Kevin San Gabriel
301342241
CMPT 376W D100 Milan Tofiloski
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One metric in determining how easy it is for a reader to interpret a sentence is to score the sentence out of 100 based on a formula. The formula takes the average number of words in the sentences, the average number of syllables in each word and the count of both syllables and words in the sentences. The closer the number of the output is to 100, the higher the readability of that sentence is.

Readability scores are mostly effective when considering long technical sentences and words with many symbols. However, not all long words with many syllables are difficult to understand and not all short words are easy to understand. From this, the readability score determined from the formula can be skewed and inaccurate in determining readability. In addition to words and their syllables, short technical sentences can be difficult to understand as well. The briefness of a piece of writing does not always determine the readability of its context to the reader.