

Tinnitus Functional Index (TFI)

Today's Date: _____ Your Name: _____

Please read each question below carefully. To answer a question, select ONE of the

numbers listed for that question, and draw a CIRCLE around it like this: (10%) or (1)

I	Over the PAST WEEK:
1. What percentage of your time awake were you consciously AWARE OF your tinnitus? Never aware▶ 0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100% ◀Always aware	
2. How STRONG or LOUD was your tinnitus? Not at all strong or loud▶ 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ◀Extremely strong or loud	
3. What percentage of your time awake were you ANNOYED by your tinnitus? None of the time▶ 0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100% ◀All of the time	
SC	Over the PAST WEEK:
4. Did you feel IN CONTROL in regard to your tinnitus? Very much in control▶ 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ◀Never in control	
5. How easy was it for you to COPE with your tinnitus? Very easy to cope▶ 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ◀Impossible to cope	
6. How easy was it for you to IGNORE your tinnitus? Very easy to ignore▶ 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ◀Impossible to ignore	
C	Over the PAST WEEK:
7. How much did your tinnitus interfere with your ability to CONCENTRATE ? Did not interfere▶ 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ◀Completely interfered	
8. How much did your tinnitus interfere with your ability to THINK CLEARLY ? Did not interfere▶ 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ◀Completely interfered	
9. How much did your tinnitus interfere with your ability to FOCUS ATTENTION on other things besides your tinnitus? Did not interfere▶ 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ◀Completely interfered	
SL	Over the PAST WEEK:
10. How often did your tinnitus make it difficult to FALL ASLEEP or STAY ASLEEP ? Never had difficulty▶ 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ◀Always had difficulty	
11. How often did your tinnitus cause you difficulty in getting AS MUCH SLEEP as you needed? Never had difficulty▶ 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ◀Always had difficulty	
12. How much of the time did your tinnitus keep you from SLEEPING as DEEPLY or as PEACEFULLY as you would have liked? None of the time▶ 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ◀All of the time	

A	Over the PAST WEEK, how much has your tinnitus interfered with:	Did not interfere ▼										Completely interfered ▼	
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	13. Your ability to HEAR CLEARLY ?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	14. Your ability to UNDERSTAND PEOPLE who are talking?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	15. Your ability to FOLLOW CONVERSATIONS in a group or at meetings?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

R	Over the PAST WEEK, how much has your tinnitus interfered with:	Did not interfere ▼										Completely interfered ▼	
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	16. Your QUIET RESTING ACTIVITIES ?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	17. Your ability to RELAX ?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	18. Your ability to enjoy PEACE AND QUIET ?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

Q	Over the PAST WEEK, how much has your tinnitus interfered with:	Did not interfere ▼										Completely interfered ▼	
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	19. Your enjoyment of SOCIAL ACTIVITIES ?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	20. Your ENJOYMENT OF LIFE ?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	21. Your RELATIONSHIPS with family, friends and other people?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	22. How often did your tinnitus cause you to have difficulty performing your WORK OR OTHER TASKS , such as home maintenance, schoolwork or caring for children or others?												
	Never had difficulty▶	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	◀Always had difficulty

E	Over the PAST WEEK:												
	23. How ANXIOUS or WORRIED has your tinnitus made you feel?												
	Not at all anxious or worried▶	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	◀Extremely anxious
	24. How BOTHERED or UPSET have you been because of your tinnitus?												
	Not at all bothered or upset▶	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	◀Extremely bothered or upset
	25. How DEPRESSED were you because of your tinnitus?												
	Not at all depressed▶	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	◀Extremely depressed

Global Score: _____

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SCORING THE TINNITUS FUNCTIONAL INDEX (TFI)

1. PREPARATION FOR SCORING:

- A. Two items to be transformed:** Items #1 and #3 require a simple transformation from a percentage scale to a 0-10 scale, achieved by dividing the values circled by the respondent by 10. The examiner should write the transformed value in the margin beside the relevant item, preferably using ink of a different color than that used by the respondent.
- B. Ambiguous items:** Because respondents differ in regard to how clearly they circle or mark their answers on the 0-10 scale for each item, the examiner should review every item to resolve any ambiguities. It is helpful if examiners note their decision about each answer in the margin beside the given item, using a different-colored ink. Some commonly occurring ambiguities and how to handle them are as follows:
- I. More than one value marked on the 0-10 scale for a given item—**Typically done by respondents whose tinnitus undergoes large variations over time. The clinic or the examiner should settle on a consistent procedure for all such responses, such as (a) averaging the multiple values indicated for a given item, or (b) marking the item “cannot code,” thus removing that item from consideration in the overall TFI score. (The latter choice reduces the information available for calculating the respondent’s overall score, and may be desirable only in extremely variable cases where the respondent’s reliability is questionable.)
 - II. Respondent marks a value between the 0-10 values on the item scale—**Again, the clinic or the examiner should settle on a consistent procedure for handling all such ambiguous responses in the same way, such as (a) noting a value of 3.5 in the margin, for a respondent who marked the scale between 3 and 4, or (b) collapsing the intermediate value either to the right (to 4) or to the left (to 3).
 - III. Respondent does not make any response to a given item—**The clinic or examiner should decide beforehand how they will indicate missing values, and that notation (e.g., “NA” for “No Answer”) should be entered in the margin. If the data will be entered into a computer database, a standard missing value, such as “99,” can be entered in the margin beside the relevant item. Of course, care must be taken to exclude “99” values if the examiner performs a manual calculation of the overall TFI score.
- C. Unambiguous items:** To facilitate rapid scanning and summing of all valid answers to obtain the respondent’s overall TFI score, all of the unambiguous values indicated by the respondent should also be noted in the margin, each such value beside its corresponding item. The examiner can then quickly generate a valid score for the overall TFI.

2. CALCULATION OF OVERALL TFI SCORE:

- I. Sum all valid answers from both TFI pages (maximum possible score = 250 if the respondent were to rate all 25 TFI items at the maximum value of 10).
- II. Divide by the number of questions for which that respondent provided valid answers (yields the respondent’s mean item score for all items having valid answers).
- III. Multiply by 10 (provides that the respondent’s overall TFI score is within the 0-100 range).

CAUTION—Overall TFI score is **not valid** if the respondent **omits 7 or more** items. To be valid as a measure of tinnitus severity, the respondent must answer **at least 19 items** (76% of items).

3. CALCULATION OF SUBSCALE SCORES

The 8 subscales address 8 important domains of negative tinnitus impact as indicated below. Each subscale has a brief title (in capital letters) and a 1- or 2-letter abbreviation (e.g. I for Intrusive , SC for Sense of Control):

<u>SUBSCALE NAME (and conceptual content)</u>	<u>ITEMS IN SUBSCALE</u>
I: INTRUSIVE (unpleasantness, intrusiveness, persistence)	#1, #2, #3
SC: SENSE OF CONTROL (reduced sense of control)	#4, #5, #6
C: COGNITIVE (cognitive interference)	#7, #8, #9
SL: SLEEP (sleep disturbance)	#10, #11, #12
A: AUDITORY (auditory difficulties attributed to tinnitus)	#13, #14, #15
R: RELAXATION (interference with relaxation)	#16, #17, #18
Q: QUALITY OF LIFE (QOL) (quality of life reduced)	#19, #20, #21, #22
E: EMOTIONAL (emotional distress)	#23, #24, #25

Each of the 8 subscales consists of 3 items except for the Quality of life subscale, which consists of 4 items (SEE ITEMS LIST ABOVE). For valid subscale scores, no more than 1 item should be omitted. Computation of subscale scores is as follows:

01. Sum all of that respondent's valid answers for a given subscale.
02. Divide by the number of valid answers that were provided by that respondent for that subscale.
03. Multiply by 10. For the respondent in question, this procedure generates a subscale score in the range 0-100 for each valid subscale.

CAUTION—Do not attempt to compute a respondent's overall TFI score by combining that respondent's valid subscale scores, as the valid subscales may encompass a total number of items that is different from the number of items accepted as valid for the overall TFI score.