



The Best Choice to
Measure Reading Progress



Explanation of Lexiles

What are Lexiles and how are they used in SRI?

The Lexile Framework® for Reading is a scientific approach to reading comprehension and text measurement that matches a reader's ability to a text's difficulty, allowing individualized monitoring of progress. It includes the Lexile® measure and the Lexile scale. The Lexile measure is a reading ability or text difficulty score followed by an "L" (e.g., "850L"). SRI uses the developmental Lexile scale for texts ranging from 100L for beginning readers (BR) to above 1500L for advanced readers. Because SRI's standard error of measure is ± 50 , any score below 100L is reported as "BR." Any score above 1500L is reported as 1500+ due to the limited number of authentic texts available to provide items aligned to scores above 1500L. All Lexile Framework products, tools, and services rely on the Lexile measure and scale to match reader and text.

Lexile measures are the most widely adopted reading measures in use today. Tens of thousands of books and tens of millions of newspaper and magazine articles have Lexile measures — more than 450 publishers Lexile their titles. Using Lexiles, teachers can match students to texts for both their interest level and reading ability — essentially tying assessment to instruction on a daily basis.

Why do I sometimes see my students' scores decrease from one administration to the next?

Changes in test scores from one administration to the next may be the result of several factors, besides instructional interventions. There are external factors (separate from the test itself) that can and will impact the score. A student's reading level may have actually changed, so any instruction or practice that took place between test administrations must be considered. In addition, the student's state of body and mind at the time of testing can greatly affect the test score. The student may be tired, hungry, or distracted during an administration, which can impact performance.

There are also factors internal to the tests that can lead to differences in scores, even if the scores are being reported on the same scale. The item format, length of test, and level of difficulty can greatly impact the score. In addition, every test has a predictable amount of measurement error that affects a student's score and will vary from test to test. SRI has been designed to minimize the measurement error for any given student. For each test administration, SRI's algorithm selects items based on the student's response to the previous item. If the student answered the item correctly, then a harder item is selected; if the student answered the item incorrectly, then an easier item is selected. The test constantly adjusts between more and less difficult items, but makes more precise adjustments each time. The result is to zero in on the student's true ability with the least measurement error possible. SRI's test engine takes this a step farther. With each subsequent administration, the test starts at the level where the student's previous test left off. Over time, with repeated administrations of SRI, the measurement error associated with a score gets smaller and smaller, resulting in much greater accuracy in reading-level measurement.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/sri/overview/faq.htm>