

Words per Minute Reading Speed Test

How to run the test:

1. Baseline test

A baseline test should be run in term 1 each year. For this test, start with the passage for the grade the learner is in.

2. Termly testing

Review the baseline test from term 1. Estimate the reading level of your learner. Do they seem to be reading at grade level, below grade level, or above grade level? When the learner is reading the passage, it should not be frustrating and they should not be making many mistakes. If they are making mistakes while reading the text, swap for a lower level.

Grade of learner	Number of mistakes made	
Grade 2-4	5 or more	Switch to a passage set at a lower level.
Grade 5-10	6 or more	

3. Print out the learner and teacher/parent reading passages

- The learner will read the learner copy.
- The teacher/parent will use the teacher/parent version of the reading passage. This copy has word counts on the right-hand side to make it easy to count the number of words read after the one-minute timed reading session ends. Learners' details should be filled in at the top of the page for recording purposes.

4. Time your learner for one minute while they read the passage aloud

- The teacher/parent follows along as the learner reads and discreetly marks the mistakes made. It is not an accuracy test and it's important not to make the learner nervous about making mistakes as this will not give an accurate assessment. Marking the mistakes is simply recorded to ensure that the correct test is given in the next round of testing.

Mistakes/errors that should be noted are:

- Mispronunciation or dropped endings
- Skipped words (Skipped lines count as one mistake)
- Leaving words/sentences out
- Substitutions
- Repeated words
- Inserting words that are not there
- Self-corrections

The number of mistakes should be indicated on the teacher/parent copy of the test.

5. Calculate the total number of words per minute the learner has read and record it on the teacher/parent sheet. The following table shows the benchmark reading level for each grade.

Grade	Number of words per minute
2	53-111
3	89-149
4	107-162
5	123-180
6	139-194
7	150-204
8	
9	
10	

Adapted from Hasbrouck, J. & Tindal, G. (2017)

There should be an improvement throughout the year.

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Reading Passage

A Solar Eclipse in 'Eclipseville'.



People flocked to Hopkinsville, USA (now affectionately referred to as 'Eclipseville') on 21 August 2017 to watch the first total solar eclipse observable from the USA in nearly 39 years.

The previously little-known town was declared to be the best place to see 'totality' (meaning the sun would be in complete shadow) by NASA. They were right and totality lasted for an unrivalled 2 minutes and 41.2 seconds. "I made a pinhole camera and was amazed by how long the eclipse lasted," said one visitor.

"It wasn't pitch black, but felt very gloomy and slightly spooky," said another.

You only have to wait another seven years until the next full solar eclipse in the USA. But will Eclipseville be the best place to view again?

Words per Minute Reading Speed Test

Grade 6 -Teacher/Parent copy

Learner Name: _____

Grade: _____ Reading Level: _____

A Solar Eclipse in 'Eclipseville'.

People flocked to Hopkinsville, USA (now affectionately referred to as 'Eclipseville') on 21 August 2017 to watch the first total solar eclipse observable from the USA in nearly 39 years. 8
20
30

The previously little-known town was declared to be the best place to see 'totality' (meaning the sun would be in complete shadow) by NASA. They were right and totality lasted for an unrivalled 2 minutes and 41.2 seconds. "I made a pinhole camera and was amazed by how long the eclipse lasted," said one visitor. 41
52
62
73
84
86

"It wasn't pitch black, but felt very gloomy and slightly spooky," said another. 96
99

You only have to wait another seven years until the next full solar eclipse in the USA. But will Eclipseville be the best place to view again? 111
123
126

Mistakes made: _____

Words read in one minute: _____

Notes: _____

