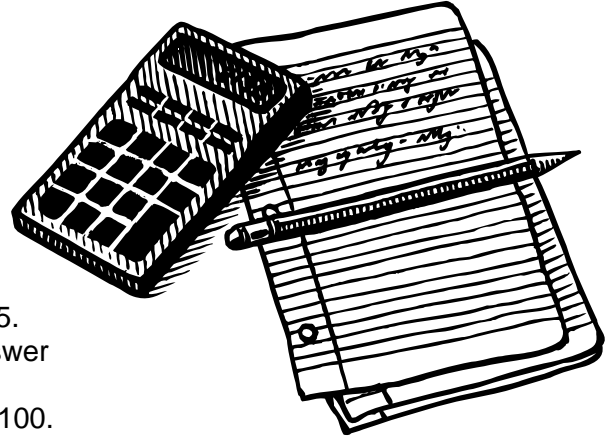


# To accurately calculate readability with the Flesch Reading Ease formula...

## What numbers do I use?

1. Choose a segment of text 100 or more words long.
2. Divide the number of words by the number of sentences. Multiply this by 1.015.
3. Divide the number of syllables by the number of words. Multiply this by 84.6.
4. Subtract the number from step 2 from 206.835.
5. Subtract the number from step 3 from the answer from step 4.
6. The Reading Ease should be between 0 and 100. The higher the number, the easier it is to read.



$$\text{Reading Ease} = 206.835 - 1.015 \left( \frac{\text{total words}}{\text{total sentences}} \right) - 84.6 \left( \frac{\text{total syllables}}{\text{total words}} \right)$$

## Does Flesch Reading Ease 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.*

- Reading Ease of 48.0, according to Flesch 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.*

- Reading Ease of 80.1, according to Flesch formula