



LEXILE® MEASURES AND LEARNING

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

In this section, you will find answers to FAQs about Lexile measures and learning.

What is a Lexile measure? What is the Lexile scale?

A Lexile measure is the numeric representation of a student's reading ability or a text's complexity, followed by an "L" (for Lexile measure). The Lexile scale is a vertical, developmental scale that ranges from below OL for beginning readers and beginning texts to above 2000L for advanced readers and texts. Lexile measures below OL are reported as BR[XXX]L (e.g., BR16OL). The larger the number after the BR code indicates less reading challenge, so a text measuring BR16OL would present less reading challenge than a text measuring BR20L.

Lexile measures are presented along the scale in equal intervals. Student Lexile reading measures are reported out in increments of 5L. Lexile text measures are reported out in increments of 10L. Both texts and student ability are measured on the developmental, equal-interval Lexile scale.

What is the difference between Lexile reading measures and Lexile text measures?

Students receive a Lexile reading measure as a result from a reading comprehension test. When a test has been linked with the **Lexile® Framework for Reading** through a field study or when a test has been specifically developed with the Lexile Framework, a Lexile reading measure for the student can be reported. The measure describes the student's reading ability.

A Lexile text measure for a book or article is obtained through analyzing the complexity of the text. The **Lexile® Text Analyzer** uses an algorithm specifically designed to evaluate the reading demand of text through the analysis of text characteristics. Those characteristics for texts with measures of 650L and below are categorized into four indicators: patterns, vocabulary, decoding and sentences. Text characteristics for text with measures of 660L and above are categorized into two indicators: patterns and sentence length.

With this continuum, both students and texts can be placed on the same measurement scale – the Lexile scale.

What is the relationship between Lexile reading measures and Lexile text measures?

Since Lexile reading and text measures are derived using the same scale, Lexile measures can be used to select appropriately-challenging reading materials for students. Lexile text measures can be used to make more informed instructional decisions. Connecting students with materials in their

Lexile range helps to differentiate instruction. For example, when all students in a classroom are using the same text, Lexile text measures help predict which students might need extra help and which ones might need enrichment.

When a text's measure matches a student's reading measure, the student is expected to have a 75 percent comprehension rate. This 75 percent corresponds to the student's instructional reading level, or the level at which the student can successfully navigate the material with the use of context clues and other comprehension strategies to fill in the gaps.

How do grade ranges and ages relate to students' Lexile reading measures?

More precise than age or grade level, Lexile reading measures describe a student's reading comprehension ability. Within any classroom or age, there will be a range of student reading abilities. For example, in a fifth grade classroom there will be some students who are ahead of the typical reader (about 250L above) and some students who are behind the typical reader (about 250L below). To say that some books are just right for fifth grade students assumes that all fifth graders are reading at about the same level. The Lexile Framework is intended to match readers with texts at whatever level promotes growth for each individual student.

There are interactive student norms tables available at the **Lexile® & Quantile® Hub**. These tables feature student Lexile reading measures by grade level and percentile rankings for test administrations at the beginning, middle and end of year.



Your customers can get more information about Lexile student norms by accessing **Lexile® Grade Level Charts** at hub.lexile.com/lexile-grade-level-charts.

How does the Lexile Framework determine a student's growth in reading?

Lexile measures offer a scale of reading ability that can be tracked across multiple assessments throughout a student's journey from emerging literacy skills to advanced reading. As the student's reading improves, new material with higher Lexile text measures can be chosen to match the student's ability, keeping the comprehension rate at the most productive level. The Lexile Framework helps to locate the student's growing edge of comprehension so that reading skills advance.

How can the Lexile Framework be used to monitor progress toward college and career readiness?

Research shows that there is oftentimes a gap between the reading challenge level expected at the completion of secondary school and the reading demands confronted in post-secondary school life in college and university textbooks, newspapers, and personal and occupational reading materials. Students can use the **Lexile® Growth Planner** to enter in their Lexile reading measures to see if they are on track to be college- and career-ready. The Lexile Growth Planner uses Lexile measures, the only metric available that can show how students' reading test scores relate to reading entry-level demands for careers. We conducted research to identify the entry-level reading demands of more than 500 careers and this research continues. Read more about our research describing this work:

- ➔ [The Lexile Framework for Reading Quantifies the Reading Ability Needed for “College and Career Readiness”](#)
- ➔ [Bending the Text Complexity Curve to Close the Gap](#)
- ➔ [The Text Complexity Continuum in Grades 1-12](#)

RESEARCH

Access these papers at
metametricsinc.com/research.



Your customers can track student growth on the **Lexile® Growth Planner** available at hub.lexile.com/lexile-growth-planner.

The Growth Planner only supports end-of-year test data. Research is being conducted for interim test data at this time.

How can the Lexile Framework be used to increase reading ability for all students including English Language Learners?

Oftentimes English learning environments focus on vocabulary knowledge which can lead to confusion between word knowledge and reading comprehension. Word knowledge is just one important component of reading comprehension. The Lexile Framework captures a student's overall reading comprehension level at a point in time. A student Lexile reading measure is a numeric representation of how the student uses all the supporting skills together to read.

Once a student's Lexile reading measure is known, English readers from all backgrounds can advance by reading material in their Lexile range – 100L below to 50L above their reported measure. Studies show that a student learns best when instruction and practice are tailored to the abilities of the individual student. When students are appropriately matched with texts, reading is more enjoyable and motivating, less frustrating and growth in reading is enhanced.

How long does it take for an English Language Learner to show growth in reading?

Typical reading growth in English depends on many factors such as:

- the student's reading ability in their native language,
- the student's age when they began learning to read in English,
- the number of English books the student reads, and
- the amount of time the student spends reading in English.

All of these student variables impact growth and each reading program has its own growth plan.

What does a Lexile reading measure tell us about a student's reading comprehension? Are there Lexile measures for oral reading fluency?

Reading comprehension can be defined as the ability of an individual to process a text, understand meaning and then add this meaning to the individual's knowledge. Reading comprehension is not a single skill, but rather an array of skills including reading fluency and reading accuracy.

The Lexile scale measures a student's ability to read and comprehend text. Assessments built upon the Lexile Framework are designed to assess a variety of skills related to reading comprehension such as:

- paraphrasing information in the passage,
- drawing a logical conclusion based on the information in the passage,
- making an inference,
- identifying a supporting detail, and
- making a generalization based on the information in the passage.

Oral reading fluency is the ability to read accurately, quickly and with expression. Because fluent readers do not have to concentrate on decoding and word recognition skills (accuracy), they can focus their attention on what the text means (comprehension). The new **Lexile® Framework for Oral Reading** measures both student oral reading ability and the oral readability of text. Lexile measures for oral reading assessments are primarily for K-4 students (Lexile levels of 800L or below). Oral reading tests that report Lexile oral reading measures can be compared with other tests' Lexile measures, such as Lexile reading measures, for more diagnostic information about students' abilities and needed interventions.



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