

TEKS Text Difficulty Levels (TEKS Connection 1.9)

- Independent Level: Texts in which no more than approximately 1 in 20 words is difficult (95%-100% accuracy) for the reader and that are read with high comprehension
 - Independent-level material is appropriate for students who are building fluency or reading independently with little or no instructional support.
- Instructional Level: Texts in which no more than approximately 1 in 10 words is difficult (90%-94% accuracy) for the reader and that are read with average to high comprehension
 - Instructional-level texts are appropriate for small-group instruction when you provide assistance as students read. They may also be used to build fluency, but independent-level reading materials are best for this purpose.
- Frustration Level: Texts in which more than approximately 1 in 10 words is difficult (less than 90% accuracy) for the reader and that are read with low comprehension
 - Frustration-level texts are too difficult and should be avoided.

Calculating a Text Difficulty Level

- Identify the grade level of a particular text.
- Have the student read aloud a passage of at least 100 words. Tally the number of words misread.
- Subtract the number of words read incorrectly from the total number of words in the passage; this yields the number of words read correctly.
- Divide the number of words read correctly by the total number of words read to calculate the percentage accuracy level.
- Based on the percentage accuracy and using the criterion for difficulty, identify the passage as being at the student's independent level, instructional level, or frustration level.

Number of Words Read Correctly ÷ Total Words Read = Percent Accuracy

For example, if a student reads 120 words correctly out of a passage of text that contains 125 words, the accuracy level is 96%.

$$120 \div 125 = .96 \text{ (96\%)}$$

A percentage accuracy of 96% means that the text is at the student's independent level.

Activity

Given the information provided, calculate the percentage accuracy to determine the text difficulty level:

A fourth-grade passage contains 75 words. Martha reads 63 of the words correctly. What is her percentage accuracy? What is Martha's difficulty level for the fourth-grade passage?

$$\underline{\hspace{1cm}} \div \underline{\hspace{1cm}} = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \text{ (} \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \% \text{ accuracy)}$$

Text Difficulty Level: _____