Instructions. Below you will find a list of statements. Please read each statement carefully and decide if that statement describes you or not. If it describes you, check the word "true"; if not, check the word "false".

1. I sometimes litter. true false
2. I always admit my mistakes openly and face the potential negative consequences. true false
3. In traffic I am always polite and considerate of others. true false
4. I always accept others' opinions, even when they don't agree with my own. true false
5. I take out my bad moods on others now and then. true false
6. There has been an occasion when I took advantage of someone else. true false
7. In conversations I always listen attentively and let others finish their sentences. true false
8. I never hesitate to help someone in case of emergency. true false
9. When I have made a promise, I keep it – no ifs, ands, or buts. true false
10. I occasionally speak badly of others behind their back. true false
11. I would never live off at other people's expense. true false
12. I always stay friendly and courteous with other people, even when I am stressed out. true false
13. During arguments I always stay objective and matter-of-fact. true false
14. There has been at least one occasion when I failed to return an item that I borrowed. true false
15. I always eat a healthy diet. true false
16. Sometimes I only help because I expect something in return. true false
Commentary

The SDS-17 (Stöber, 1999, 2001) captures the tendency to describe oneself with socially desirable attributes in the sense of Paulhus’ construct “impression management.” Originally, the SDS-17 contained 17 items, thus its name (Stöber, 1999). Further validation studies, however, showed that one item on drug use consistently showed item-total correlations near zero (Stöber, 2001) so that the revised scale now contains only 16 items.

Scoring

Each “true” response on items 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, and 15 and each “false” response on items 1, 5, 6, 10, 14, and 16 will be awarded 1 point. Then points are summed across items. Thus, raw scores can range from 0-16. (For means, standard deviations, and psychometric properties, see Stöber, 1999, 2001.)

Scale Development


Studies Using the Scale


