

Outcome Measure	Balanced Emotional Empathy Scale (BEES)
Sensitivity to Change	No
Population	Adult
Domain	Social Cognition
Type of Measure	Self-report
ICF-Code/s	b1,d7
Description	<p>The Balanced Emotional Empathy Scale (BEES; Mehrabian, 1996, 1997), is a unidimensional measure of affective or emotional empathy. It is a self-report measure of one's ability to vicariously experience another individual's emotions or to feel what someone else feels. The BEES consists of 30 items. Fifteen of these items are positively worded whereas 15 are negatively worded.</p> <p>The following are example items from the BEES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unhappy movie endings haunt me for hours afterward. 2. I cannot feel much sorrow for those who are responsible for their own misery. <p>Participants respond to all items on a scale ranging from -4 (very strong disagreement) to +4 (very strong agreement). Higher scores represent higher levels of emotional empathy</p>
Properties	<p><u>Internal consistency</u>: Alpha internal consistency of the BEES was .87 (Mehrabian, 1997).</p> <p><u>Test-retest reliability</u>: over a 6 week period, $r = .77$ (Mehrabian, 1997).</p> <p><u>Construct validity</u>: BEES has exhibits a very high positive correlation of .77 with the 1972 Emotional Empathic Tendency Scale (EETS) (Mehrabian, 1997)</p> <p><u>Predictive validity</u>: The BEES relates negatively ($r = -.50$) to interpersonal violence and, thus, may be useful (as an indirect and subtle measure) for identifying persons who may have a potential to behave in highly aggressive or violent ways (Mehrabian, 1997). The Abbreviated BEES (?) is positively correlate of emotional success (i.e., general emotional well-being), relationship success (i.e., healthy and happy inter-personal relationships), career and financial success, and overall life success (Mehrabian, 2000).</p>
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has reasonable psychometric properties. • Information on construct validity appears to be lacking. The authors infer construct validity based results from on older 1972 EETS scale which was correlated .77 with the BEES.
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only measures 1 aspect of empathy (emotional)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is longer than the IRI
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norms vary significantly with gender.
Reviewers	Skye McDonald

References

- Mehrabian, A. (1996). Manual for the balanced emotional empathy scale (BEES). *Available from Albert Mehrabian, 1130.*
- Mehrabian, A. (1997). Relations among personality scales of aggression, violence, and empathy: Validational evidence bearing on the risk of eruptive violence scale. *Aggressive Behavior, 23(6)*, 433-445.
- Mehrabian, A. (2000). Beyond IQ: Broad-based measurement of individual success potential or "emotional intelligence". *Genetic, Social, and General Psychology Monographs.*