



Text Reading Level: Lexile & Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level Scores

Tools to Determine Text Reading Levels

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Accessibility for students includes ensuring that the reading level of the content they encounter meets them at their instructional level, not their frustration level. Suppose the text complexity is above their instructional level (reading grade level), then the students will not be able to engage in the virtual learning content. Instructors can use tools to determine if the text they include in their virtual lessons is appropriate for their students' reading level. YouthBuild programs should aim to have virtual learning text in the 6th-8th grade reading level when developing virtual learning materials. (If specialized vocabulary brings the reading level above 8th grade, students should receive supports such as a glossary of terms and instruction to introduce or reinforce specialized vocabulary.)

Relevant Fact:

"Half of U.S. adults can't read a book written at the 8th-grade level."

-Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development [1]

Two widely used, evidence-based measures for determining reading level include the Lexile and Flesch-Kincaid grade-level reading scores. Below you will find a brief description of each measure and instructions on how to use them.

Lexile Score

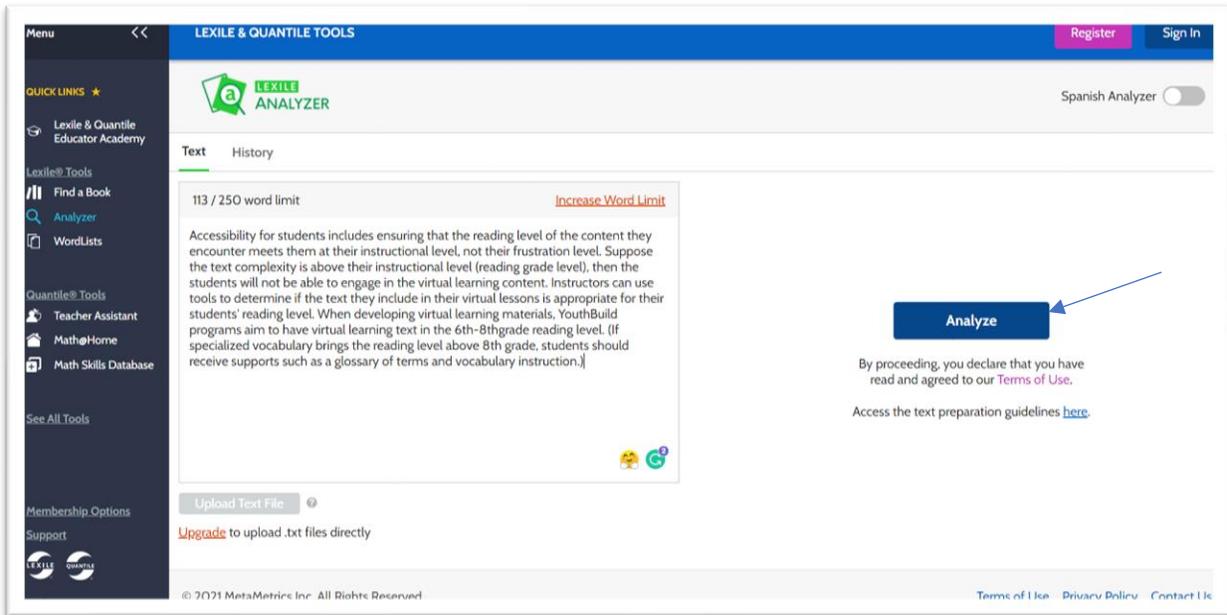
According to Lexile.org, "The Lexile Framework® for Reading is a scientific approach to measuring both reading ability and the text complexity of reading materials on the same developmental scale." Typically, an educator would consider a Lexile range for a student. The lower end of the range would indicate text easily read with little to no support. The higher end of the range would indicate text that can be read with support, such as glossaries, context clues, or vocabulary instruction.

The [Lexile Analyzer®](#) in the [Lexile® & Quantile® Hub](#) can be used to paste or type in the text to receive a Lexile range and view text characteristics along with challenging words and their definitions. The Analyzer measures the complexity of the text through the analysis of sentence length, word frequency, and complexity of terms. The Analyzer can measure English and Spanish texts.

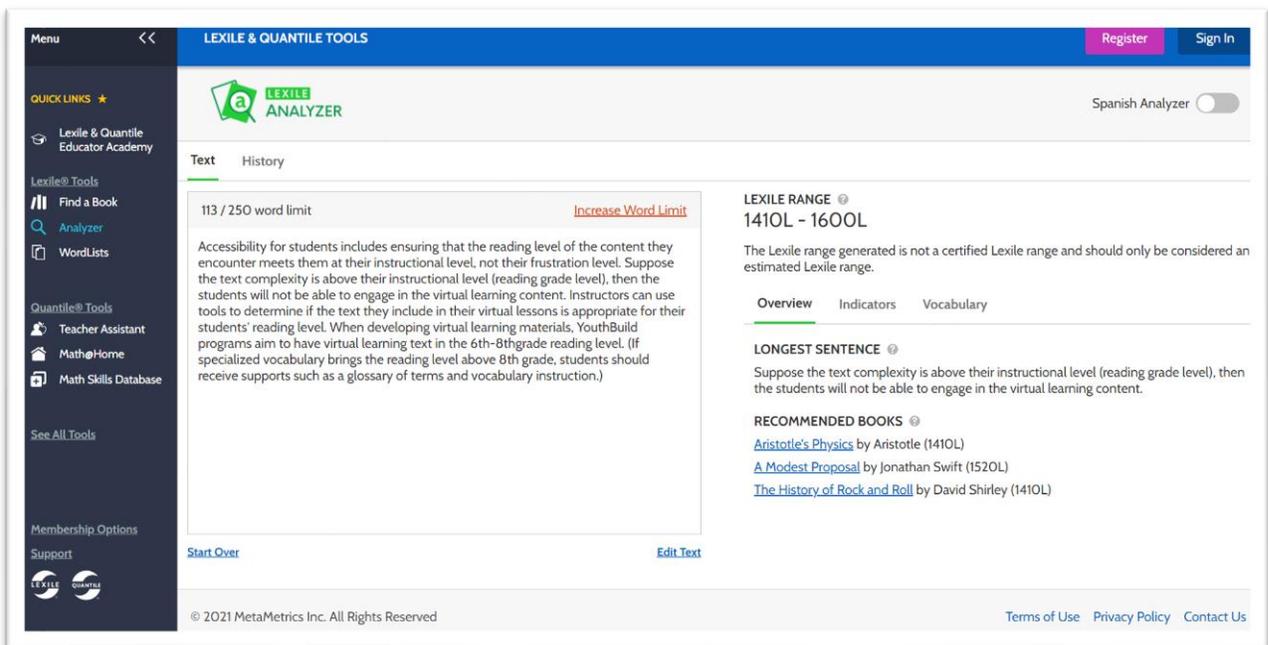
Lexile Score ranges:	
6 th grade	850-1050
7 th grade	950-1075
8 th grade	1000-1100

How to Use the Analyzer

Step One: Go to <https://hub.lexile.com/analyzer>. Paste the text you would like to analyze into the field and click on the Analyze button.



Step Two: Check the Lexile Range. If the range is higher than 1100, evaluate the vocabulary and sentence structure to make the text easier to read.



Flesch-Kincaid grade-level

The Flesch–Kincaid readability tests indicate how difficult a passage in English is to understand. The measure will indicate what school level (grade level) would be required to read the text easily. The measure will indicate grade level for example 3.0-3.9 will indicate 3rd grade.

Microsoft Word offers the Flesch-Kincaid measure in the accessibility functions, which is a helpful tool when creating content for virtual learning.

How to Activate Flesch-Kincaid in Microsoft Word

Go to "File" > "Options"
Select "Proofing"
Select "Check grammar with spelling"
Select "Show readability statistics"

Checking for Reading Level in Microsoft Word

Step One: Open a Microsoft Word document or paste the text needing analysis into a Microsoft Word document.

Step Two: Under the Review panel, go to Proofing. Click on Editor.

Step Three: Accept or reject all corrections.

Step Four: A popup will appear with the Flesch-Kincaid readability grade level.

Step One: Go to <https://hub.lexia.com/analyzer>, and click on the Analyze button.

Counts	Value
Words	214
Characters	1,177
Paragraphs	12
Sentences	12

Averages	Value
Sentences per Paragraph	2.0
Words per Sentence	15.3
Characters per Word	4.9

Readability	Value
Flesch Reading Ease	51.4
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	9.8
Passive Sentences	8.3%

Step Two: Check the Lexile Range. If the range is higher than 1100, evaluate the vocabulary and sentence structure to make the text easier to read.

This tool included two options for reviewing the grade-level text to ensure written content shared virtually or in-person is accessible to all learners.

[1] Valerie Strauss, "Hiding in plain sight: The adult literacy crisis," Washington Post, Nov. 1, 2016