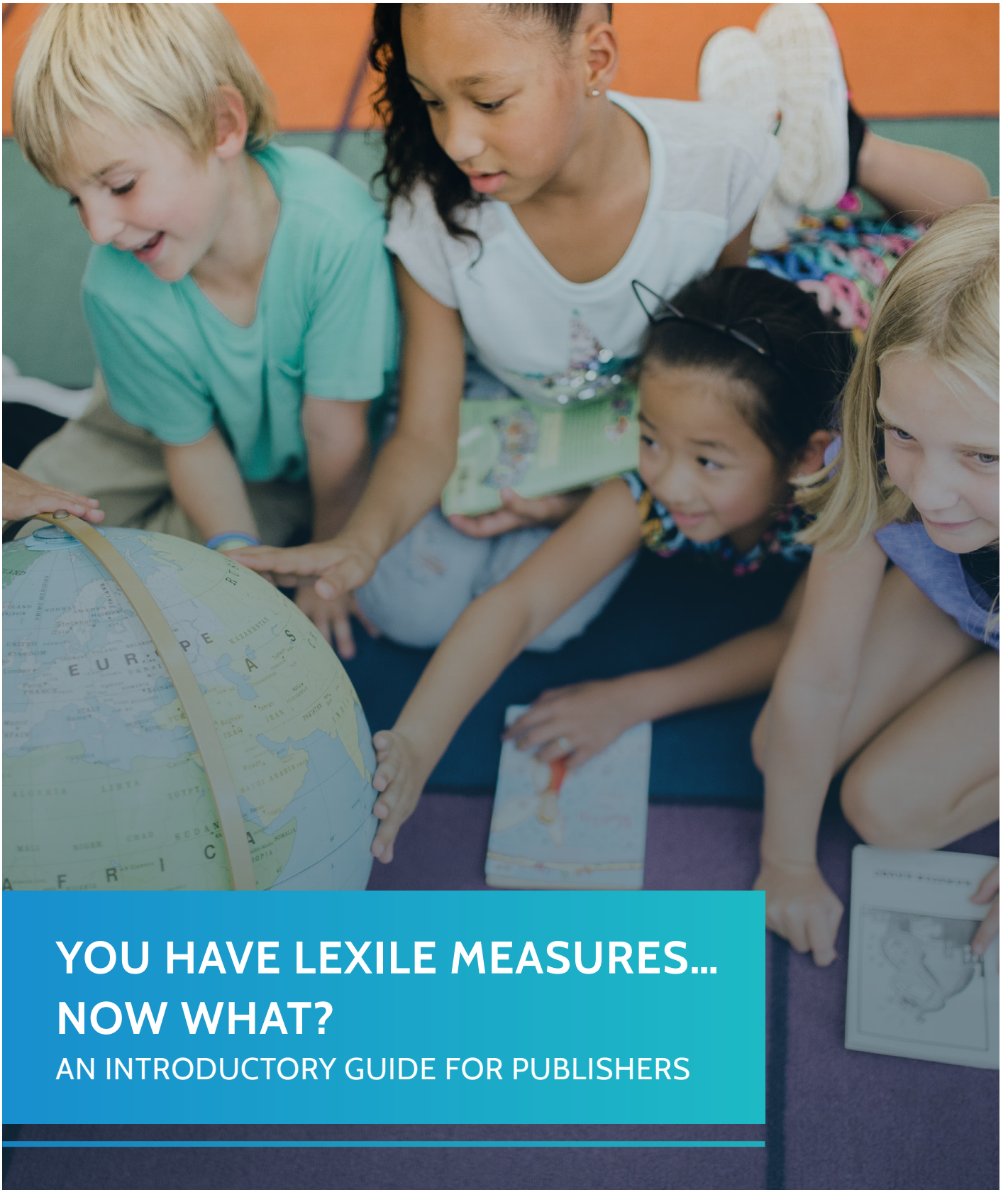




# LEXILE FRAMEWORK<sup>®</sup>

FOR READING



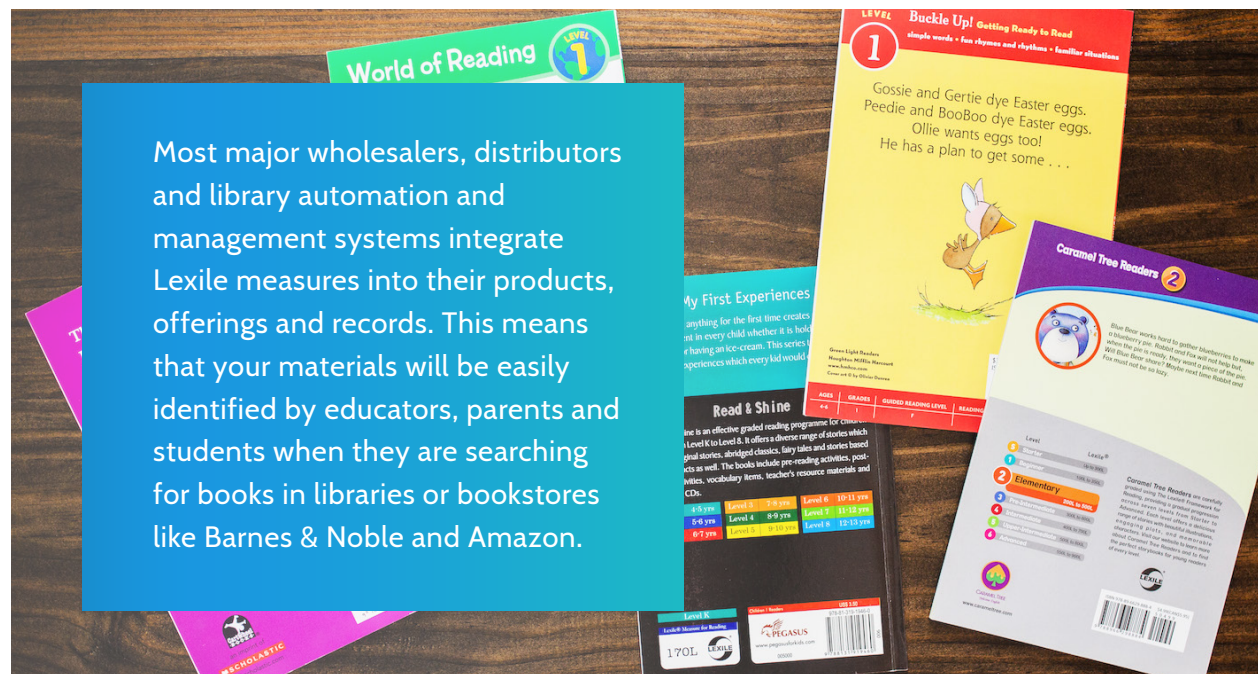
**YOU HAVE LEXILE MEASURES...**  
**NOW WHAT?**  
AN INTRODUCTORY GUIDE FOR PUBLISHERS

# You Have Lexile Measures...Now What?

With licensing rights to certified Lexile measures for your texts, you can take advantage of your Lexile competitive edge by:

- ➔ Printing Lexile measures on your book jackets.
- ➔ Adding Lexile measures to the book data included in your print and digital catalogs.
- ➔ Adding Lexile measures to your book product pages on your website.
- ➔ Including a search feature in your catalogs and/or website where users can browse by filters that include Lexile measures.
- ➔ Including the Lexile logo/seal in your marketing materials, advertisements and trade show signage.

MetaMetrics® will communicate information about your books that will increase the discoverability and visibility of your offerings. We will include your books in our **Lexile® Titles Database**, which then feeds to distributors as well as our book search database **Lexile® Find a Book**, that performs over a million searches a month.



Most major wholesalers, distributors and library automation and management systems integrate Lexile measures into their products, offerings and records. This means that your materials will be easily identified by educators, parents and students when they are searching for books in libraries or bookstores like Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

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How Do Texts Receive  
Lexile Measures?



# AN INTRODUCTORY GUIDE TO LEXILE MEASURES

*We are grateful for your partnership. For 35 years, we have partnered with publishers to connect learners with good reading matches. Use this section of the Toolkit to help you and your staff become acquainted with the Lexile Framework and the benefits of using Lexile measures, the world-wide standard for matching students with texts.*

Lexile measures are a proven, scientific tool that can be used to match a learner's reading ability to text difficulty. Lexile measures provide connection to real world benchmarks. More textbooks, trade books, educational series and other reading content is measured and added to the Lexile Framework for Reading each day. The accuracy and flexibility of the Framework make it a stigma free way to communicate reading achievements and goals with learners, parents, employers and educators. Our research team continues to study English reading materials for learners around the world – from first language learners in the United States and Australia to English as a foreign language learners in China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Turkey, Spain and many other countries.

# The Lexile Framework: A Universal Measure for Learners and Texts

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## LEXILE LEARNER MEASURES

A **Lexile learner measure** is the numeric representation of a learner's ability to read English. The Lexile scale is a developmental scale ranging from beginning learner measures below OL to above 1600L for advanced abilities. The higher the learner's Lexile measure, the greater their ability to read English.



Over **35 million students** from **50 U.S. states** and **180 countries** receive Lexile reader measures from over **65 popular reading assessments** and programs.

## LEXILE TEXT MEASURES

A **Lexile text measure** is the numeric representation of a text's difficulty. Like Lexile learner measures, the higher the Lexile text measures, the more difficult the text is to comprehend. The Lexile scale is a developmental scale ranging from beginning learner texts below OL to above 1600L for advanced texts.



More than **100 million books, articles and websites** have received Lexile text measures.

## What Makes Lexile Measures Actionable?

Oftentimes, tests measure students in a way that doesn't really indicate a learner's next steps. The Lexile Framework for Reading (in English and Spanish) is a scientifically valid approach to matching students with reading materials because both student ability and text difficulty are measured on the same scale in the same units. The Lexile scale connects learners to reading materials at their unique ability levels – both today and as their reading abilities grow. A learner's Lexile measure is more than a test score. It applies to books and articles that a learner encounters daily – in class, at home, online and in the library and bookstore.

*Lexile Framework® for Reading*

*El Sistema Lexile® Para Leer*

**“MetaMetrics and the Lexile measure are the gold standard for text complexity.”**

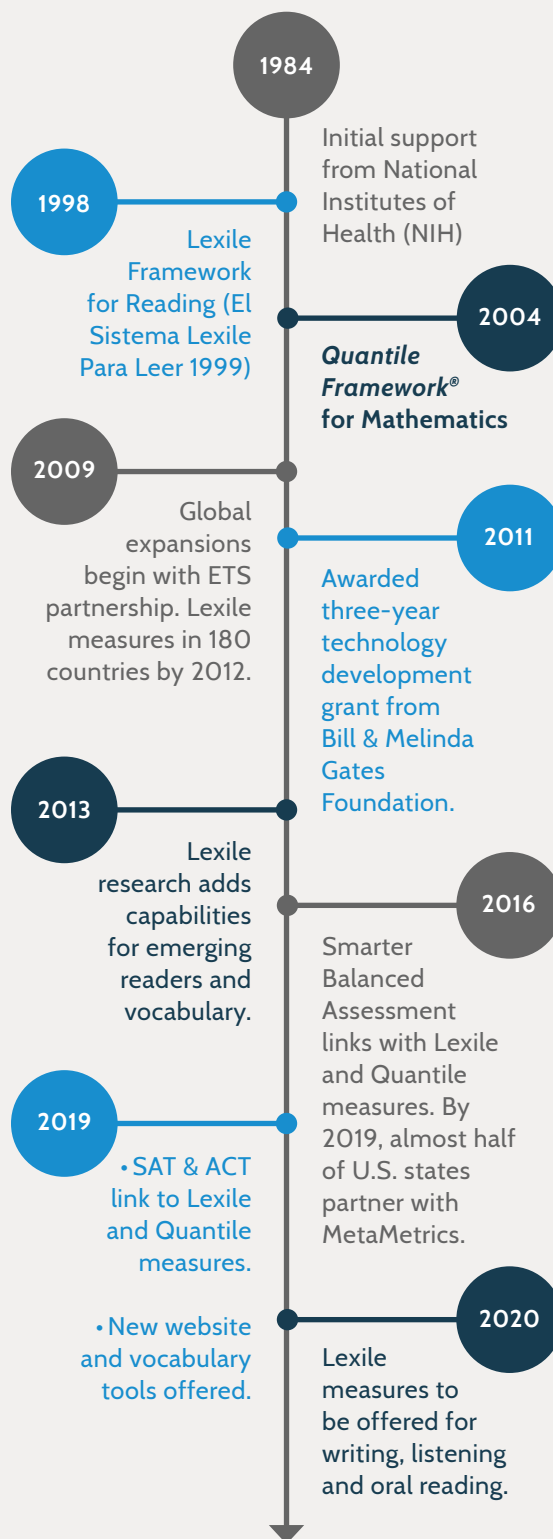
— Paul Abdo, Editor in Chief of ABDO Publishing

The diagram illustrates the application of Lexile measures across three key environments: Libraries, Bookstores, and Classrooms. Each environment is represented by an icon (a person reading, a bookshelf, and a classroom building) and a list of partner logos. Below each list is a text box explaining how Lexile measures are used in that setting.

- LIBRARIES**
  - Logos: Biblionix, EBSCO, Follett, GALE CENGAGE Learning, INGRAM, OCLC, LibraryThing, MARCIVE, INC., ProQuest.
  - Text: **Libraries** increase the visibility and exposure of your offerings when customers can easily search over 500,000 informational and literary titles with Lexile measures.
- BOOKSTORES**
  - Logos: ABDO, amazon, amazon.cn, amazon.co.jp, BARNES & NOBLE, HarperCollins Publishers, Penguin Random House, Simon & Schuster, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.
  - Text: **Booksellers**, content publishers and developers help their customers find materials at the right fit or ensure that they are producing content at a specific reading level.
- CLASSROOMS**
  - Logos: myON by Renaissance, map GROWTH, KidBiz3000, ROSEN LightSail, TeenBiz3000, READING COUNTS!, READ180, R Reading Inventory, netTrekker, newsela.
  - Text: In **classrooms**, Lexile measures connect learners of all ages and abilities with materials at the right challenge level to aid in reading comprehension and accelerate their learning to read.

# WHY TRUST LEXILE MEASURES?

Beginning in 1984, leaders at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) in the United States supported the founding mission of connecting test results with instruction by funding MetaMetrics with a series of grants. That work resulted in MetaMetrics' flagship measurement, the Lexile Framework for Reading. Hundreds of independent studies over the past 35 years have confirmed the Lexile Framework as a trusted, scientific means of measuring reading for English and Spanish text.



## HOW DO LEXILE MEASURES HELP MAKE READING MATCHES?

To realize the value of Lexile measures, consider the following scenario.

A parent takes her child to the store to buy shoes. The salesperson asks, “What kind of shoes do you need?” The parent replies, “He needs sneakers.” As the salesperson leads them to the sneakers, he asks, “How old is your child?” The parent answers, “12.” The salesperson then points to 10 pairs of sneakers on the wall and says, “Here are our age-12 sneakers.”

Not likely, right? We don’t buy shoes by age; we buy them by size. Twelve-year-olds vary a great deal by foot size. Similarly, reading ability varies a great deal. For years, students have been matched to books and other learning materials based on age or grade level.

As with shoe shopping, it’s important to recognize that **one size does not fit all** and ensure that each learner is matched with the right reading “fit” for them. Millions of learners now know their Lexile measure – or their reading ability “shoe size.” By obtaining a certified Lexile measure for a book or piece of text, publishers indicate the fit their content provides.



### FIND A BOOK

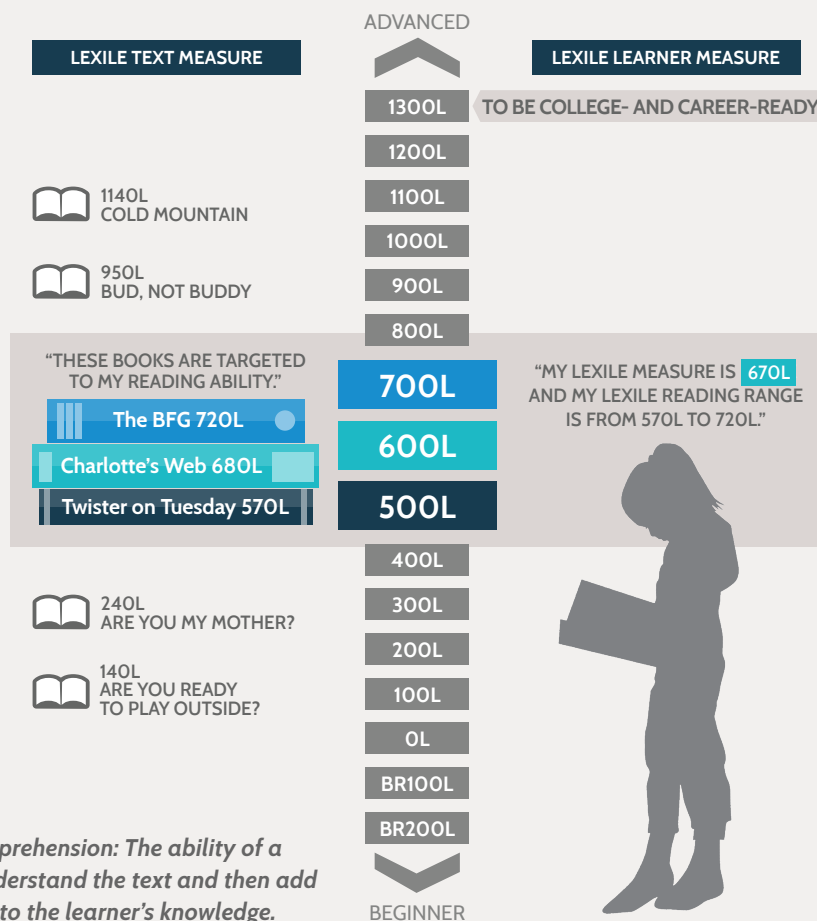
Find “just right” books at [hub.lexile.com/fab](https://hub.lexile.com/fab).



## Matching Readers With Text

Lexile measures provide valuable information about a learner's reading comprehension. For example, "Charlotte's Web" in the graphic below has a Lexile level of 680L. A learner with a measure of 670L reading a text measured at 670L is expected to have a 75 percent comprehension rate, the "default" rate used for reading instruction within the Lexile Framework. When a text's measure matches a learner's measure, the learner should not be frustrated by losing the meaning-thread of the text, but should encounter new vocabulary and sentence structures that promote growth in reading.

The ideal reading range to encourage growth for a learner is from 100L below to 50L above the learner's Lexile measure. In this case, the learner's ideal reading range is from 570L to 720L. EFL students may want to target reading at the lower end of their Lexile range or even lower.



# Lexile Do's and Don'ts

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## LEXILE MEASURES DO...

- Provide a benchmark against real-world texts used by universities, the workplace and media outlets across the globe.
- Provide a scientific and objective way to match students with text and reading resources.
- Inform individualized instruction and set learning goals.
- Complement other book leveling systems based on criteria that require qualitative judgments for guided reading, like the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).
- Represent learners' overall reading comprehension of text.

## LEXILE MEASURES DO NOT...

- Indicate text quality or story complexity.
- Indicate text appropriateness for a person's age, background, motivation or topical interest level. (Book search databases such as Lexile Find a Book at [hub.lexile.com/fab](https://hub.lexile.com/fab) allow learners to search books by Lexile measure and interests.)
- Comprise an instructional program. However, they can be used for text leveling as part of an instructional program.
- Measure text supports such as accompanying pictures and pull-outs.
- Represent the only piece of information used to make text selections.



## HOW DO LEARNERS RECEIVE LEXILE MEASURES?

Many standardized reading tests report their results as a Lexile measure. The Lexile Framework is instrument independent, not proprietary to one assessment or publisher. That makes it an objective standard for reading that publishers, assessment companies, leaders in education technology, governments and ministries of education can rely on. Lexile measures are used by all kinds of learners including:

- ➔ Those of all ages.
- ➔ Those of all backgrounds and abilities — from struggling to advanced students.
- ➔ Native speakers of English or Spanish.
- ➔ ESL or EFL learners.

# How Do Learners Receive Lexile Measures?

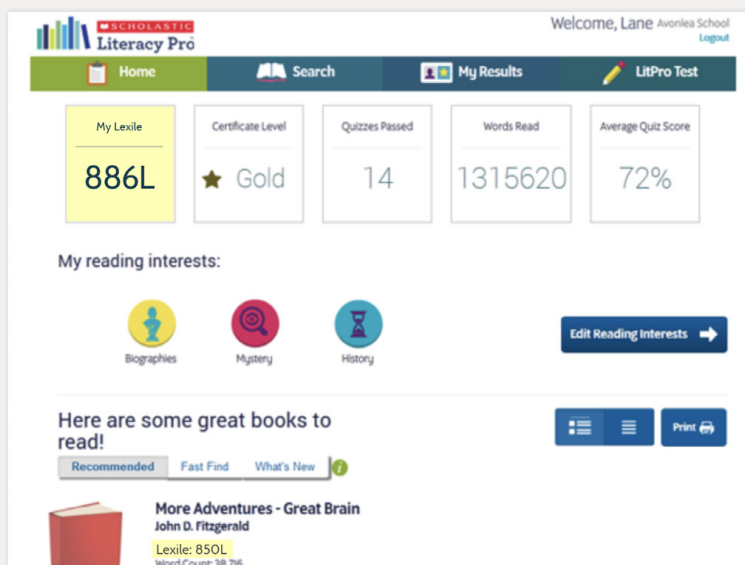
Learners receive Lexile measures as a score from a reading test linked to the Lexile scale. Lexile measures for students are numeric representations of a learner's ability to read English or Spanish and appear as a number followed by an "L". Learners receive Lexile measures through:

- ➔ High stakes education assessments
- ➔ Progress monitoring tests
- ➔ Workplace language exams
- ➔ Language institutes



## Partner Examples

MyOn and Scholastic Literacy Pro are examples of how learners receive Lexile measures. They are then connected with digital reading content within their Lexile range. Personal interest filters along with their Lexile placement exam help create recommended reading lists. The programs monitor the learner's growth in reading.





## Typical Learner Measures by Grade

Lexile measures offer a more precise description of a learner's reading comprehension than can be determined by grade level or age.

There is no direct correspondence between years of formal education or age and Lexile measures. However, this chart offers a sense of how a learner's Lexile measure compares to Lexile measures for students in the same year (mid-year) of formal education. The Lexile range shown is the middle 50 percent of U.S. student measures for each year meaning that 25 percent of the students were reading at a higher level and 25 percent of the students were reading at a lower level than these ranges. Within a classroom, there will be a wide range of students' Lexile measures. Research indicates that to be ready for university and a career, students should be able to read materials around 1300L.

### U.S. LEARNER MEASURES, MID-YEAR

GRADE	READER MEASURES, MID-YEAR <i>25th percentile to 75th percentile (IQR)</i>
1	BR120L to 295L
2	170L to 545L
3	415L to 760L
4	635L to 950L
5	770L to 1080L
6	855L to 1165L
7	925L to 1235L
8	985L to 1295L
9	1040L to 1350L
10	1085L to 1400L
11 & 12	1130L to 1440L



## HOW DO TEXTS RECEIVE LEXILE MEASURES?

The **Lexile Analyzer**<sup>®</sup> measures text difficulty on a scale that ranges from beginning texts below 0L to advanced texts above 1600L. Two factors determine the Lexile measures for texts that are 660L and above. They are:

- ➔ **Sentence length:** Easier texts have shorter sentences and more use of the same words between sentences. Harder texts have longer sentences and fewer words that overlap between sentences.
- ➔ **Vocabulary difficulty:** Easier texts have more common, familiar and concrete words. Harder texts have more rare, unfamiliar and abstract words.

For texts at 650L and below, the Lexile Analyzer evaluates text features that are unique to early reading texts (for English text only). Often authors of early reading texts pay special attention to factors that facilitate comprehension such as easy vocabulary and decoding. Repetition and patterning are usually important in texts at this level to help early readers cultivate reading strategies and skills. To account for these unique factors, the Analyzer recognizes and evaluates four **Early Reading Indicators** for texts that are 650L and below. They are:

- ➔ **Structure:** Low demand texts have more repeated words and phrases. Harder texts have fewer repeating words and phrases and place a higher demand on the reader.
- ➔ **Syntactic:** Low demand texts have shorter sentences and more words that overlap between sentences. Texts that put a higher demand on the reader have longer sentences and fewer words.
- ➔ **Semantic:** Low demand texts have more common, familiar and concrete vocabulary. Texts that have more rare, unfamiliar and abstract words place a higher demand on the reader.
- ➔ **Decoding:** Low demand texts have words with fewer syllables and simpler sounds (e.g., “net” and “shop”). Higher demand texts have words with more syllables and more complex sounds (e.g., “balloon” and “ceremony”).

## Example of Analyzed Text Below 650L

### DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Lexile Measure: 420L

Word Count: 153

Mean Sentence Length (MSL) 6.95

Mean Log Frequency (MLF) 3.43

### TEXT ON GECKOS (420L)

#### SAMPLE TEXT

Geckos are lizards. They can be found all over the world. They usually live in warm areas.

Shorter sentences

Most geckos sleep during the day. They are awake at night.

Easier decoding

Birds, snakes, and other animals hunt geckos. Geckos must be careful. They have a few ways to get away.

Geckos can lose their tails. Geckos can do this to get away from another animal. The other animal grabs a gecko's tail. It thinks it has caught the gecko, but it has really only caught its tail. The gecko gets away. Later, the gecko will grow a new tail.

Parallel sentence  
patterning

Geckos have special feet, too. Their feet help them to walk on very smooth things like grass. Geckos can also walk upside down. This helps the geckos get away, too.

Some geckos can change color. Geckos can look like what's around them.

Easier vocabulary

Animals hunting the geckos just see rocks or leaves. They do not see the geckos!

More concrete words

## Example of Analyzed Text Above 660L

### DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Lexile Measure: 980L

Word Count: 124

Mean Sentence Length (MSL) 13.78

Mean Log Frequency (MLF) 3.28

### TEXT ON GECKOS (980L)

#### SAMPLE TEXT

Geckos are found all over the world, usually in tropical and temperate climates. These lizards, most of which are nocturnal, have unique abilities that enable them to protect themselves from predators. Perhaps their most valuable defense is their detachable tail. When a gecko is captured, it can shed its tail, providing enough of a distraction for it to escape. Most geckos have small hairs on their feet that act as “suction cups” allowing them to climb smooth surfaces. They can even walk upside down across a ceiling. This ability provides them with the escape routes that their predators cannot access. Some geckos use camouflage to blend in with their immediate environment. This makes them virtually invisible to predators such as snakes and birds.

Longer sentences

Harder decoding

Diverse sentence  
patterning

Harder vocabulary

More use of  
abstract words

*One final word about the Analyzer: It does not measure all kinds of texts such as poetry and recipes as outlined in the chart below.*

### TEXT TYPES

#### DO MEASURE...

Newspaper and magazine articles  
Books  
Short stories and reading selections  
Passages, interviews

#### DO NOT MEASURE...

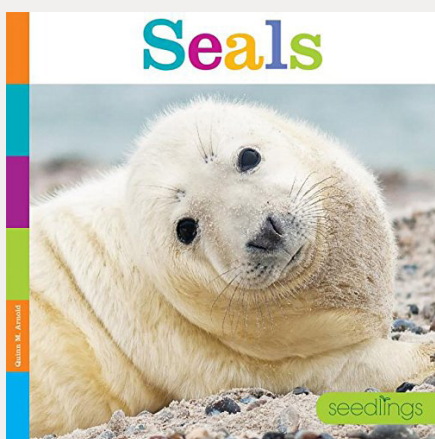
Student writing  
Poetry  
Multiple-choice questions  
Fill-in-the-blank questions  
Non-prose  
Plays/drama  
Recipe lists, song lyrics  
Instant messages, text language



## Example Text Passages

Once the content has been developed and published, your customers see book titles with Lexile measures across the Lexile scale connecting learners to reading material at their unique ability level – both now and as their reading abilities grow.

### 330L: LOWER DEMAND TEXT EXAMPLE



Earless seals live in oceans. Thick blubber keeps seals warm. A seal's back flippers help it swim fast. A seal on land is low. Its claws dig into rocks and ice. Many seals have dark brown or gray fur. Some have spots. Seals molt every year.

### 1340L: HIGHER DEMAND TEXT EXAMPLE

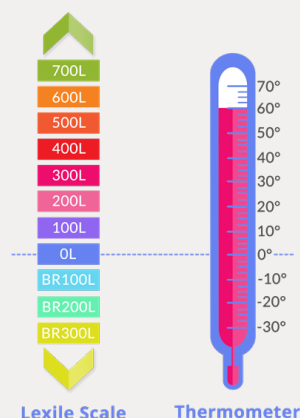


The basic element, carbon, is one whose atoms have an almost infinite capacity for uniting with each other in chains and rings and various other configurations, and for becoming linked with atoms of other substances. Indeed, the incredible diversity of living creatures from bacteria to the great blue whale is largely due to this capacity of carbon. The complex protein molecule has the carbon atom as its basis, as have molecules of fat, carbohydrates, enzymes, and vitamins. So, too, have enormous numbers of nonliving things, for carbon is not necessarily a symbol of life.

## Why Do Some Texts Receive Lexile Codes in Addition to Measures?

You may have noticed Lexile codes such as BR120L in the grade range chart. Lexile codes are a two-letter designation before a Lexile text measure that provide more information about the type of book, its developmental appropriateness and/or its common or intended use.

- ➔ **AD: Adult Directed** - Better when read aloud to a student rather than having the student read independently.
- ➔ **BR: Beginning Reader** - Appropriate for emerging readers with a Lexile reader measure below OL. A Lexile measure of BR100L indicates that the Lexile measure is 100 units below OL. Just like -10 degrees is higher (warmer) than -30 degrees on a thermometer, a BR100L book is more complex than a BR300L book.
- ➔ **GN: Graphic Novel** - Graphic novels or comic books.
- ➔ **HL: High-Low** - Content to engage older students who need materials that are less complex and at a lower reading level.
- ➔ **IG: Illustrated Guide** - Nonfiction materials often used for reference.
- ➔ **NC: Non-Conforming** - Good for high-ability readers who still need age-appropriate content.
- ➔ **NP: Non-Prose** - Poems, plays, songs, recipes and text with non-standard or absent punctuation.



# WE'RE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU

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Our team at MetaMetrics shares your vision for each learner being ready to meet English reading demands in university and career life. As partners in that work, we are here to support your efforts in understanding and using the Lexile Framework to help meet your goals.

One of our MetaMetrics team members will serve as your primary support contact. Please reach out with any questions and feedback you have.



**KANISTA ZUNIGA**  
DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT  
*Global Services*  
kzuniga@lexile.com



See something missing or want to help us make this Toolkit better?  
Please send us an email!

## More Resources at Your Fingertips!

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View all the communications and implementation resources we have to offer by accessing our online Publisher Toolkit at [lexile.global/publisher-toolkit](https://lexile.global/publisher-toolkit).

### Our online toolkit offers:

- ➔ Key messages to use with your customers
- ➔ Checklist for a successful launch
- ➔ Communication templates and sample language to use for your website, email campaigns, social media outreach and press release.
- ➔ Access to our Lexile logo and Certified Lexile Partner Seal
- ➔ Answers to Frequently Asked Questions
- ➔ Examples of how other publishers, booksellers and edtech companies have messaged Lexile measures



## KEY MESSAGES

Visit [lexile.global/publisher-toolkit/communications](https://lexile.global/publisher-toolkit/communications) for key messages to communicate Lexile measures to your customers.



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