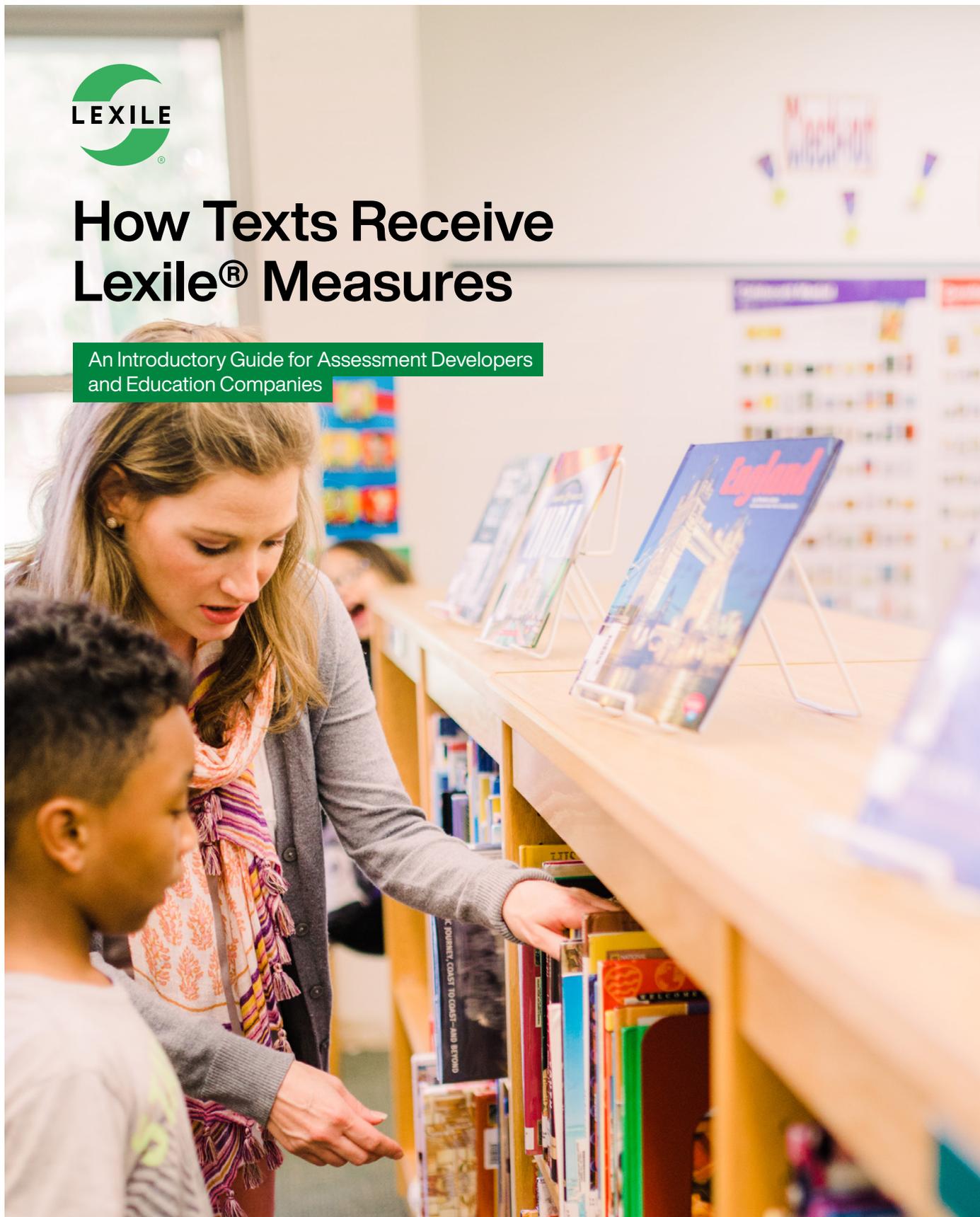# MetaMetrics®

LEXILE

How Texts Receive Lexile® Measures

An Introductory Guide for Assessment Developers and Education Companies

How Does Content Receive Lexile Text Measures?

Content receives **Lexile text measures** through the Lexile® Text Analyzer, an automated software program that uses an algorithm to evaluate the reading demand—or text complexity—of books, articles, and other text. The Lexile Text Analyzer measures text difficulty on a scale that ranges from beginning texts, below 0L, to advanced texts, above 1600L. Generally, longer sentences and words of lower frequency lead to higher Lexile measures. Shorter sentences and words of higher frequency lead to lower Lexile measures. The outcome of text analysis is a Lexile measure expressing text complexity.

The following are two text passages on geckos: one at 420L and one at 980L. Although they are on the same topic, the higher Lexile measured text uses longer sentences, more diverse sentence patterning, harder vocabulary, and more abstract use of words.

Sample Text on Geckos: 420L

Geckos are lizards. They can be found all over the world. They usually live in warm areas.

Most geckos sleep during the day. They are awake at night.

Birds, snakes, and other animals hunt geckos. Geckos must be careful. They have a few ways to get away.

Geckos can lose their tails. Geckos can do this to get away from another animal. The other animal grabs a gecko's tail. It thinks it has caught the gecko, but it has really only caught its tail. The gecko gets away. Later, the gecko will grow a new tail.

Geckos have special feet, too. Their feet help them to walk on very smooth things like grass. Geckos can also walk upside down. This helps the geckos get away, too.

Some geckos can change color. Geckos can look like what's around them. Animals hunting the geckos just see rocks or leaves. They do not see the geckos!

Sample Text on Geckos: 980L

Geckos are found all over the world, usually in tropical and temperate climates. These lizards, most of which are nocturnal, have unique abilities that enable them to protect themselves from predators. Perhaps their most valuable defense is their detachable tail. When a gecko is captured, it can shed its tail, providing enough of a distraction for it to escape. Most geckos have small hairs on their feet that act as "suction cups" allowing them to climb smooth surfaces. They can even walk upside down across a ceiling. This ability provides them with the escape routes that their predators cannot access. Some geckos use camouflage to blend in with their immediate environment. This makes them virtually invisible to predators such as snakes and birds.

Lexile Text Measures: Codes and Considerations

Lexile Codes

Lexile codes are a two-letter designation before a Lexile text measure that provide more information about the type of book, its developmental appropriateness and/or its common or intended use.

- AD: Adult Directed - Better when read aloud to a student rather than having the student read independently.

- BR: Beginning Reader - Appropriate for emerging readers with a Lexile reader measure below 0L. A Lexile measure of BR100L indicates that the Lexile measure is 100 units below 0L.

- GN: Graphic Novel - Graphic novels or comic books.

- HL: High-Low - Content to engage older students who need materials that are less complex and at a lower reading level.

- IG: Illustrated Guide - Nonfiction materials often used for reference.

- NC: Non-Conforming - Good for high-ability readers who still need age-appropriate content.

- NP: Non-Prose - Poems, plays, songs, recipes and text with non-standard or absent punctuation.

Considerations When Using Lexile Text Measures

Lexile text measures **do not**:

- Indicate text quality, story complexity, or style aspects of language.

- Indicate text appropriateness for a student's age or developmental level, background, motivation or interests. *(However, book search databases, such as the Lexile® Find a Book tool allow students to search for books by Lexile measure and interests.)*

- Measure text supports such as accompanying pictures found in graphic novels and children's books.

- Comprise the only information that should be used to make reading selections for a student.

- Take into account students' purpose for reading (assignment, pleasure, discovery, research, etc.).

The Lexile Text Analyzer **is not** designed to analyze:

- Lists

- Recipes

- Poetry, plays/drama, or song lyrics

- Student writing

- Multiple-choice or fill-in-the-blank questions

- Instant messages, text language

Students can enter their Lexile measure at Lexile Find a Book to search for books at their reading level and interests at hub.lexile.com/find-a-book.

MetaMetrics' Research on Text for College and Career Readiness

MetaMetrics studied the text demands of typical reading material for students in grades 1 through 12. The "stretch" text measures (defined in 2012 through studies related to the development of the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts) represent the demand of texts that would advance to 1300L, a text level that individuals typically encounter in their initial postsecondary college and career experiences.

> Research indicates that the materials students will first encounter in college and careers are **around 1300L**.
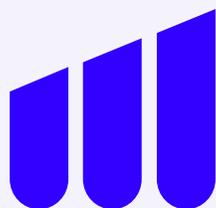
Lexile Text Ranges for College and Career Readiness

Grade	College- and Career-Ready Ranges
K	BR40L* to 230L
1	190L to 530L
2	420L to 650L
3	520L to 820L
4	740L to 940L
5	830L to 1010L
6	925L to 1070L
7	970L to 1120L
8	1010L to 1185L
9	1050L to 1260L
10	1080L to 1335L
11 & 12	1185L to 1385L

Ranges for grades 1 through 12 are based on the text complexity grade bands in the Common Core State Standards for English, Language Arts, Appendix A (Additional Information), NGA and CCSSO, 2012.

*Beginning Reader (BR) is a code given to readers and texts that are below 0L on the Lexile scale.

Our text complexity research and how Lexile measures can be used to determine and encourage college and career readiness is detailed in the FAQs section of this Toolkit, which is accessible on the Toolkit homepage: metametricsinc.com/lexile-toolkit-edtech.

MetaMetrics®

Measures That Inspire

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