

Reading assessment

What follows is a simple but effective reading assessment. Over the years we've used it many, many times, and despite its simplicity, it really does seem to yield a rough measure of a student's reading ability.

How to use the assessment

What you'll see is several lists of words. Start somewhere well below the student's grade level, and simply have the student *read the words aloud*. — Your job is simply to listen, without intervening in any way.

Things to note:

- The student does not have to know what the words *mean*.
- What you're looking for is *smooth reading ability*.

When the student stumbles on two or three words in a particular list, you've arrived at his or her reading level; you may stop the assessment.

How to read the numbers

Here's the key to understanding the numbers in brackets — each actually comprises *two* numbers:

- The first is the grade year in school.
- The second is the month within that grade.

So if your student begins to stumble on a particular column of words, like [80], that means he or she reads at about an 8th grade level, the beginning of the year, i.e., grade 8, month 0. Similarly, [86] means grade 8, month 6 of the school year; [112] means 11th grade, *second* month of the year; and so on.

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regimes

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regicidal

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