

Figure 5.1 Summary of quantitative text measures.

Name	Purpose	Factors Used	Ease of Use	Notes
Fry Readability Formula	Assesses text difficulty	Sentence length and syllables	Easy; use graph	Primary–college
Flesch-Kincaid Grade-Level Score	Assesses text difficulty	Sentence length and syllables	Easy; use word processing software	K–12
Flesch Reading-Ease Score	Assesses text difficulty	Sentence length and syllables	Easy; use word processing software	Reports relative ease of reading for students in Grade 5–college
Advantage-TASA Open Standard (ATOS)	Assesses text difficulty	Words per sentence, grade level of words, and character length across entire text	Easy; free online calculator and extensive published booklist	Factors fiction/nonfiction and length of text into score
Degrees of Reading Power (DRP)	Assesses text difficulty and reader skills using same scale	Sentence length and relative word frequency	Hard; proprietary software	Designed as criterion-referenced measure for use in grades 1–12
TextEvaluator	Assesses text difficulty and identifies problematic areas	Vocabulary and sentence structures	Hard; uploaded text must meet all requirements	Considers a range of factors that impact comprehension
Lexile Scale	Assesses text difficulty and reader skills using same scale	Sentence length and relative word frequency	Hard; proprietary software Easy; searchable database	Scale is normed for each grade level, starting with Grade 2.
Coh-Metrix	Assesses texts on 64 indices, including measures of text cohesion, linguistic elements, and parsers	Parsers, propositions, and latent semantic analysis, as well as traditional readability measures	Easy; use online calculator	Reports require a high degree of technical knowledge to interpret

Source: Fisher, D., Frey, N., & Lapp, D. (2016). *Text complexity*, p. 39. Corwin.