

The Lexile Framework for Reading: Lexile Measures at Home



Defining “Lexile” Measures

The Lexile Framework® for Reading is a scientific approach to measuring readers and reading materials. A key part of the Lexile Framework is a number called the Lexile® measure. The Lexile measure reflects the difficulty of a text—a book or newspaper article, for example. A Lexile measure also indicates a student’s current reading ability. Knowing the Lexile measure of a book and the Lexile measure of a reader can help you predict how the book matches the student’s current reading ability.

A Lexile measure for either text or readers is a simple number followed by an “L” (e.g., “850L”), and is placed on the Lexile scale. The Lexile scale ranges from below 200L for beginning readers and beginning-reading materials to above 1700L for advanced readers and texts.

Lexile measures do not translate specifically to grade levels. Within any classroom, there will be a range of readers and a range of materials to be read. For example, in a fifth-grade classroom, there will be some readers that are far above average, and some readers far below. Lexile measures track a student’s reading progress over time, no matter what grade he or she is in.

Using Lexile Measures

Matching your child’s Lexile measure to a text with the same Lexile measure leads to an expected 75 percent comprehension rate—not too difficult to be frustrating, but difficult enough to encourage reading progress. You can further help your child by knowing his or her Lexile range. The recommended Lexile range is 100L below to 50L above the reader’s Lexile measure. These are the boundaries between the easiest kinds of reading material for your child and the hardest level at which he or she can read successfully.

Finding Books and Articles

Once you have your child’s Lexile measure, you can connect him or her to tens of thousands of books and tens of millions of articles that have Lexile measures. Most public libraries have access to online periodicals databases where you can search for newspaper and magazine articles by Lexile measure.

The Lexile Book Database (www.Lexile.com) can be used to find books and create booklists. This free database allows you to search for books by keyword, title, author, Lexile range, and other criteria. You can search for specific titles based on a Lexile measure and keywords of interest to your child, knowing that the selections will be appropriate to your child’s current reading ability.

Using Lexile Measures at Home

- Ensure that your child gets plenty of reading practice using material within his or her Lexile range.
- Communicate with your child’s teacher and school librarian about his or her reading needs and accomplishments. They can use the Lexile scale to let you know their assessment of your child’s current reading ability.
- Celebrate your child’s reading accomplishments. One of the great things about the Lexile Framework is that it provides an easy way for readers to keep track of their own growth and progress. You and your child can set goals for reading—sticking to a reading schedule, reading a book at a higher Lexile measure, trying new kinds of books and articles, or reading a certain number of pages per week. When your child hits the goal, make it an occasion!