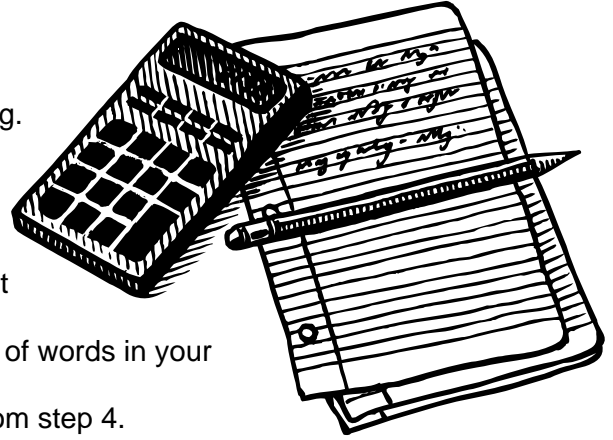


# To accurately calculate readability with the Flesch-Kincaid formula...

## What numbers do I use?

1. Select a section of text at least 100 words long.
2. Add up the number of words in your selected text. Do the same for the number of sentences and syllables.
3. Divide the number of words in your selected text by the number of sentences. Multiply that number by 0.39.
4. Divide the number of syllables by the number of words in your selected text. Multiply that number by 11.8
5. Add the number from step 3 to the number from step 4.
6. Subtract 15.59 from the number from step 5.
7. You should get a grade level between 0 and 20.



$$\text{Grade level} = 0.39 \left( \frac{\text{total words}}{\text{total sentences}} \right) + 11.8 \left( \frac{\text{total syllables}}{\text{total words}} \right) - 15.59$$

## Does Flesch-Kincaid have some special rules?

- “Sentences” end with a [.), [?), [!], not a [:], [;], or [.,].
- Hyphenated words count as one word.
- Count proper nouns.
- Count the number of syllables in each word by reading the word aloud.
- Count abbreviations as their original whole word.
- Count lists as one sentence each if items are separated by commas or semicolons. Lists with full sentences (like this one) count for as many sentences as are in the list.

## Can I see an example?

*Babies born to women who are covered by one of Iowa's health care programs are covered through the month of their first birthday, provided the baby continues to live with the mother and reside in the state of Iowa.*

- Grade 16.0, according to Flesch-Kincaid Formula

*Are you pregnant? Do you get health coverage from an Iowa program? If you do, your baby will also be covered. Coverage will last until the end of the month of your baby's first birthday. The baby must live with you in Iowa.*

- Grade 4.2, according to Flesch-Kincaid Formula