The Lexile Framework for Reading

International standardisation of reading measurement

Making test scores actionable

The curriculum, standards and measures change on an increasingly regular basis.

To complicate things further, despite a level of standardisation in UK schools, each publisher’s reading scheme uses slightly different performance descriptors to define varying levels of development. When a child moves house, and arrives at a new school, or if they move overseas, understanding their stage of reading development can be hard for the new teacher. Once a student advances past standardised reading levels, it is hard to match reading material complexity with their level of development.

Taking these issues one step further, reading assessment scores are usually static. The data can’t be used to inform instruction or to help educators and parents select appropriate reading materials based on each child’s ability.

Meeting the need for a shared understanding of assessment measures in both the UK and internationally

Mismatching reading material with a child’s level of reading development can be seriously detrimental to his or her desire to read. Moreover, failure to provide timely feedback on a child’s improvement can miss valuable opportunities to keep him or her reading and growing to the fullest potential.

The Lexile Framework for Reading ensures that the match between ability and text complexity is appropriate and therefore, in turn, nurtures a love of reading. Today, Lexile measures are recognised as the world’s most widely used reading metric. They are powerful tools for connecting learners of all ages with materials at the optimal level of challenge and monitor progress toward meaningful reading goals and standards.

Visit www.lexile.com/about-lexile/how-to-get-lexile-measures for a current list of standardised assessments and programs that are linked with the Lexile Framework, and a list of partners who provide Lexile measures for text.
The Lexile Framework for Reading

More Information, Not More Testing
Lexile measures help educators set measurable goals, monitor and evaluate reading programs, and easily track progress without additional testing. By working with more than 65 of the leading reading assessment program providers across the world to incorporate the Lexile scale into their systems, the Lexile Framework adds supplemental value to on-going classroom assessments, without having to introduce further tests. The Lexile Framework provides a common scale for monitoring student reading progress regardless of what assessments they take.

The Lexile Framework offers a complete picture of the growth of student reading ability from preschool through to college and adult learning.

Matching Readers With Text
The Lexile Framework determines a student’s reading ability, and matches the reader with more than 100 million reading materials that meets and challenges their specific ability. Lexile measures are powerful tools for linking assessment with instruction across the curriculum, at school, home and in the library. Because a growing amount of reading material is graded under the same Lexile measure, students can be matched with the reading material at, or just slightly above, their level of reading development.

Matching a reader’s Lexile measure with a text at the same level leads to an expected 75-percent comprehension rate; not too difficult to be frustrating, but challenging enough to promote reading progress.

Differentiating Instruction Across the Curriculum
An increasingly broad range of reading material including fiction and nonfiction books, textbooks, periodicals and websites are graded on a regular basis to ensure students of all ages have access to reading material aligned to their level and can retain as much information. In fact, more than 200 publishers have Lexile measures for many of their titles, enabling you to link all the different components of the curriculum. You can use a student’s Lexile measure to connect them with hundreds of thousands of books in the Lexile Book Database (www.Lexile.com/findabook) and tens of millions of newspaper and magazine articles (through popular periodical databases used in libraries) that also have Lexile measures, providing a diverse range of reading material to promote literacy improvement across the curriculum.

Home-school links
Meeting government guidelines to make assessment measures easier for parents to interpret, the international standard Lexile measure also provides parents with a powerful tool for understanding their child’s level of development and connecting them with appropriate reading materials at home. In fact, an increasing number of automated library card catalogues include Lexile measures for books and other materials. Families can use ‘Find a Book’ (www.Lexile.com/findabook) to build book lists based on a child’s Lexile measure and interests. The book search and other online resources are available at no cost.

In summary
- The Lexile Framework is an international standardised measure of reading development level used by testing systems and publishers across the world
- By working with testing system providers, who have already introduced the Lexile as an assessment measure, adopting the Lexile Framework for Reading does not require any additional testing; it is automatically incorporated in their regular classroom tests
- Once a students’ reading level is ‘graded’ by an assessment that is linked with the Lexile scale, a bank of books, whitepapers and study material can be found on the www.lexile.com website to match reading ability to reading material and illustrate progress toward developmental goals and standards
- By matching a student’s Lexile to appropriate reading material they are encouraged to enjoy reading, as well as more effectively comprehend and retain the information
- When a child moves class, school or country, his or her Lexile reading level helps educators and parents retain a common perspective on the child’s reading development over time

Measuring student growth on a common scale
Lexile measures range from below 200L for beginning readers and text to above 1600L for advanced readers and text.

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