

Boston Naming Test Documentation Cheat Sheet

Reviewed by the BastionGPT Clinical Advisory Board · August 2026 · Reproduces no pictures, items, or norms

The Boston Naming Test (BNT-2, PRO-ED) is a 60-item confrontation naming test whose total is assembled, not just counted: spontaneous correct plus stimulus-cued correct, with phonemic-cued successes recorded separately and excluded. The stop rule differs by edition, short forms are separate score systems (the CERAD 15 cannot be prorated to a full-form score), no universal cutoff exists, and monolingual norms mislead on bilingual examinees. Defensible charting names the form, edition, convention, and norms every time.

Form, edition, stimulus set the 15s are not one form

Do: name the exact form (60-item, publisher 15, CERAD 15, named 30-item half), the edition, and original vs upgraded stimulus set.

Pitfall: "BNT-15" unsourced; publisher and CERAD 15s differ, and none interchange with the full form.

Route and stop rule 6 vs 8, rigorous vs lenient

Do: state basal-and-discontinuation or all-items procedure, the failure-run length as applied, and whether phonemic-cued successes interrupted it.

Pitfall: an unstated convention: interpretations changed scores by up to 16 points, most over age 80.

Cue accounting the asymmetry is the test

Do: chart spontaneous + stimulus-cued = countable total; phonemic-cued recorded separately, never credited.

Pitfall: "answers after cues count": crediting phonemic cues inflates the construct.

Error pattern in words level and shape both matter

Do: describe semantic and phonemic paraphasias, circumlocutions, misperceptions, omissions; use the cue profile: phonemic benefit = retrieval, no benefit + semantic errors = semantic loss.

Pitfall: a bare total; two identical scores can be different syndromes.

Norms + inputs no universal cutoff

Do: name the system and year (Tombaugh, MOANS/MOAANS, Zec, Heaton, 2024 Mayo regression) with the exact age and education entered; confirm the examinee is represented.

Pitfall: "below cutoff" with no system, or one system's strata mixed with another's corrections.

Language and culture not a culture-fair test

Do: document dominance, acquisition, education language, immigration history; record other-language responses separately; consider the MINT or an adaptation.

Pitfall: anomia diagnosed from monolingual norms; item-level bias and bilingual underperformance are documented.

Interpretation + change plan same form, set, rule, norms

Do: interpret within the evaluation, state what the score does not establish, and fix the serial rules: reliable change, no cross-form arithmetic.

Pitfall: a CERAD 15 subtracted from a prior 60, or decline claimed across editions and conventions.

Before the note is signed

- ☐ Form, edition, and stimulus set named exactly
- ☐ Route and stop rule stated as applied
- ☐ Cue arithmetic explicit; phonemic-cued excluded
- ☐ Error pattern described, not just totaled
- ☐ Norm system and inputs named; fit confirmed
- ☐ Language history documented; other-language responses separate
- ☐ Change rules fixed: same form, set, rule, norms

Drafting with AI

Give it the facts: form and edition, stimulus set, route and stop rule, spontaneous and cued counts, error types, norm system and inputs, language history, prior testing.

"Draft BNT documentation: BNT-2 60-item, upgraded set, all-items procedure, spontaneous 40, stimulus-cued 3, total 43/60, seven phonemic-cued excluded, circumlocutions and semantic paraphasias, 2024 Mayo regression norms age 74 education 14, dementia battery."

Never paste patient-identifying information into consumer AI tools. BastionGPT is HIPAA-compliant with a signed BAA on every plan.

Total = spont + stim-cued
phonemic-cued recorded, not counted

Name the form
CERAD 15 cannot be prorated

Stop rule by edition
6 (1983) vs 8 (2001); state it

No universal cutoff
and no culture-fair assumption

Boston Naming Test Documentation Template

Copy or print for your practice · Adapt fields to your organization's, payer's and jurisdiction's documentation requirements. Contains no test content.

Setting: _____ Patient (initials): _____ Date: _____ Clinician: _____

Form + edition + stimulus set: _____ Norm source + corrections applied: _____

Referral context and administration

Battery context · language of testing · route: basal-discontinuation (rule as applied) or all-items · deviations

Cue accounting

Spontaneous correct · stimulus-cued correct (counted) · countable total · phonemic-cued correct (recorded, not counted)

Error pattern

Semantic and phonemic paraphasias · circumlocutions · visual misperceptions · omissions · perseverations

Standardized result

Norm system + year · exact inputs · standardized score or range · examinee representation confirmed

Language, culture, and validity

Dominance · acquisition · education language · immigration history · other-language responses (separate) · vision and hearing · conclusion

Interpretation

Retrieval vs semantic shape from the cue profile · convergence within the evaluation · what the score does not establish

Prior testing and change plan

Prior form, set, rule, norms · reliable-change frame · no cross-form arithmetic · plan

Clinician (name and credentials): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____