

**Table I:
Assessing current thinking abilities**

Record as best you can the thinking abilities of the person with dementia you care for, by circling the most appropriate description

Date: _____

Typical dementia stage (rough guide, and people can have thinking abilities across different stages)	Mild dementia
Short-term memory	Can sometimes remember things from the week before or better
Long-term memory <i>Seems to talk most about memories from _____ period in life</i>	Remembers things well from middle age
Goal direction	Can remember the goal of most activities and complete steps to achieve goal
Attention	Can sometimes concentrate for 30–60 minutes
Decision making	Can choose from multiple options that are named but not shown
Communicating	Speaks using sentences, though may have difficulty finding the right words
Understanding	Can follow a conversation of several sentences in a row
Coordination abilities	Has good hand–eye coordination and can manipulate objects in complex sequences (e.g. tying a shoe lace)

Mild to moderate dementia	Moderate to severe dementia	Severe dementia
Can sometimes remember things from the day before	Can sometimes remember events from earlier that day	Hardly ever remembers recent events
Remembers things well from young adulthood	Remembers things from childhood, or little memory of past	Hardly ever seems to remember the past
Can remember the goals of familiar activities and with help can complete steps to achieve goal	Can sometimes remember the goal of familiar activities, and can complete simple steps	Does not seem to remember or understand most familiar activities
Can sometimes concentrate for 15–30 minutes	Can sometimes concentrate for up to 15 minutes	Can sometimes concentrate for up to 5 minutes
Can choose from multiple options that are shown	Can choose from two options that are shown	Does not usually make choices when offered
Speaks using short phrases	Communicates using single words or through body language	Communicates through body language only
Can follow a conversation of one sentence at a time	Can follow a conversation using simple phrases and body language	Can understand single words (e.g. their name) and body language
Has good hand–eye coordination and can manipulate objects in complex sequences	Has reasonable hand–eye coordination and can manipulate objects in simple sequences	Has difficulty controlling hands and manipulating objects