

Wk

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Feb 13 To 18

https://web.archive.org/web/20140521073931/http://blog.spearsweekly.com/blog/SPWxyz/2011/07/20/book-lies-readability-is-impossible-to-measure

Weekly Topic & Assignment

Flesch-Kincaid Readability Tests: readability for how difficult an English passage

- The highest (easiest) readability score possible is 121.22, but every sentence consists of one one-syllable word. "The cat sat on the mat." scores 116.
- The score does not have a theoretical lower bound; therefore, it is possible to make the score as low as wanted by arbitrarily including words with many syllables.
- The sentence "This sentence, taken as a reading passage unto itself, is being used to prove a point." has a readability of 69.
- The sentence "The Australian platypus is seemingly a hybrid of a mammal and reptilian creature." scores 37.5 as it has 24 syllables and 13 words.
- While Amazon calculates the text of Moby-Dick as 57.9,[8] one long sentence about sharks in chapter 64 has a readability score of -146.77.[9]
- One sentence in Swann's Way, by Marcel Proust, has a score of -515.1.[10]

Polysyllabic words affect this score significantly more than they do the grade-level score.

Score	School level (US)	Notes
100.00–90.00	5th grade	Very easy to read. Easily understood by an average 11-year-old student.
90.0–80.0	6th grade	Easy to read. Conversational English for consumers.
80.0–70.0	7th grade	Fairly easy to read.
70.0–60.0	8th & 9th grade	Plain English. Easily understood by 13- to 15-year-old students.
60.0–50.0	10th to 12th grade	Fairly difficult to read.
50.0–30.0	College	Difficult to read.
30.0–10.0	College graduate	Very difficult to read. Best understood by university graduates.
10.0–0.0	Professional	Extremely difficult to read. Best understood by university graduates.

	Fog (years education)	flesch-kincaid US grade level	Flesch-100 0-30 ~college, 90-100~5th	most words per sentence	Hardest to easiest	
(1925)(fitzgerald)The Great Gatsby:	15	12	49	2nd most	3rd hardest	best seller
(2000)(gladwell, M) The Tipping Point:	13	10	56	least	easiest	
(1851)(melville) Moby-Dick:	13	11	58	most	hardest	
(1939)(joyce) Finnegans Wake:	12	9	58	3rd most	2nd hardest	
(1988)(carver) Where I'm Calling From:	8	4	84	2nd least	2nd easiest	
(2005)(edwards) The Memory Keeper's Daughter:	8	6	77	3rd least	3rd easiest	

a) gatsby=most education, most difficult
b) calling = least education, least difficult
c) moby and finnegans - most picked up by not finished, -----> cited as difficult to read and and unfinishable
d) tipping = was highly controversial, full of statistics

Most words per sentence = Moby-dick, Gatsby, Where I'm calling from