

# MSE TERMS

Expansive	Mood: Enthusiastic
Euthymic	Mood: Normal
Euphoric	Mood: Feeling great, as if one just won the lottery.
Full range affect	Affect: Normal
Blunted	Affect: Decrease in amplitude of emotional expression
Flat	Affect: Virtually complete absence of affective expression
Constricted	Affect: Normal amplitude but restricted range
Inappropriate	Affect: Emotions expressed are not congruent with content of patient's thoughts.
Labile	Affect: Unpredictable shifts in emotional state
Coherent and goal directed	Thought process: Normal thought process
Circumstantial	Thought process: Organized but over inclusive, eventually gets to the point in a painstakingly slow manner.
Loosening of associations	Thought process: Frequent lapses in connections between thoughts; jump from idea to idea
Word salad	Thought process: Incomprehensible speech due to lapses in connections even within a single sentence; incoherent
Blocking	

Thought process: Patient loses their train of thought; by definition, patient should confirm subjective experience of being blocked (not just on interviewer's observation).

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### Neologisms

Thought process: Words created by patient that have own idiosyncratic meaning

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### Flight of ideas

Thought process: Flow of thoughts is extremely rapid but connections remain intact

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### Delusion

Thought content: Example of a psychotic process; firmly held, false belief not share by members of the patient's culture. Reality testing not intact.

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### Reality testing not intact means:

patient is unable to consider the possibility that the belief is incorrect.

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### Reality testing intact means:

patient is able to consider the possibility that the belief is incorrect.

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### Obsession

Thought content: Intrusive and ego-dystonic idea. Reality testing is preserved.

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### **Overvalued idea**

Thought content: False belief not shared by members of the patient's culture that is not fixed. E.g. anorexic who thinks she is thin.

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### **Paranoid ideation**

Thought content: Suspiciousness of other's motives and ideas of reference (misinterpretation of real event as self-referential).

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### **Phobia**

Thought content: specific fear that results in avoidance of situation or object despite patient's realization that fear is irrational.

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### **Illusion**

Perception: Misinterpretation of sensory stimulus that can occur in any sensory modality.

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### **Hallucination**

Perception: Perceiving a sound, sight, taste, smell or touch in absence of external sensory stimulation that seems indistinguishable from such an experience in reality.

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## **Depersonalization**

Perception: The sense that one is outside of themselves.

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## **Derealization**

Perception: Vague sense of unreality of one's perception of the external world.

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## **Cognitive**

Assessment of patient's abilities with regard to attention and orientation as well as intellectual functions including memory, calculations, fund of knowledge, and capacity for abstract thought.

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## **Insight**

Reflects patient's own understanding of illness.

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## **Judgment**

Plan of action based on insight.