Ipsative

Michael Franzen
Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Synonyms

[Intraindividual](#)

Definition

An ipsative comparison is a comparison of different scores from the same individual. Ipsative is in contrast to normative in which the score of an individual is compared to a sample of other individuals in order to determine where that individual's score lies in that distribution. For example, an individual's visual memory score might be compared to that individual's verbal memory

score in order to determine any relative strengths or weaknesses. This can be especially useful in rehabilitation treatment planning where the identification of strengths can be used to develop plans to remediate deficits. For example, a relative strength in visual memory may be used to compensate for a relative deficit in verbal auditory memory.

Cross-References

► [Standardized Scores](#)

References and Readings

Broverman, D. (1962). Normative and ipsative measurement in psychology. *Psychological Review*, 69, 29S–30S.