



## What is the difference between the Lexile® and ATOS 2000 scales?

Although the ATOS 2000 scale has a range similar to that of the Lexile scale, it is NOT the Lexile scale and SHOULD NOT be interpreted as such.

The Lexile scale is a developmental scale for measuring reader ability and text complexity, ranging from below 200L for beginning readers and beginning-reader materials to above 1700L for advanced readers and materials. Both Lexile reader measures and Lexile text measures can be placed on the same Lexile scale. More than a decade of research went into developing The Lexile Framework for Reading—so that students’ Lexile measures can be used to match them with appropriate reading materials at the right Lexile level. Lexile measures are one of the most widely adopted reading measures in use today. A list of assessments and reading programs that utilize the Lexile scale to report Lexile measures can be found on the following Lexile.com pages: [State Assessments](#); [Norm-Referenced & Interim/Benchmark Assessments](#); [Spanish Assessments](#); [International Assessments](#); and [Reading Programs](#).

A list of library services and content providers who offer Lexile measures is available on the following Lexile.com pages: [Content Aggregator Partners](#); [Catalog Automation Partners](#); and [Wholesalers and Distributor Partners](#). You can also search for books with Lexile measures using “[Find a Book](#)” at [www.lexile.com/findabook](http://www.lexile.com/findabook).

The ATOS 2000 book levels are produced by Renaissance Learning, Inc. and are used in the company’s reading products. The ATOS 2000 book levels are based on a formula that Renaissance Learning developed to convert its grade-based ATOS book levels into its 2000-point scale. **The company developed this scale with NO consultation with MetaMetrics®; accordingly, the ATOS 2000 scale should not be used as a way to equate ATOS book levels with Lexile text measures. The ATOS 2000 scale also should not be used to match readers with texts when using the Lexile measure of the text.**

A simple comparison between ATOS book levels, their corresponding ATOS 2000 book levels, and the books’ Lexile measures demonstrates the problem in trying to equate an ATOS 2000 book level with a Lexile text measure. According to charts published by Renaissance Learning, books at the ATOS 9.5 level are given the ATOS 2000 level of 1258. When the books at ATOS 9.5 level on the AR Bookfinder™ website were matched with books in “[Find a Book](#)” using title and ISBN, only one book had a Lexile measure of 1260L. The average Lexile measure of the sample was 1193L and the books ranged in difficulty from 1060L to 1340L.

MetaMetrics recommends reading books within a Lexile range of difficulty 100L below to 50L above the reader’s Lexile measure. The actual Lexile range of books identified by Renaissance Learning as being at the ATOS 9.5/ATOS 2000 1258 book level falls as low as 200L below the targeted level of 1258. For readers at this level, a 200L difference in Lexile text measure represents a 13% difference in forecasted comprehension, which is a substantial departure from targeted comprehension. The size of this difference underscores the need to avoid using ATOS 2000 book levels to represent Lexile measures.

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**For more information on Lexile measures, visit [www.Lexile.com](http://www.Lexile.com).**

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