

BR Lexile[®] Values

Overview

MetaMetrics[®] the measurement and research company that support myON[®] reader, recently (August 2013) released new research and a new measurement scale for books that previously fell under the “Beginning Reader” (BR) value. While still part of the Lexile Framework for Reading, BR is now more accurately measured and assigned to texts and readers.

Variables Used to Assign BR Values

The Lexile Analyzer uses nine different variables to determine the BR value of a particular text. These variables fall into areas of text / discourse, word meaning, and word structure. Together, these variables more accurately predict the reading level of a text.

Text / Discourse

Understanding the patterns in words and sentences help determine how complex a text is. The variables used for assigning a text measurement score that contribute to the BR value of the title include:

- Intersentential complexity – measures how often words, phrases, and letters repeat in sentences next to each other.
- Concept density – measures if phrases are repeated across multiple sentences.
- Concept overlap - measures how often words, phrases, and letters repeat in sentences anywhere in the text.
- Compression ratio – measures how often words, phrases, and letters repeat in patterns in the same sentence or across multiple sentences.

Word Meaning

Determining how frequently words appear in text and are known to students based on the intended audience of the text help determine the text measurement score that contributes to the BR value of the title.

- Age-of-Acquisition – measures when the words within the evaluated text are most likely acquired by students.
- Abstractness – measures the relative abstractness / concreteness of words in the text.
- Word rareness – measures how often words in the text appear in other texts.

Word Structure

- Syllable count – measures the number of syllables per word in the text.



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- Monosyllable decoding demand – measures within monosyllable words what the decoding demand of the words in the text is.

BR Representation in myON

In the past, books that have been assigned BR within the Lexile scale have either been represented with the Lexile level “BR” or a number ranging from -200 to +200. With the change to BR, all titles in myON that have a BR value will be assigned the prefix “BR” followed by a Lexile number.

Changes to Book Information

All titles within myON that are intended for beginning readers will be reanalyzed, and the new BR value will be assigned. For example, the beginning reader title *Hippo Says “Excuse Me”* was previously labeled as **BR**. With the new BR measurement, the label in myON will be **BR 10L**.

BR books within myON will be within the range:

- BR 200L to 0L
- 0L to 200L
- Many books labeled “AD” (Adult Directed) may also be appropriate for beginning readers when the audio is enabled.

Advanced Search

The Lexile level search parameters in advanced search will be updated to more appropriately reflect books for beginning readers using these ranges.

Lexile Placement Exam and Benchmark Tests

A new placement exam has been developed for beginning readers. This placement exam will be administered to students in Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and Grade 1. It will place students appropriately in their Lexile range (including BR values when appropriate) depending on the student reading ability.

The exam will include new picture items, as well as single and two sentence items. A picture item will have a graphical representation of a concept, and ask the student to select the word that represents the picture best. For example, the picture might be of an airplane. Students would need to select the word airplane from a list of words to get this item correct.

Once placed on the Lexile scale, students who are assigned a BR value will receive benchmark tests to measure changes to reading ability (after reading 5 books (or 3 hours) and administered no more frequently than every 2 weeks). These benchmarks could be short passages using a cloze procedure, a one sentence question with four possible answers, or a picture with four single word answers that identify it.



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