

# Reliability vs validity: what's the difference?

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Reliability and validity are concepts used to evaluate the quality of research. They indicate how well a [method](#), technique or test measures something. Reliability is about the consistency of a measure, and validity is about the accuracy of a measure.

## Reliability vs Validity

	Reliability	Validity
<b>What does it tell you?</b>	The extent to which the results can be reproduced when the research is repeated under the same conditions.	The extent to which the results really measure what they are supposed to measure.
<b>How is it assessed?</b>	By checking the consistency of results across time, across different observers, and across parts of the test itself.	By checking how well the results correspond to established theories and other measures of the same concept.
<b>How do they relate?</b>	A reliable measurement is not always valid: the results might be reproducible, but they're not necessarily correct.	A valid measurement is generally reliable: if a test produces accurate results, they should be reproducible.