

Test oracle

Test oracle problem

Flaky test

Regression testing

Confirmation testing

Coverage item

Escaped defect

Critical journey coverage

Shift left

FLAKY TEST

A test whose outcome is non-deterministic with respect to a given software version - it passes and fails with no change to the code.

Why it matters: Neither ISTQB nor ISO defines this term, which is exactly why "flaky" becomes the bin where real race conditions get filed and forgotten.

TEST ORACLE PROBLEM

The difficulty of determining whether a test passed or failed for a given input and state.

Why it matters: The central challenge in testing AI, and the reason metamorphic testing exists.

TEST ORACLE

The source that determines the expected result. Not the assertion - the assertion is only the comparison that consults it.

Why it matters: An "AI that decides pass or fail" is a pseudo-oracle at best. If your oracle is another model, you have no independent source of truth.

COVERAGE ITEM

The attribute a coverage percentage is measured against.

Why it matters: "We have 80% coverage" is a malformed claim under both ISTQB and ISO until you say 80% of what.

CONFIRMATION TESTING

Testing after a fix, to confirm the failure does not recur. ISO calls it retesting.

Why it matters: Confirmation targets the changed thing; regression targets the unchanged things. Most teams erase the distinction by filing both in one suite.

REGRESSION TESTING

Change-related testing that looks for defects introduced or uncovered in the UNCHANGED areas of the software.

Why it matters: Defined by scope and trigger, not by size or schedule. Your nightly "regression suite" may contain very little regression testing.

SHIFT LEFT

Performing testing and quality activities as early as possible in the lifecycle.

Why it matters: It is a cost trade, not a free win: more effort earlier, savings later. It also means more than "run tests in CI".

CRITICAL JOURNEY COVERAGE

The share of business-critical end-to-end journeys that have a reliable automated check.

Why it matters: The one coverage number an executive can actually interpret, because it maps to business risk rather than to code structure.

ESCAPED DEFECT

A defect not caught by a test activity that was supposed to find it.

Why it matters: The definition hinges on intent, so escape counts only mean something against an explicit statement of what you meant to cover.

Shift right

Risk-based testing

Metamorphic testing

METAMORPHIC TESTING

Asserting a relationship between outputs instead of a single expected output - for example, that translating a longer sentence should not produce a shorter result.

Why it matters: The main principled answer to the oracle problem when you cannot state the one correct answer.

RISK-BASED TESTING

Selecting and prioritizing test effort against analyzed risk types and levels.

Why it matters: The ISO wording presupposes a documented risk analysis. Gut-feel prioritization does not qualify, however confidently it is asserted.

SHIFT RIGHT

Testing a system continuously in production.

Why it matters: Not optional for anything containing a model, because drift is only observable against real traffic.