

# Cue Variable Sort

With this task, multiple cues and/or irrelevant cues may be introduced.



## Materials

- 216 plastic chips in 6 colors, 3 shapes, and 2 sizes (36 types)
- 2 3-compartment bins (one shown)
- 1 single-compartment bin
- 1 12-compartment organizer (shown below)
- 1 red storage bin (not shown)



## Notes

- Sorting tasks are not timed so there are no norms.
- The only quality criteria is accuracy.
- There are no disassembly instructions.

## Setup

The standard tasks involve sorting by one cue:

- 2-item sort by size
- 3-item sort by shape
- 6-item sort by color

First select the sorting cue (shape, color, or size). Arrange the single-compartment bin and one 3-compartment bin (use 2 bins for a color sort) on the table. Model the sorting procedure by placing several chips in the appropriate bin compartments. Return the pieces to the bin, leaving one chip of the relevant cue in each compartment as a sorting guide.

Whether the worker sorts by shape, size, or color, the irrelevant cues will vary. When sorting by shape, for example, the worker must attend to the shape cue and ignore the size and color differences.

## Procedure

Take plastic pieces from the parts bin and place them in the compartments with pieces of matching size, shape, or color, ignoring other cues.

## Variations

- Set up a 6-item cue-constant sort by color. Select chips of the same size and shape that vary only in color.
- Set up a 3-item cue-constant sort by shape. Select chips of the same size and color that vary only in shape.
- Set up a 2-item cue-constant sort by size. Select chips of the same size and color that vary only in size.
- Set up a 6-item sort with 2 relevant cues. For example, sort large and small red squares, large and small blue squares, and large and small white squares. The worker sorts by color and size.
- Set up a 12-item sort with 3 relevant cues using chips in 3 colors, 2 shapes and 2 sizes. For example, select large and small circles and squares, each in blue, red, and yellow.
- Set up an 18-item sort with 3 relevant cues using 3 colors, 3 shapes, and 2 sizes. For example, select all the sizes and shapes or the red, blue, and yellow pieces.
- Set up a 36-item sort with 3 relevant cues using all of the pieces.