



Lexile Measures in Education



“Lexile measures” defined

The Lexile® Framework for Reading matches reader ability and text difficulty, allowing individualized monitoring of student progress. The Lexile Framework is a scientific approach to reading and text measurement. It includes the Lexile® measure and the Lexile scale. The Lexile measure is a reading ability or text difficulty score followed by an “L” (for example, 850L). The Lexile scale is a developmental scale for reading ranging from below 200L for beginning readers and materials to above 1700L for advanced readers and materials.

Widely adopted and easily used

A Lexile measure is the most widely adopted reading measure. Tens of thousands of books and tens of millions of newspaper and magazine articles have Lexile measures. More than 150 publishers have Lexile measures for their materials. Each year, more than 28 million Lexile measures are reported from reading assessments and programs. Lexile measures tie day-to-day work in the classroom to critical high-stakes tests. This provides interim assessment and feedback while using the same consistent measure to easily track progress—all without additional testing.

Different from other reading measures

Lexile measures are uniquely independent, accurate and actionable:

- Lexile measures are instrument independent. A wide variety of test, instructional software, book and article publishers have adopted Lexile measures.
- Lexile measures use the same method and scale to measure readers and text. The same measurement approach and a common scale means greater accuracy in matching students with texts.
- Lexile measures apply to everyday reading. A student’s Lexile measure is more than a test score. It applies to books and articles that a student encounters daily—at school, home and in the library.

A foundation built on decades of research

The Lexile Framework has a strong research pedigree. Beginning with a grant from the U.S. National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in 1984, the renowned psychometric team at



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visit www.Lexile.com.

MetaMetrics®, Inc., a U.S. educational measurement organization, continually refines the underpinnings of the Lexile Framework. Lexile measures are the result of more than 20 years of ongoing research.

Lexile measures are based on two well-established predictors of how difficult a text is to comprehend: semantic difficulty (word frequency) and syntactic complexity (sentence length). In order to determine the Lexile measure of a book or article, the text is split into 125-word slices. Each slice is compared to the nearly 600-million word Lexile corpus—taken from a variety of sources and genres—and the words in each sentence are counted. These calculations are put into the Lexile equation. Then, each slice’s resulting Lexile measure is applied to the Rasch psychometric model to determine the Lexile measure for the entire text.



Flexibly manage comprehension

Lexile measures allow educators to manage reading comprehension. Matching a student’s Lexile measure to a text with the same Lexile measure leads to an expected comprehension rate of 75%—not too difficult to be frustrating, but difficult enough to be challenging and encourage reading progress. Educators can further adjust anticipated comprehension for reading instruction and for better understanding of other curriculum materials simply by choosing more or less difficult texts.

Lexile utilities

- “Find a Book” enables users to search for books and build reading lists based on Lexile range and personal interests. The book database comprises more than 115,000 fiction and nonfiction books with Lexile measures.
- Lexile® Analyzer enables registered users to analyze text and generate a Lexile measure. A free, limited version is available at www.Lexile.com.
- Lexile Map provides a graphic representation of texts matched to appropriate levels of reading ability.

The Lexile Framework for Reading

The Lexile Framework is an indispensable part of any reading program. Lexile measures give educators the confidence to choose materials that can improve students’ reading skills.



For more information, and to search for books at your students’ Lexile level, visit www.Lexile.com.



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MetaMetrics®, Inc., an educational measurement organization, develops scientifically based measures of student achievement that link assessment with instruction, foster better educational practices and improve learning by matching students with materials that meet and challenge their abilities. MetaMetrics’ renowned psychometric team developed the widely adopted Lexile Framework for Reading; El Sistema Lexile para Leer, the Spanish-language version of the Lexile Framework; The Quantile Framework for Mathematics; and The Lexile Framework for Writing. For more information, visit www.MetaMetricsInc.com.

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