ReadingFluency.ai

Reading fluency benchmark chart

Words Correct Per Minute (WCPM) norms by grade and season | Hasbrouck & Tindal, 2017

Find your child's grade and season. The bold 50th percentile row shows the middle score for that group.

Grade	Percentile	Fall	Winter	Spring
1st	90th	—	97	116
	75th	—	59	91
	50th	—	**29**	**60**
	25th	—	16	34
	10th	—	9	18
2nd	90th	111	131	148
	75th	84	109	124
	50th	**50**	**84**	**100**
	25th	36	59	72
	10th	23	35	43
3rd	90th	134	161	166
	75th	104	137	139
	50th	**83**	**97**	**112**
	25th	59	79	91
	10th	40	62	63
4th	90th	153	168	184
	75th	125	143	160
	50th	**94**	**120**	**133**
	25th	75	95	105
	10th	60	71	83
5th	90th	179	183	195
	75th	153	160	169
	50th	**121**	**133**	**146**
	25th	87	109	119
	10th	64	84	102

— No fall norm is published for grade 1. ReadingFluency seasons (fall = Aug–Nov, winter = Dec–Feb, spring = Mar–Jul).

How to do a 1-minute reading check at home

Materials needed

1. A grade-level passage your child hasn't read before, long enough to last the full minute
2. Timer or phone stopwatch
3. A second copy of the passage to mark errors on

Steps

1. Time 60 seconds from the first word
2. Mark each error once and mark the last word reached
3. Count the printed words through that last word, including skipped words. This is the Total Words Read. Subtract the marked errors.

Example. Your child reaches word 80 and skips 2 words. With no other errors, the score is 78 WCPM.

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WCPM = Total Words Read in 60 Seconds − Errors
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What counts as an error?

1. **Substitution:** Reading "house" as "home"
2. **Omission:** Skipping a word entirely
3. **Mispronunciation:** Saying the word incorrectly
4. **Transposition:** Count one error for a swapped pair
5. **Hesitation:** After 3 seconds, supply the word and mark it once
6. **Missed name:** Count only the first miss of each name

Not counted as errors

1. **Self-corrections:** Fixing the word within 3 seconds
2. **Repetitions:** Repeating a word or phrase
3. **Insertions:** Adding extra words
4. **Accent or dialect:** Pronouncing the same word differently

Comparing scores. If your child finishes early, use a longer, unfamiliar passage and time a new 60-second reading before comparing scores.

Get your child's WCPM score with our free 60-second reading assessment at readingfluency.ai

Take the free assessment →

Source: Hasbrouck, J., & Tindal, G. (2017). An update to compiled ORF norms (Technical Report No. 1702). Behavioral Research and Teaching, University of Oregon.