Title	TELL
Publisher and Contact Information	Pearson Education (866-842-7428) learningasssessments@pearson.com 4040 Campbell Ave., Menlo Park CA 94025
Platform	Apple iPad, android tablets
Minimum System Requirements	iPad versions 8.0 or higher. Android tablets, versions 4.0 or higher.
Target Language	English
Target Audience	English Language Learners in grades K-12
Price	Free; however, there is a school package pricing
Year	2016

TELL is a software that is specifically designed to provide assessment for English language learners in grades K-12. *TELL* stands for Testing English Language Learning. It focuses on three goals that start with screening and identifying the students' English language proficiency level, diagnosing the learners' abilities in order to establish a baseline at the beginning of the diagnosis and then comparing the results with the end-of-year results to determine progress, and finally monitoring the learners' progress throughout the year. Most importantly, *TELL's* assessment standards align with World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA™) and English Language Development (ELD) standards of Arizona, California, and Texas, which makes it easier for teachers to integrate it in their instructional program. The price of the program is not available on their website; however, there is a free version that everyone can download from the App store.

TELL is a fun and engaging software especially for young learners who are addicted to playing on their iPads and tablets. It offers a safe learning environment for the learners and helps them learn the target language interactively. The need for such software comes from two important facts. Frist, the drastic increase in the number of English language learners poses a lot of challenges to the limited number of teachers who face difficulties to cover the needs for this growing population. Second, there is an urgent need in today's classrooms for incorporating the recent approaches in the field of instructional technology in order to reach the ideal progress in SLA since relying solely on the traditional teaching methods is not compatible with the 21-century' needs and expectations. Thus, *TELL* is an initial solution for next-generation learning assessments.

TELL is a flexible program which provides exciting learning activities followed by immediate reports. It can be used with individual learners or small to large groups. At the beginning, it provides an initial tech check to ensure that the microphone and audio are working properly. It also provides several tutorials on how to use and navigate the program. There are multiple activities and exercises for the learner. For example, one can watch a video and answer some related questions, interact with pictures and words, or answer some questions out loud. It offers the learners many opportunities to assess their four skills in which they can listen, speak,

read, and write through an interactive way. *TELL* uses innovative speech recognition technology, which makes scoring easier and automatic. Moreover, it provides many explanations for teachers and administrators on how to manage and administer the program in their school's system.

The scoring system is based on five proficiency levels (limited, basic, intermediate, high, & advanced). *TELL* provides scoring for a wide array of skills and subskills depending on the grade. For instance, *Grade K* can be scored on four foundational skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) in addition to four subskills including (vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and fluency.) *TELL's* reports are quick and available in minutes. They can be easily exported into Excel or uploaded into the information system of any student. Further, educators can filter the results by grade, group, class, gender, ethnicity, and number of years in ELL services. *TELL* has another practical feature in which it views the individual's test data as a graph which makes it easier for the teachers to monitor the students' progress over time. *TELL* also offers aggregate reports which illustrate a composite view of results for one or grouped assessment occasion based on the educators' selected criteria.

Furthermore, there are several training and professional development workshops offered by Pearson locally and internationally on how to implement *TELL* and use it effectively in the classroom. These workshops focus on different areas including program awareness and demonstration, overview about using *TELL* in district schools, and successful strategies to integrate the program into the school's ELD instruction. There are also on-demand tutorials that are available 24/7 for all administrators and teachers. Additionally, Pearson offers half-day webinar training which provides educators with a virtual introduction on how *TELL* can be administered and managed. These webinars are usually followed by one-hour consultation.

The website shares some successful stories of using *TELL* as a pilot digital assessment approach in Old Adobe Union School District, Petaluma, California. However, I did not find any reviews about the program in other websites or blogs. From my experience using the free version, I noticed some limitations. The program is compatible with certain versions either on iPads or tablets. I had difficulty downloading it on my tablet that has 4.0 version. I even had some trouble finding it on the android market. Thus, I had to search for it on Google. I actually had to borrow my friend's tablet to download the program. It would have been easier if *TELL* was programed to work on phones and computers as well. This restriction creates many limitations for using *TELL* either at home or at school. Also, its size was very big and that is why I had to delete some of the programs to compete the downloading process. I noticed that it takes time to open the questions. I could not assess the accuracy of the microphone recording since I only had access to the practice option that does not provide assessment reports. I could not take the actual test because it requires an access code and a test ID that have to be given by teachers.

Despite these limitations, I enjoyed practicing questions from three levels (K, 3-5, 9-12). I liked the organization of the program. It includes five levels (K,1-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12), and each level includes a variety of exercises that cover many skills. The learners' comprehension in reading, listening, and speaking is assessed through a variety of engaging and fun exercises. The questions assess several significant subskills as well such as paraphrasing and summarizing. However, I noticed that the writing skills were not truly assessed in this program. There is one question where the learner has to complete the sentence by writing one word. In my opinion, *TELL* does not provide sufficient practice on writing skills because all the questions focus on the listening, speaking, and reading skills.

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