▪ Add client and tester information	18	
4	Important information	8	▪ Test condition	19	
4.1	LiSN-S headphones	8	▪ Target sentence	19	
4.2	Phonak soundcard	8	▪ Entering the child's score	19	
5	System requirements	8	▪ Next target sentence	19	
6	Installation	9	▪ Stopping the test	20	
6.1	Installing the LiSN-S equipment	9	▪ Selecting the "Stop" button when the score 0 is marked	20	
6.2	Software installation	10	▪ Final SRT	20	
6.3	Calibration information	12	▪ Completion of the condition	20	
7	LiSN-S configuration	12	▪ Completion of the LiSN-S test	21	
8	Toolbar menus and icons	13	▪ Test results	21	
8.1	"File" menu	13	10	Client data	21
8.2	"Configuration" menu	14	▪ Data protection	21	
8.3	"Extra" menu	15	▪ Look for a client	21	
8.4	"Help" menu	16	▪ Search client	22	
8.5	Icons	17	▪ Clear search	22	
			11	Client list	22
			▪ Entering client data	22	
			▪ Mandatory fields	22	
			▪ Date of birth	23	
			▪ Renaming a text field	23	
			▪ "Notes" field	23	
			▪ Accessing client information after a session	24	
			▪ Deleting data	24	
			▪ Continuing the test	24	

---

## Content

<b>12</b>	<b>Client session</b> _____	25		
	▪ Add tester _____	25		
	▪ Session date _____	25		
<b>13</b>	<b>LiSN-S test results</b> _____	26		
<b>14</b>	<b>Diagnostic</b> _____	27		
14.1	Diagnostic screen – graphic _____	27		
14.2	Results explanations _____	28		
<b>15</b>	<b>Reports</b> _____	29		
<b>16</b>	<b>Background information</b> _____	31		
16.1	Environment required for administering LiSN-S _____	31		
16.2	Administering LiSN-S _____	31		
16.3	The Listening In Spatialized Noise – Sentences Test _____	31		
16.4	Sentences – Correct sentences/words and correct responses _____	33		
16.4.1	Scoring _____	33		
16.5	The LiSN-S test conditions _____	33		
16.5.1	Condition 1: Different Voices $\pm 90^\circ$ _____	33		
16.5.2	Condition 2: Same Voice $\pm 90^\circ$ _____	34		
16.5.3	Condition 3: Different Voices $0^\circ$ _____	34		
16.5.4	Condition 4: Same Voice $0^\circ$ _____	35		
16.6	LiSN-S Advantage Measures _____	35		
16.7	Normative data _____	36		
16.8	Test – Retest reliability and critical differences scores _____	36		
16.9	Practicing the LiSN-S test _____	38		
16.10	Instructions to child _____	38		
16.11	LiSN-S test summary _____	39		
	▪ Presentation Order _____	39		
	▪ Presentation Levels _____	39		
	▪ Child's task _____	39		
	▪ Warning tone _____	39		
	▪ SNR _____	40		
	▪ SNR adjustment _____	40		
	▪ Level adjustment in dB _____	40		
	▪ Number of sentences presented _____	40		
	▪ Final SRT _____	40		
16.12	Cut-off scores _____	40		
16.13	List of references _____	41		
<b>17</b>	<b>Internet software updates</b> _____	41		
<b>18</b>	<b>Service and warranty</b> _____	42		
<b>19</b>	<b>List of Phonak LiSN-S partners</b> _____	43		

---

## 1. Welcome

The Listening in Spatialized Noise – Sentences Test, or LiSN-S, assesses the ability of children to understand speech when there is noise coming from different directions.

Understanding speech in competing noise is a problem commonly experienced by children with auditory processing disorder (APD). LiSN-S uses a totally new and ingenious way of testing these children's auditory skills.

LiSN-S will support you in your clinical decisions and help you determine whether a child's listening skills have improved after some form of intervention.

LiSN-S was developed by Dr. Sharon Cameron, a research scientist at National Acoustics Laboratories (NAL) in Australia, along with Dr. Harvey Dillon, NAL's director. Both are highly respected in the international scientific community for their innovative and outstanding contributions. The test's inventor, Dr. Sharon Cameron, has applied the highest standards of scientific rigor in designing and validating LiSN-S. It is a model for how tests in this area should be developed.

Phonak, the exclusive worldwide distributor of LiSN-S, is proud and privileged to be associated with NAL.

Further resources:

To find out more about LiSN-S, visit our website [www.LiSN-S.com](http://www.LiSN-S.com)

The following symbol appears in this user guide:



**Important note for all users.**

---

## 2. Legal hint

Use this software only after reading and accepting the Licence Agreement.

The system requirements and LiSN-S test specifications need to be strictly followed.

Before starting LiSN-S, read the Licence Agreement to make sure you are permitted to run the LiSN-S test software.



LiSN-S software is protected and can only be administered with the LiSN-S specific Phonak soundcard installed.

**Any unauthorized installation of software and/or soundcard and/or calibration of the USB soundcard and/or headphones, which could damage your computer/system or cause you hearing problems are prohibited. Phonak declines any responsibility for any consequences.**

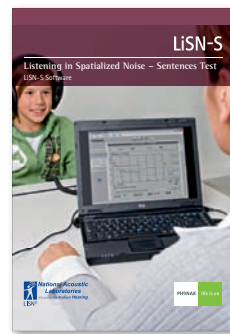
---

## 3. The LiSN-S package

LiSN-S is a combined hardware and software package.

It comprises:

- LiSN-S PC software program
- High-quality headphones
- Phonak soundcard



The package also includes the "Document of warranty", which should be validated by your LiSN-S sales contact.

LiSN-S features automatic internet updates. The user is notified when new updates are available and these can be then downloaded free of charge. These upgrades comprise new features such as new language support, new norms, new reports or extended database functionalities.



**See chapter 17 "Internet software updates".**

## 4. Important information

### 4.1 LiSN-S headphones

LiSN-S uses Sennheiser HD 215 headphones. For further information about these headphones, please visit [www.sennheiser.com](http://www.sennheiser.com)



**No other headphones can be used with the LiSN-S software without invalidating the results of the test.**

### 4.2 Phonak soundcard

Connect the Phonak soundcard to your computer.

The LiSN-S software will not run unless the Phonak soundcard is connected to the computer via USB.

The output of the Phonak soundcard – in dB SPL – is automatically set to the correct level by the LiSN-S software.



**No other soundcard can be used with the LiSN-S software without invalidating the data and affecting the spatial qualities of the speech stimuli.**



**LiSN-S is protected and can only be run with the Phonak soundcard supplied. Protect this soundcard from theft, destruction and loss.**

## 5. System requirements

- Windows 2000 / XP / Vista
- Hard disk space: Minimum 20MB. Recommended 100MB
- CD ROM drive
- Minimum RAM: 64MB

## 6. Installation

### 6.1 Installing the LiSN-S equipment

You need a personal desktop computer or laptop that is capable of playing audio. An attached printer is recommended (for printing out the LiSN-S reports), as is Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.0 or higher (available for free from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)).



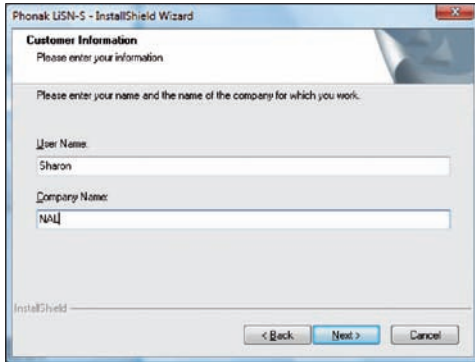
- Remove the LiSN-S hardware equipment from the packaging material.
- Make sure your Phonak soundcard is recognized by your PC.
- Connect the Phonak soundcard to your computer's free USB slot. Do not extract the soundcard until it has been recognized by Windows.
- Unscrew the large jack from the end of the Sennheiser headphone cable.
- Connect the Sennheiser HD215 headphones to the green headphone input socket of the Phonak USB soundcard.



**The software will not run unless the Phonak soundcard is connected to the computer. In case of soundcard recognition problem, make sure your Phonak soundcard is set as default soundcard. Go to Start ⇒ Configuration panel ⇒ Sound.**

## 6.2 Software installation

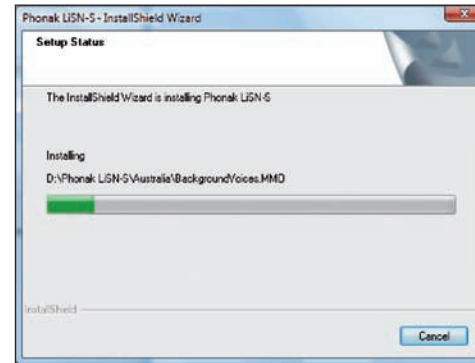
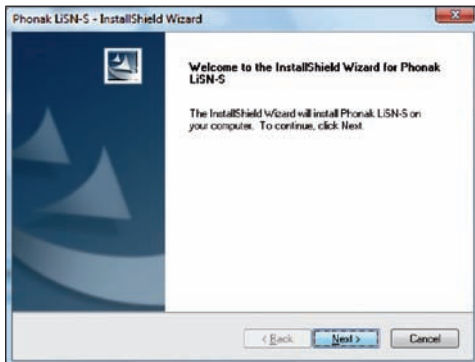
- Insert the LiSN-S CD-ROM in your PC's CD-ROM drive
- The CD-ROM will autoplay
- In case of no autoplay, go to My Computer, click the CD/DVD drive icon, then double-click on the LiSN-S.exe installation file
- Enter your User Name and Company Name



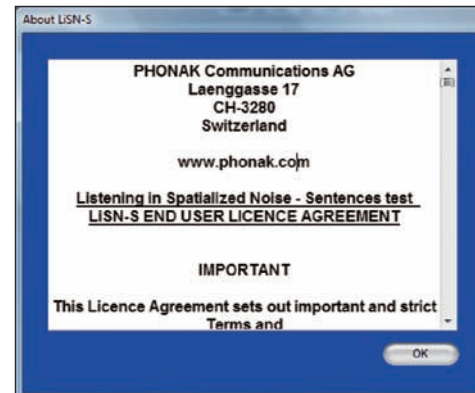
- Click Next and follow the on-screen prompts to complete the installation.



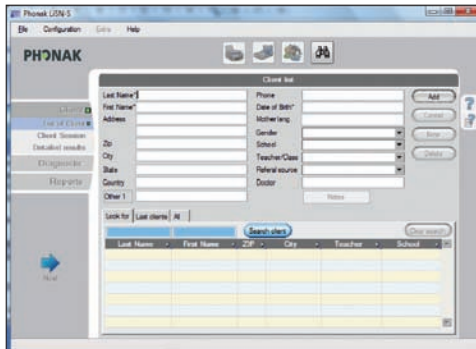
Copying of the LiSN-S files and software registration will only begin after you have read and accepted the LiSN-S licence agreement.



- Re-start the LiSN-S software via the desktop icon provided or the Start/Programs menu. Make sure your soundcard is inserted.
- Click Licence and scroll down to read the licence agreement
- If you agree press OK



- The LiSN-S program will now start.



### 6.3 Calibration information

The output of the Phonak USB soundcard and the headphones is automatically set to the correct dB SPL level by the LiSN-S software.

## 7. LiSN-S configuration

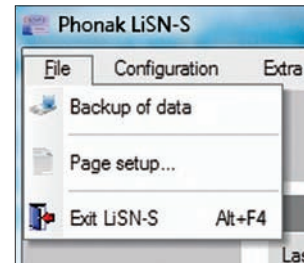
The LiSN-S software is configured into 3 main modules: Client, Diagnostic and Reports.

- Client module: this contains information about clients. The list of clients is protected. Client session results are included in this module.
- Diagnostic: This module is used to assess the four LiSN-S conditions, Different Voices  $\pm 90^\circ$ , Same Voice  $\pm 90^\circ$ , Different Voices  $0^\circ$ , Same Voice  $0^\circ$ . Section results and explanations are included.
- Reports: These are generated automatically. Reports can be viewed during a test or at the end of the test. Reports can be easily printed and e-mailed.

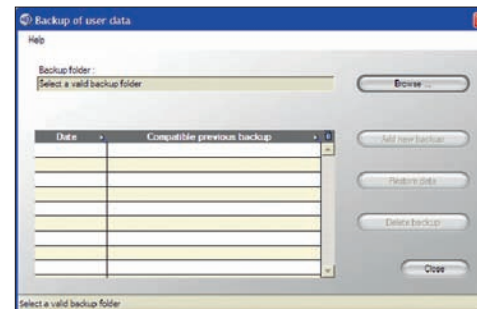
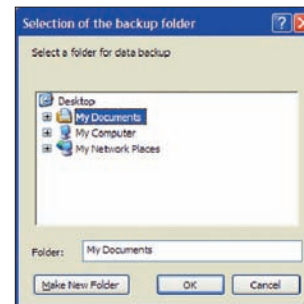
## 8. Toolbar menus and icons




### 8.1 "File" menu



- "Back-up of data": LiSN-S data can be saved to a second location on your computer.

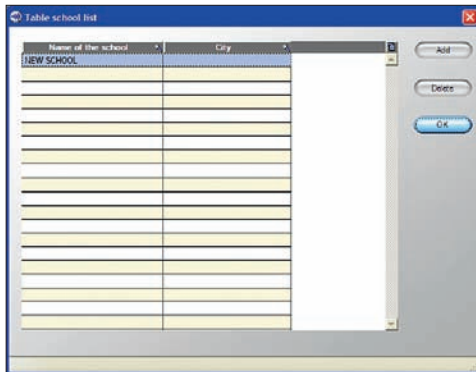
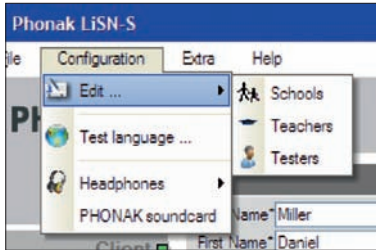


- "Page setup" is possible
- "Exit LiSN-S"


 The "Configuration" menu is activated as soon as you open a client in the "List of Clients".

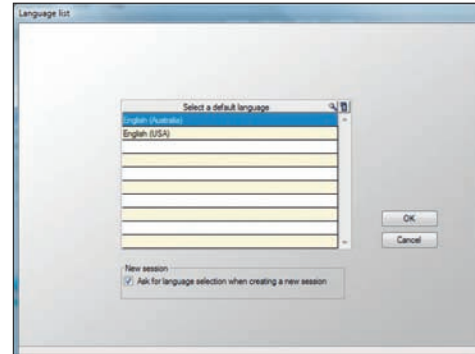
## 8.2 "Configuration" menu

- "Edit" button: Click "Edit" to configure your lists of schools, teachers and testers.



"Test language": Highlight the test language you require and confirm by pressing "OK".

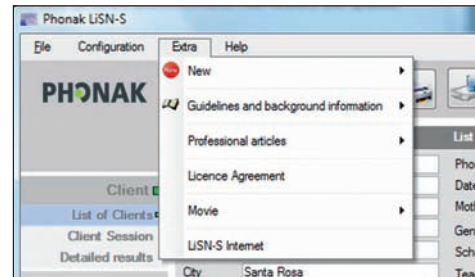
 You can choose or change the test language only at the beginning of a LiSN-S session.



Information regarding the headphones and Phonak soundcard is also listed under the Configuration menu.

## 8.3 "Extra" menu

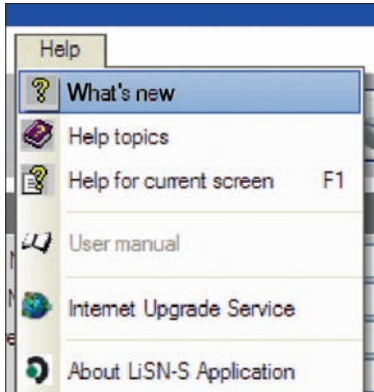
- "New" provides latest LiSN-S information such as announcements, new versions and updates, recent publications etc.
- "Guidelines and background information" provides insights into the research and development of LiSN-S



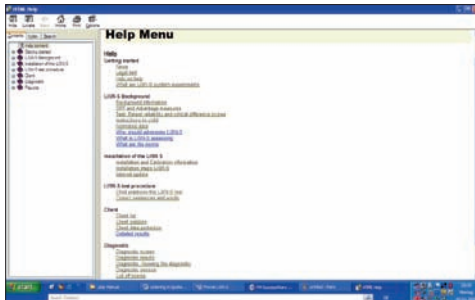


- "Professional articles" provides a list of LiSN-S-related publications
- "Licence Agreement" – provided in Adobe PDF format
- "Movie" – "LiSN-S in detail" – the concept
- "LiSN-S Internet": provides a direct link to [www.LiSN-S.com](http://www.LiSN-S.com).

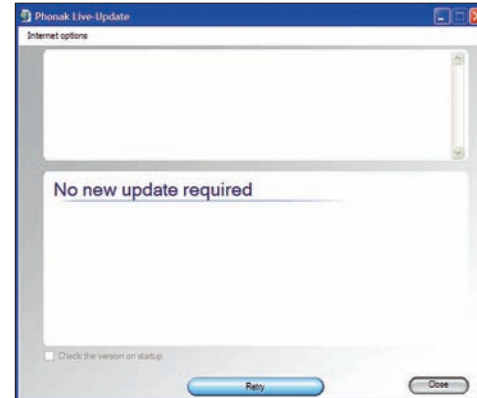
#### 8.4 "Help" menu



- "What's new": the latest helpful LiSN-S information
- "Help topics": find the answers you need by topic.



- "User Manual" – an electronic version of this User Manual in Adobe PDF format
- "Internet upgrade service": view internet update information.



- "LiSN-S application": provides general info about the LiSN-S test program.

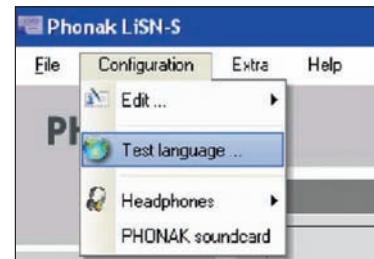
#### 8.5 Icons

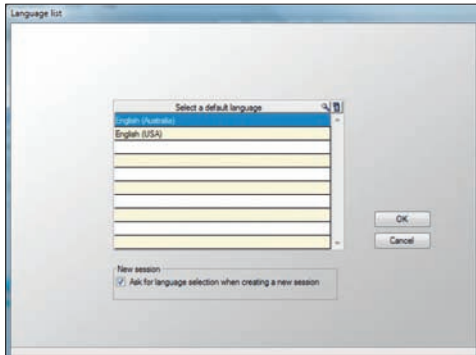


- Print, Back-up of user data, Edit the list of professionals, Search for a client

#### 9. How to administer the LiSN-S test

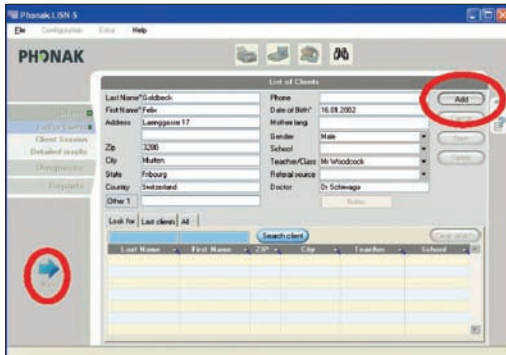
Select the "Test language": This needs to be done when first using LiSN-S and whenever a change of test language is required.



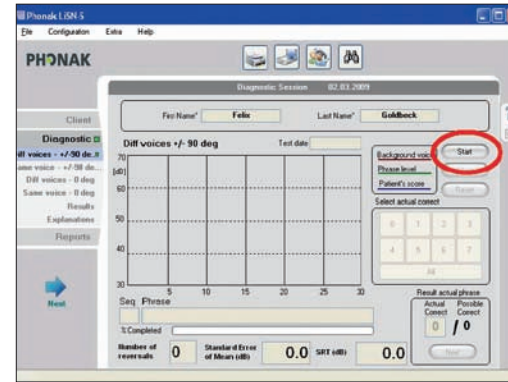


### Add client and tester information

Type the client's name and details, click "Add" and then "Next".




To add the tester, select "New", type in the tester's name, then select "OK" followed by "Next".

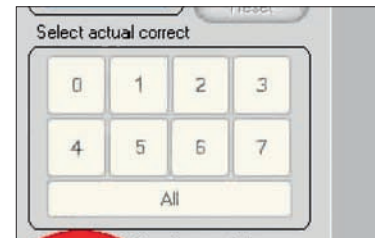


**Test condition:** Highlight the first LiSN-S condition. Then press the "Start" button on the very right-hand side. The competing speech will now commence.

**Target sentence:** Press the blue-colored "Next" sentence button to present the first test sentence.

When the target sentence is playing the  icon is shown. This icon disappears when the target sentence is finished.

**Entering the child's score:** Enter the number of words the child repeated correctly using the number button panel on the right of the screen. If the child repeated all the words correctly, click the large "All" button.



**Next target sentence:** After you have entered the child's score you can move to the next sentence by pressing the "Next" button on the right.

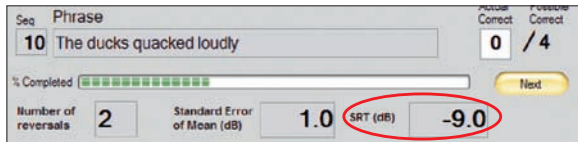
**Stopping the test:** If for any reason you need to stop the test, just press the **"Stop"** button on the right-hand side.



**Selecting the "Stop" button when the score 0 is marked:** If the score of 0 appears in the **"Actual Correct"** box, and the **"Stop"** button is selected, a pop-up window opens. You are asked if you want to save this value and stop the test.

If you press **"Yes"**, the pop-up window closes and you can either choose to continue **"Continue"** or reset **"Reset"** the test. Both buttons are on the right-hand side.

**"Final SRT":** The patient's final SRT (Speech Reception Threshold) in any condition is calculated as the average SRT over the scored sentences and is displayed in the SRT dB box.



**Completion of the condition:** The condition is completed after its final sentence has been scored. A pop-up window opens signalling the completion of the test in the specific condition e.g. "Different Voices  $\pm 90^\circ$ ". Press **"OK"** in the pop-up window to continue with the next LiSN-S condition.

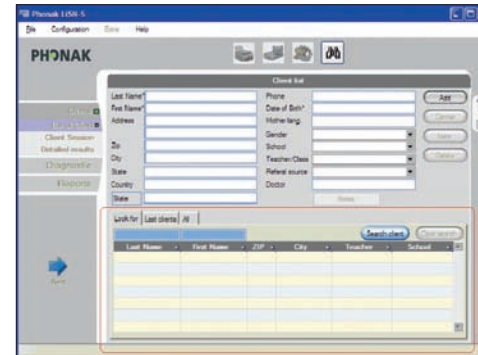


**Completion of the LiSN-S test:** The patient must be assessed in all four LiSN-S conditions, presented in the following order: Different Voices  $\pm 90^\circ$ , Same Voice  $\pm 90^\circ$ , Different Voices  $0^\circ$ , Same Voice  $0^\circ$ .

**Test results:** The results are automatically recorded in the **"Client Session"**.

## 10. Client data

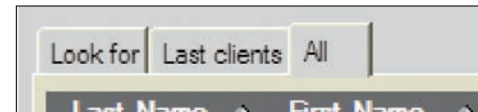
**Data protection:** Client data information in the **"Client List"** is stored in the client database. See the lower section of the **"Client"** screen outlined in red below.



The tabs and buttons associated with this client database list are described below:

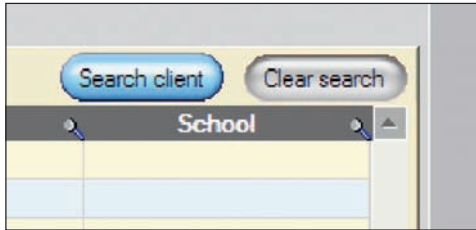
**"Look for"** – Enter client details, either first or last name, to pull up a particular client's records.

**"All"** – The full client list can be viewed via the **"All"** tab.



"Search client" – when clicked this button displays client search results in alphabetical order.

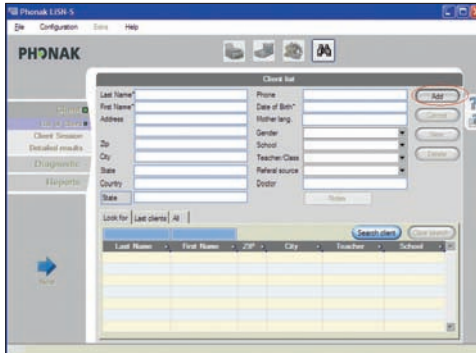
"Clear search" clears the client search entry in the client database. A search can also be performed by typing a client's **First or Last name** into the blue marked textbox.



## 11. Client list

### Entering client data

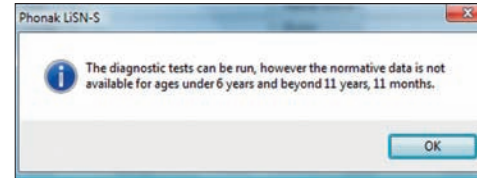
To add a new client, press the **"New"** button on the right-side of the frame. Enter the client's information in the text fields provided and press the **"Add"** button. If required, you can click **"Cancel"** to restart.



**Mandatory fields:** The text fields **"Last Name"**, **"First Name"** and **"Date of Birth"** are marked with an asterisk and therefore mandatory. In order to continue with LiSN-S you must fill in these mandatory fields.



**Date of birth:** If a client is aged under 6 years, 0 months or above 11 years, 11 months, a pop-up window opens that reads: "The diagnostic tests can be run, however the normative data is not available for ages under 6 years, 0 month and over 11 years, 11 months."



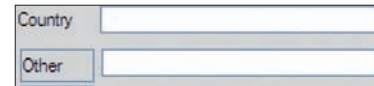
To continue, click **"OK"**.

The information entered will be added to the client list below.

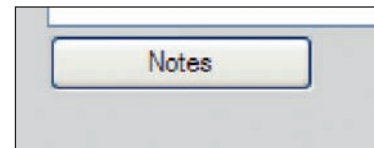


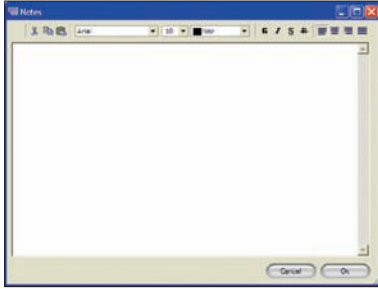
Through upgrades of LiSN-S new norms for other ages may become available.

**Renaming a text field:** The field **"Other"** can be renamed.



**"Notes" field:** Further information regarding the client, such as therapy or diagnosis notes, can be added in the **"Notes"** box.



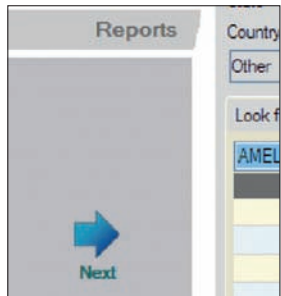


**Accessing client information after a session has been completed:** The test results of previous clients can be easily accessed. The client list can be either scrolled or searched using the "binocular" icons at the top of each client data column.

Click on the desired client name and continue adding or changing information as required.

Gender	Male	New
School	Cressler, Bern	Delete
Teacher/Class		
Referral source	physician	

**Deleting data:** Old client data can be deleted by pressing the "Delete" button on the right-hand side of the screen.



**Continuing the test:** When finished with the "Client List", continue by pressing the "Next" arrow at the bottom left of the screen.

**!** In order to create a full client record we recommend that you fill in all the text fields in the "Client List".

## 12. Client session

**Add tester:** Press the "New" button on the right-hand side of the screen, opposite the text fields. Write the tester's name into the "Tester" field and validate by pressing the "OK" button (on the right-hand side of the screen). The tester's name and date will be entered into the list below.

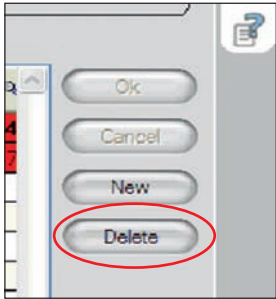
Tester	Chamber, V	Date	12.01.2009	Language		Ok	Cancel	New
Date	Chamber, V	LC SNR Client	LC Var std dev	HC SNR Client	HC Var std dev	Talk Adv Client	Talk Var std dev	
	Hamilton, K							

Tester	Chamber, V	Date	12.01.2009	Language	English (USA)	Ok	Cancel	New	Delete
Date	Tester	LC SNR Client	LC Var std dev	HC SNR Client	HC Var std dev	Talk Adv Client	Talk Var std dev		
12.01.2009	Chamber	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		

**Session date:** The session date is automatically entered into the "Date" text field. You must validate the text by pressing OK.

Tester	Chamber, V	Date	12.01.2009	Language		Ok	Cancel	New
Date	Chamber, V	LC SNR Client	LC Var std dev	HC SNR Client	HC Var std dev	Talk Adv Client	Talk Var std dev	
	Hamilton, K							

▪ The "Delete" button erases the current record.

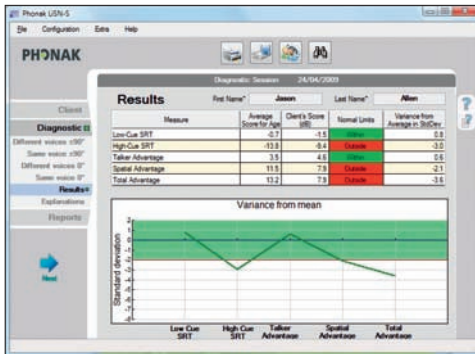


- After deleting the record, you must restart the diagnostic procedure in all four conditions.

### 13. LiSN-S test results

**Results:** After the completion of the test in each of all four conditions – Different Voices  $\pm 90^\circ$ , Same Voice  $\pm 90^\circ$ , Different Voices  $0^\circ$ , Same Voice  $0^\circ$  – the client's results are recorded.

The client's results are automatically recorded in the "Client Session".



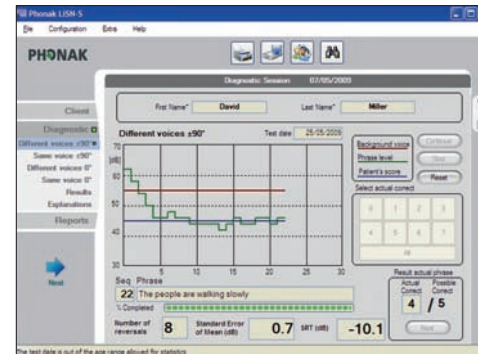
The results can also be accessed in the "Reports" section in the left-hand menu.



### 14. Diagnostic

#### 14.1 Diagnostic screen – graphic

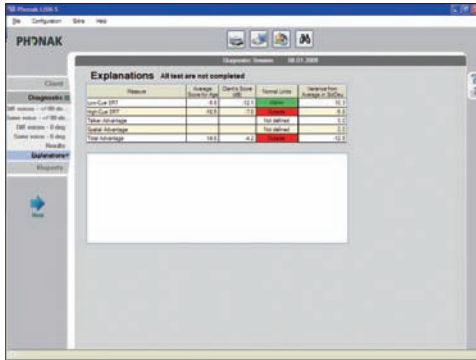
The diagnostic screen shows the history of the target level as the range of correct responses from greater than 50 percent correct to less than 50 percent correct is repeatedly traversed.



The red line indicates the background voice (level of the distracters). The green line indicates the level of the target sentences, as it changes adaptively over the course of the test condition.

The blue line indicates the patient's average speech reception threshold (SRT).

## 14.2 Result explanations



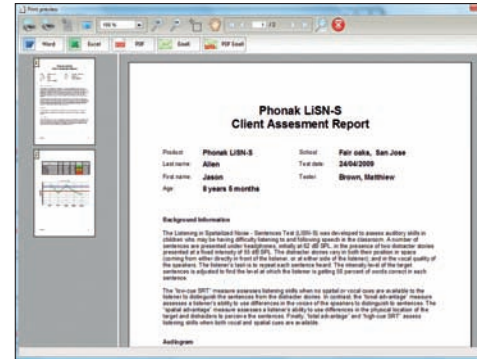
If the test has not been completed in all four conditions the results are invalid and the tester is notified.

When the test is complete, recommendations are given in the text field below the table. Example recommendations include:

- "The client was outside normal limits on the high-cue SRT, spatial advantage and total advantage measures of the LiSN-S. These results are suggestive of a spatial stream segregation disorder."
- "The client was within normal limits on all measures, consistent with normal spatial stream segregation".

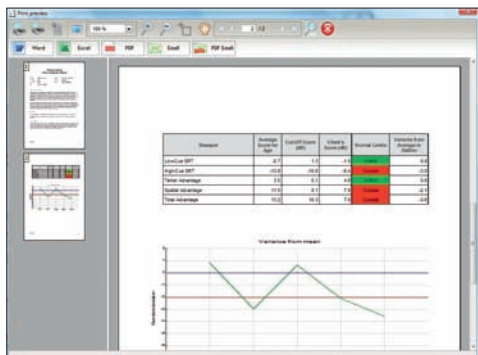
## 15. Reports

Client reports are generated automatically by the LiSN-S software.



The software indicates clearly, for all five measures, whether a child is within or outside normal limits.

Client reports can be viewed mid-way through the testing process. However, only the performance measures that can be calculated from the conditions completed will be tabulated in the "Client's score" table and "variable standard deviation" columns of the report, and displayed on the graph.



The horizontal line on the graph shows the various LiSN-S SRT and advantage measures. The vertical axis indicates the variation from the mean normative data score in standard deviations. The blue line on the graph represents the mean normative data scores for a child of the same age as the client (that is, zero standard deviations from the mean). The green line represents the client's results in standard deviations from the mean normative data score. The red line represents the cut-off score below which performance on the various LiSN-S SRT and advantage measures is considered outside normal limits.

These results are tabulated above the graph, along with details of whether the client is within or outside the normal limits for a particular measure. In the table a green field is considered a Pass and a red field a Fail.

Client reports can be previewed, printed and e-mailed from this menu.

Clicking **"Report preview"** opens an Adobe PDF file, which provides the following information:



- General LiSN-S background
- Client test results
- Suggestions for further steps
- Further client information can be imported from other client files (such as Word/Excel documents).

## 16. Background information

### 16.1 Environment required for administering LiSN-S

A sound-treated room is required, as all the LiSN-S norms were gathered in such sound-treated rooms.

### 16.2 Administering LiSN-S

The LiSN-S test should be administered by audiologists, or suitably qualified professionals, in a sound-treated environment.

The licence warrants that you, and any Person that you permit to use the Software, are suitably qualified or are legally entitled to give the test and are competent to use the Software.

### 16.3 The Listening In Spatialized Noise – Sentences Test (LISN®)

The Listening in Spatialized Noise – Sentences Test, or LiSN-S, was developed to assess auditory stream segregation skills in children with suspected auditory processing disorder (APD). Auditory stream segregation is the process by which a listener is able to differentiate the various auditory signals which arrive simultaneously at the ears and form meaningful representations of the incoming acoustic signals. Auditory cues such as the location of the sounds, or the pitch of the speakers' voices, help this process of segregating the total stream of sound.

LiSN-S is presented over headphones using a PC. A three-dimensional auditory environment is created by pre-synthesizing speech stimuli with head-related transfer functions (HRTFs). This offers an alternative to free-field testing, which is limited by factors such as listener head movement (which can affect the sound at the eardrum by several dB), as well as replication of loudspeaker and listener placement between clinics, and the effects of reverberation between clinics. Output levels are directly controlled by the software using an external Phonak soundcard.

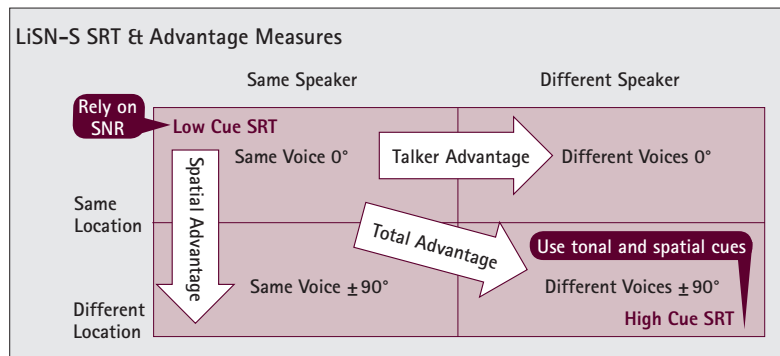
A simple repetition-response protocol is utilized to determine a listener's speech reception threshold (SRT) for sentences presented in competing speech (looped children's stories). The target sentences are perceived as coming from directly in front of the listener (0° azimuth) whereas the maskers, relative to the targets, vary according to their perceived spatial location (0° vs. + and -90° azimuth), the vocal identity of the speaker/s of the stories (same as, or different to, the speaker of the target sentences), or both.



The competing speech is presented at a constant level of 55 dB SPL. The target sentences are initially presented at a level of 62 dB SPL. The signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) is adjusted adaptively in each condition by varying the target level to determine each participant's speech reception threshold (SRT).

Up to 30 sentences are presented in each of four conditions of distracter location and voice: different voices at  $\pm 90^\circ$  (DV  $\pm 90^\circ$ ), same voice at  $\pm 90^\circ$  (SV  $\pm 90^\circ$ ), different voices at  $0^\circ$  (DVO $^\circ$ ) and same voice at  $0^\circ$  (SVO $^\circ$ ), resulting in a maximum of 120 sentences presented. The first few sentences played (a minimum of 5) are considered practice sentences. This practice testing continues until one upward reversal in performance is recorded (i.e. the sentence score drops below 50 percent of words correct). Practice sentence scores do not form part of a child's final SRT scores. Testing stops in a particular condition when the listener has either (a) completed the entire 30 sentences in any one condition; or (b) completed the practice sentences plus a minimum of a further 17 scored sentences, and their standard error, calculated automatically in real time over the scored sentences, is less than 1 dB.

A listener's performance is measured as two speech reception threshold (SRT) and three "advantage" measures. The advantage measures represent the benefit in dB gained when either different talkers, spatial cues, or both talker and spatial cues combined, are incorporated in the maskers. The use of difference scores to measure performance in the LiSN-S test minimizes the influence of higher-order language, learning and communication functions on test performance. For example, as such skills affect both the SRT when the distracters are presented at  $0^\circ$ , and the SRT when they are spatially separated at  $\pm 90^\circ$ , these skills will have minimal effect on the difference between the SRTs in these two conditions. Thus, the differences that inevitably exist between individuals in such functions can be accounted for, allowing for clearer evaluation of their abilities to use spatial and voice cues to aid speech understanding.



LiSN-S studies have shown that there is a trend of decreasing SRT and increasing advantage, as age increases. No significant differences were found on any performance measure as a consequence of data collection site or gender. Inter- and intra- participant variation is minimal. Test-retest differences are not significant on any measure. Full details of the LiSN-S test's development, sentence equivalence studies, normative data studies and test-retest reliability studies can be found in the "Professional Articles" section in the "Extra" menu.

#### 16.4 Sentences – Correct sentences/words and correct responses

The child's task is to repeat as many words as possible heard in each target sentence.

A word is considered correct if it is repeated exactly as it appears on the playback screen. If the child includes an extra word, there is no penalty. If the child substitutes a word, leaves a word or words out, or inserts morphemes, such as plural or past tense markers, the number of correct words is adjusted. For example, for the sentence "The dog ate the bone":

- The dog ate the bone = 5 words correct
- The **(big)** dog ate the bone = 5 words correct
- The dog ate = 3 words correct
- The dog at the **phone** = 4 words correct
- A** dog ate the bone = 4 words correct
- The dog ate the bones = 4 words correct

##### 16.4.1 Scoring:

- If the child correctly identifies more than 50 percent of words in the sentence, the amplitude of the next sentence is reduced.
- If the child correctly identifies less than 50 percent of the words, the amplitude of the next sentence is increased.
- The signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) is not adjusted if a response of exactly 50 percent correct is recorded.

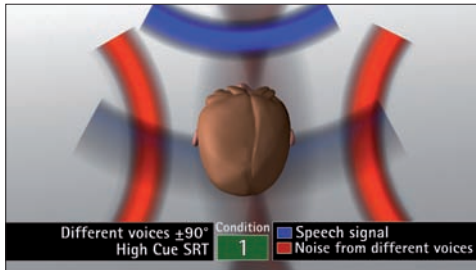
#### 16.5 The LiSN-S test conditions

LiSN-S assesses a child's auditory processing in four different conditions. In all four conditions the target speech comes directly from the front. The listener's score is automatically calculated by the software and represents his or her speech reception threshold in dB.

##### 16.5.1 Condition 1: Different Voices $\pm 90^\circ$ (high cue SRT)

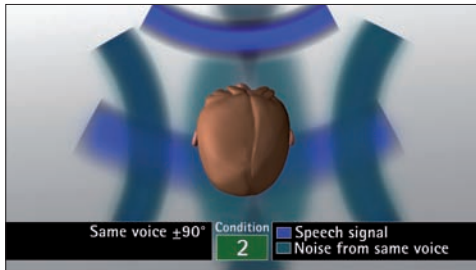
In the first condition, the competing speech is composed of different voices to that of the target speaker. The competing speech is also spatially-separated from the target sentences, appearing to come from the left and the right. This gives the child several aural cues to help him or her to filter out the background noise and identify the target speech.

The result of this condition is called the child's "high cue speech reception threshold", or "high cue SRT".



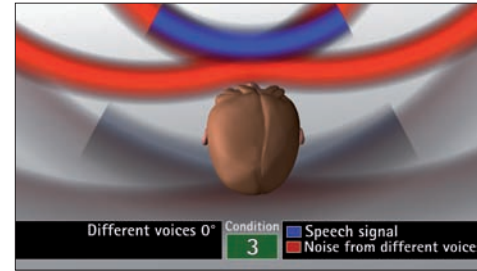
### 16.5.2 Condition 2: Same Voice ±90°

In condition two, the competing speech is composed of the same voice as the target speech, and again comes from the left and right.



### 16.5.3 Condition 3: Different Voices 0°

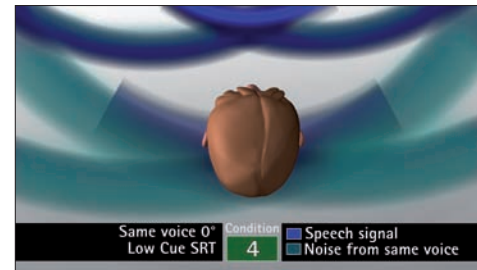
With condition three, the competing speech is composed of different voices than the target speech and comes from the front – the same direction as the target speech.



### 16.5.4 Condition 4: Same Voice 0° (Low cue SRT)

In condition four, the competing speech uses the same voice as the target speech and comes from in front of the child – the same direction as the target speech.

This fourth condition is the most difficult of the four as there are no spatial cues available and the target and competing speech is very similar. The result of this test is referred to as the child's low cue speech reception threshold or "low cue SRT".



## 16.6 LiSN-S Advantage Measures

Moving distracting voices from the front to the sides allows a child to make use of spatial cues. How much an individual child benefits from this movement is easily calculated, by measuring the difference in scores between conditions 2 and 4.

This "spatial advantage" is calculated automatically by LiSN-S and is a highly sensitive indicator of auditory processing disorder.

Children diagnosed with APD score very poorly in the spatial advantage measure.

To assess how well a child can differentiate between different speaker voices and so understand speech in noise, LiSN-S also calculates the difference between a child's scores for conditions 3 and 4. The resulting figure is known as the child's 'talker advantage'.

The difference between a child's scores in conditions 1 and 4 is referred to as his or her 'total advantage'. Like the high cue SRT, total advantage is a measure of how well a child uses the cues in the environment to filter the noise coming from different speakers and different directions.

As mentioned previously, by measuring performance as a 'difference' between the scores from two LiSN-S conditions, the influence of higher order language, learning and communication skills on test performance is minimized. This unique LiSN-S approach to measurement allows clearer evaluation of a child's ability to use spatial and voice cues.

LiSN-S automatically calculates whether a child has displayed a disordered performance on any of the SRT or advantage measures by comparing performance to normal-hearing controls.

### 16.7 Normative data

Normative data exists for North American English and for Australian English. North American English should be used in the United States and Canada; Australian English should be used in Australia and New Zealand. Norms are currently also being developed for the United Kingdom.

In North America, the normative data was collected from 72 normal-hearing children aged 6 years, 2 months to 11 years, 10 months (Cameron, Brown, Keith, Martin, Watson & Dillon, 2009). In Australia, the normative data was collected from 70 normal-hearing children aged 6 years, 0 months up to 11 years, 11 months (Cameron and Dillon, 2007). Additional normative data for older children and adults will soon be available.



**The results of the LiSN-S test are invalid for children outside the age range stipulated in the software.**

### 16.8 Test-Retest reliability and critical difference scores

Retest reliability data was obtained for LiSN-S. Re-testing was carried out between 2 months and 3 months after initial testing. Differences in mean SRT/advantage score between the initial test and retest were small across performance measures. Test-retest differences did not vary significantly with age. Full details can be found in Cameron & Dillon (2007b) and Cameron, Brown, Keith, Martin, Watson & Dillon (2009).

The test-retest data was utilized to develop one-sided critical difference scores. These scores are needed to infer that there has been a genuine improvement in auditory performance on retest, taking into account mean practice effects and day-to-day fluctuations in performance. As such, the critical difference scores can be used to determine whether a child's LiSN-S performance has genuinely improved following a period of remediation or compensation with an assistive listening device. The critical difference scores for each LiSN-S SRT and advantage measures for the Australian and North American version of the test are provided.

#### North American and Canadian Critical Difference Scores

Condition	Correction Factor (Mean Test- Retest Difference)	SD of the Mean Test-Retest Difference	1.64 × SD	Critical Difference (Including Correction)
	dB	dB	dB	dB
Low Cue SRT	-0.52	1.74	2.85	-3.4
High Cue SRT	-0.59	1.96	3.21	-3.8
Talker Advantage	0.19	2.27	3.72	3.9
Spatial Advantage	-0.07	1.98	3.25	3.2
Total Advantage	0.05	1.80	2.95	3.0

#### Australian Critical Difference Scores

Condition	Correction Factor (Mean Test- Retest Difference)	SD of the Mean Test-Retest Difference	1.64 × SD	Critical Difference (Including Correction)
	dB	dB	dB	dB
Low Cue SRT	-0.47	1.23	2.02	-2.5
High Cue SRT	-1.14	1.45	2.38	-3.5
Talker Advantage	0.86	2.13	3.49	4.4
Spatial Advantage	0.14	1.64	2.69	2.8
Total Advantage	0.67	1.70	2.79	3.5

### 16.9 Practicing the LiSN-S test

In each of the four LiSN-S test conditions, the first few sentences (a minimum of 5) are considered practice sentences. These practice sentences continue until one upward reversal in performance is recorded (i.e. the sentence score drops below 50 percent of words correct). Practice sentence scores do *not* contribute towards a child's final SRT scores.

Testing in a particular condition automatically ceases when the listener has either:

- completed the entire 30 sentences in any one condition; or
- completed the practice sentences plus a minimum of a further 17 scored sentences, and his or her standard error, calculated over the scored sentences, is less than 1 dB.



**While running the test, if you consider a child is losing concentration, gently prompt the child to "listen in front" (in the case of a condition where the distracters are spatially separated from the target) or "listen hard for the beep" if the stimuli are coming from the same direction.**

**If required, stop testing, reset (i.e. don't save the data), give the child a short break and try again.**

### 16.10 Instructions to child

The following explanation is recommended:

- You are going to hear some sentences over these headphones.
- The sentences are said by a lady called "Miss Smith".
- Even though you are wearing headphones, Miss Smith will sound as if she is standing just in front of you.
- There will be a "beep" before each sentence so you will know when it is about to start.
- Your job is to repeat back the sentences that Miss Smith says.
- I'll pretend to be Miss Smith, and I want you to repeat the sentence you hear.
- "The dog had a bone".
- Child repeats "The dog had a bone".*
- Good, that's easy isn't it? But there's a trick. At the same time as Miss Smith is telling you the sentence there are some very tricky people talking.
- Sometimes the tricky people sound like they are standing in front of you right next to Miss Smith, and sometimes they will sound like they are standing next to you.
- No matter where the tricky people are, **I don't want you to listen to them** (*stress this to the child*).
- Just listen for the "beep" and the sentence.
- Miss Smith always starts out louder than the tricky people, so you shouldn't have any trouble hearing her.
- But sometime the tricky people get loud.

- If you only hear a bit of the sentence I want you to tell me all the words that you hear, because I give you a mark for each word you get right (*stress this to the child*).
- So if you just heard "dog" and "bone", what would you say?
- Child repeats "dog" and "bone".*
- Great. If you don't hear Miss Smith at all, just shake your head and I'll go straight on to the next sentence.
- Once you've heard the sentence tell me what you've heard straight away so you don't forget it.
- In the first few sentences the tricky people will be standing right next to you.  
**Don't listen to them** (*stress this to the child*).
- Just concentrate on what Miss Smith is saying in front.
- The tricky people start first and then Miss Smith starts a few seconds later. Ready?
- Describe where the "tricky" people are before each listening condition.
  - "Same Voice  $\pm 90^\circ$ " Condition: "Now the tricky people will be next to you again, but their voices will be a bit different. Ignore them and just listen for Miss Smith."
  - "Different Voices  $0^\circ$ " Condition: "Now the tricky people will be next to Miss Smith. Just listen for the 'beep' and the sentence."
  - "Same Voice  $0^\circ$ " Condition: "Now the tricky people will be next Miss Smith, and their voices will be very similar to Miss Smith's voice. So you will have to listen very hard for the 'beep' and Miss Smith."

### 16.11 LiSN-S test summary

**Presentation Order:** A client is assessed on four LiSN-S conditions, which must be presented in the following order:

- Different Voices  $\pm 90^\circ$
- Same Voice  $\pm 90^\circ$
- Different Voices  $0^\circ$
- Same Voice  $0^\circ$

**Presentation Levels:** The competing speech is presented at a constant level of 55 dB SPL. The target sentences are *initially* presented at a level of 62 dB SPL – that is, a +7 dB signal-to-noise ratio (SNR).

**Child's task:** The child's task is to repeat as many words as possible after hearing each target sentence.

**Warning tone:** A 1000 Hz tone burst is presented before each sentence to alert the listener that a sentence will be presented. A silent gap of 0.5 sec separates the tone burst from the onset of the sentence. The tone burst is presented at a constant level of 55 dB SPL.

**SNR:** The SNR is adjusted adaptively in each condition to determine each participant's speech reception threshold (SRT). For LiSN-S, SRT can be defined as the SNR that yields 50 percent intelligibility.

**SNR adjustment:** If the child correctly identifies more than 50 percent of words in the sentence, the amplitude of the next sentence is reduced. If the child correctly identifies less than 50 percent of words, the amplitude of the next sentence is increased. The SNR is not adjusted if a response of exactly 50 percent correct is recorded.

**Level adjustment in dB:** The level of the target sentences is adjusted in 4 dB steps until the first upward reversal in performance is recorded, and in 2 dB steps thereafter.

**Number of sentences presented:** Up to 30 sentences are presented in each of the four LiSN-S conditions. Testing ceases automatically in a particular condition when the listener has either completed the entire 30 sentences in any one condition; or completed the practice sentences plus a minimum of a further 17 scored sentences, and his or her standard error, calculated over the scored sentences, is less than 1 dB. Thus, after 22 to 30 sentences the test finishes and the child's "speech reception threshold" (SRT) is calculated.

**Final SRT:** The listener's final SRT in any condition is calculated as the average SRT over the scored sentences, and is displayed in the **"SRT dB" box**.

### 16.12 Cut-off scores

LiSN-S cut-off scores represent the level below which a child is considered to have displayed disordered performance on a particular SRT or advantage measure compared to the normal-hearing controls.

The cut-off scores were calculated as 2 standard deviations (of the residuals) below the mean. As there was a trend of improved performance with age across LiSN-S measures, the cut-off scores are adjusted for age.

The cut-off scores are calculated automatically by the LiSN-S software following the completion of each LiSN-S condition.

### 16.13 List of references:

- Cameron, S., Brown, D., Keith, R., Martin, J., Watson, C., & Dillon, H. (2009). Development of the North American Listening in Spatialized Noise – Sentences Test (NA LISN-S): Sentence equivalence, normative data and test-retest reliability studies. *Journal of the American Academy of Audiology, 20(2)*, TBA.
- Cameron, S. & Dillon, H. (2008). The Listening in Spatialized Noise – Sentences Test: Comparison to prototype LISN test and results from children with either a suspected (central) auditory processing disorder or a confirmed language disorder. *Journal of the American Academy of Audiology, 19(5)*, 377–391.
- Cameron, S. & Dillon, H. (2007a). Development of the Listening in Spatialized Noise – Sentences Test (LISN-S). *Ear and Hearing, 28(2)*, 196–211.
- Cameron, S. & Dillon, H. (2007b). The Listening in Spatialized Noise – Sentences Test (LISN-S): Test-retest reliability study. *International Journal of Audiology, 46*, 145–153.

Detailed references are given in the guidelines, background information and articles listed in the software.

---

## 17. Internet software updates

Once you have purchased LiSN-S you are entitled to download further software updates directly from the internet.

The software checks to see whether internet updates are available on start-up.

This feature can be deactivated in the menu "Help/Internet Upgrade Service": just uncheck the "Check the version on start" option.

There are several reasons why communication with the update server might not be established. These include:

- There is no open internet connection. Open or activate your internet connection.
- Your proxy server is not correctly configured. In the internet update window, click on the "Internet Options" menu and enter the proxy name and port. Optionally, a user ID and password can be entered.
- There is a firewall blocking access to the internet: add the LiSN-S application to the firewall's list of exceptions.



**If you don't have internet access to update the software, please inform your LiSN-S sales contact accordingly.**

---

## 18. Service and warranty

Phonak provides a manufacturer's limited warranty for LiSN-S. Please ask your sales contact for full details of this warranty.

Problems with LiSN-S arising from improper handling, care and adjustments or improper use of material or unauthorized material, are not covered by the warranty.

### **Sennheiser headphones HD 215:**

You will receive an original Sennheiser "Document of Warranty", which needs to be validated by your point of sale. This entitles you to 2 years of warranty cover.

### **Phonak soundcard:**

The soundcard is your LiSN-S security. It has a unique serial number.

Your LiSN-S sales contact will note the serial number of your Phonak soundcard below. This will be required in the event of a warranty claim or repair.

Phonak soundcard serial number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of purchase: \_\_\_\_\_

LiSN-S serial number: \_\_\_\_\_



**Protect your Phonak soundcard from theft, destruction and loss. Legal and handling issues should follow our recommendations.**

---

## 19. List of Phonak LiSN-S partners:

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Australia      | ▪ Phonak Australasia Pty. Ltd. Baulkham Hills N.S.W. 2153 |
| Canada         | ▪ Phonak Canada Limited Mississauga, Ontario L5W0B3       |
| New Zealand    | ▪ Phonak New Zealand Ltd., Takapuna Auckland 9            |
| Singapore      | ▪ Phonak Hearing Systems Indomed Singapore Pte. (check)   |
| United Kingdom | ▪ Phonak UK Limited Warrington, Cheshire WA1 1PP          |
| USA            | ▪ Phonak LLC, Warrenville, IL 60555-3927                  |

### **Manufacturer:**

Phonak Communications AG  
Laenggasse 17  
CH-3280 Murten, Switzerland