

Placing Students

A student who struggles with decoding can't focus much, if any, attention on meaning. Therefore, to get the most out of *Reading Success*, it is important to make sure that students in the program do not struggle with the majority of reading tasks. The Oral Reading Test will help you determine a student's reading rate and accuracy for placement in a given level.

Materials for the Oral Reading Test

- Blackline masters of the oral reading portion of the Placement Test are on pages xx-xx of this guide. Make copies of the appropriate pages for each student. Administer the tests in order, starting with the test for the Foundations level. With students in Grade 9-Adult, you may begin with the Level A test and move up or down until the student places in a *Reading Success* level or places out of the program.
- You will need a stopwatch or a watch with a second hand.
- Blackline masters of your recording/scoring forms for the oral reading portion are on pages xx-xx of this guide. Make a copy of the pages for each student.
- Guidelines for placement on pages XX of this guide.

Testing Setup

- Select a quiet place to administer the test. Students who are to be tested later should not observe or listen to another student being tested. When administering the test, sit across from the student. Position the test form so the student cannot see what you are writing on the form.
- Fill out the student information lines of the test form. Keep it and hand the student a clean copy of the test.
- Time the student for one minute.
- Mark errors as the student reads.
- Count the total number of words read and the total number of errors made.
- Subtract the number of incorrectly read words from the total number of words read to find the **correct** words read per minute.
- If the student finishes the passage early, divide the total number of words read by the total number of seconds and multiply that number by 60 to get the number of words per minute.

Scoring Guidelines

- Count the following as errors:
 - Word omissions/insertions
 - Each misidentified word
 - Cannot identify a word within three seconds
- Do not count as errors:
 - Rereading words or phrases
 - Self-corrections

Guidelines for Placement

Foundations Placement Test

Results from Oral Reading Test	Student Placement
Less than 70 correct words per minute	Student's decoding skills are probably too low for success in the Foundations level
70-90 correct words per minute	Place students in Foundations
More than 90 correct words per minute	Administer the Level A Placement Test

Level A Placement Test

Results from Oral Reading Test	Student Placement
Less than 95 correct words per minute	Student's decoding skills are probably too low for success in Level A
95-110 correct words per minute	Place students in Level A
More than 110 correct words per minute	Administer the Level B Placement Test

Level B Placement Test

Results from Oral Reading Test	Student Placement
Less than 125 correct words per minute	Student's decoding skills are probably too low for success in Level B
125-140 correct words per minute	Place students in Level B
More than 140 correct words per minute	Administer the Level C Placement Test

Level C Placement Test

Results from Oral Reading Test	Student Placement
Less than 125 correct words per minute	Student's decoding skills are probably too low for success in Level C
125-140 correct words per minute	Place students in Level C

Foundations Oral Reading Test

Name _____ Date _____

Reading Placement _____

William Penn was born in England in 1644. When he was 22 years old, he became a Quaker. Quakers didn't share the religious beliefs of the government. They were treated very badly. Many of them were arrested. William Penn was arrested many times. Penn wanted to create a place where people would be free to believe whatever they chose. In 1681 Penn got his chance. The king of England gave him an area of land in the New World. William Penn named the area Sylvania. That means "woods" in Latin. The king added "Penn" in honor of William's father. And so the area became known as Pennsylvania.

Words read: _____

Errors made: _____

Correct words: _____

- 70-90 correct words per minute, place in Foundations
- More than 90 correct words per minute, continue testing

Level A Oral Reading Test

Name _____ Date _____

Reading Placement _____

Why do elephants like peanuts? Because marshmallows get stuck in their trunks! We've probably heard that joke a number of times. Elephants eat peanuts because peanuts are full of nutrition and taste great as a snack. Humans eat peanuts for the same reasons. Did you know that peanuts are also used in some shoe polishes, shampoos, and shaving creams? The shells of peanuts can be used in manufacturing plastic and floor covering. And, let's not forget one of our favorite snacks, peanut butter! In the 1890's, some people ate peanuts as a protein substitute because they couldn't chew meat. In those days, peanut butter was sold out of barrels for about 6 cents a pound. You can easily make your own peanut butter. You just grind roasted peanuts and mix them with a little oil and salt.

Words read: _____

Errors made: _____

Correct words: _____

- 95-110 correct words per minute, place in Level A
- More than 110 correct words per minute, continue testing

Level B Oral Reading Test

Name _____ Date _____

Reading Placement _____

For many people, just hearing a word can bring about feelings of 12
fear and terror. The word “shark” might be one of those words. For 25
others, nothing is quite as exciting as actually swimming among 35
these finned creatures with razor sharp teeth. But no matter how the 47
human race **feels** about sharks, the **fact** is, they have been around for 60
many years. The oldest shark fossil is more than 300 million years 72
old. That’s even before the age of dinosaurs! There are many 83
different kinds of sharks. A few of them, today, look exactly like they 96
did more than 150 million years ago. Scientists have been able to find 109
out a lot of new information about sharks in recent years. But a “day 123
in the life” of a shark is fairly hard to study because sharks travel 137
quickly, and they can travel long distances. Sometimes, sharks live so 148
deep in the sea that humans are unable to follow them. 159

Words read: _____

Errors made: _____

Correct words: _____

- 125-140 correct words per minute, place in Level B
- More than 140 correct words per minute, continue testing

Level C Oral Reading Test

Name _____ Date _____

Reading Placement _____

I have never seen such a fine parade. It started out with a fabulous	14
horse patrol followed by flags and banners that looked like a moving	26
rainbow. The parade's spectators "oohed and aahed" as the floats	36
slowly made their way along the parade route. Its announcer could	47
barely be heard above the noise of all the marching bands. The	59
judges' stand was located high enough over the parade so that they	71
could see its beauty from beginning to end. The grand marshal of the	84
parade rode in a red convertible and threw candy to the crowd. The	97
fire trucks brought up the rear of the parade, complete with a	109
Dalmatian riding in the front seat! As icing on the cake, the setting	122
sun put on a spectacular show as the parade snaked its way to the	136
fairgrounds.	137

Words read: _____

Errors made: _____

Correct words: _____

- 125-140 correct words per minute, place in Level C