

Alberta Reading Benchmarks Quick Reference

Level	Characteristics of Text	Difficulty of Vocabulary	Types of texts	Types of Tasks
1A	Supported by visuals Simple, single words, very common words Example texts: Simple single words: open, exit, name	Single common words	Simple signage, words Picture book	Identify sounds made by some letters of the alphabet Identify a few sight words (sale, name, stop)
1B	Supported by visuals Short lengths of text about something familiar A few words long, can be up to one short simple sentence in length Texts contain only information that is directly related to the task	Concrete nouns and simple action verbs: (house, pencil, run, eat) One and two syllable words: dog, pay, table, walked	Common formats: Phone number, addresses, prices Simple lists Short stories	Recognizing common formats to find required information (phone number on a form, address on an envelope) Finding one piece of information by matching words Can compare two pieces of information
1C	Text supported by formatting or visuals Texts with simple sentences, up to several sentences long Simple forms that require personal information to be written on them Familiar text topics	Limited to common words: parent, wash, tomorrow, please Includes some 3 syllable words: computer, apartment, hamburger Words usually follow common spelling patterns	Coupons, flyers ads, rental listings Sports registration forms Simple lists as in 1b, but longer Simple registration form	Search for information that asks for simple and common words (salt, student, actor, amount) Choose right answer when given several possibilities Choose right answer based on the meaning of a word rather than familiarity with type of format Compare three or more items of information to find first, last, most and least





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Level	Characteristics of Text	Difficulty of Vocabulary	Types of texts	Types of Tasks
2A	Texts supported by visuals or formatting Sentences that are longer and more complex and may contain more than one clause Up to several short paragraphs in length	Reading vocabulary has more complex and longer words, banquet, asthma, transportation, application Irregular spelling patterns	Informal work memos, Simple operating instructions, flyers, health brochures, classified ads on the internet or in a newspaper	Cycle to find multiple pieces of information that are not side-by-side Complex comparison such as comparing product price and make on an ad that lists more than one brand of article
2B	May be up to 500 words in length Texts are not necessarily straight forward. May use synonyms or include more information than needed to complete the task. May state information in the negative. e.g. "Who will not be at the meeting?" Text has organizing features such as headings and subtitles	Vocabulary includes some abstract words: insist, flexibility, convenient, contribute	Workplace documents about familiar topics: e-mails, list of procedures Driving instruction for getting from A to B with distances and highway numbers Nutritional information charts Events listings with descriptions and organizer contact information	Locate up to three or four pieces of information Use text format to find information: headings and subtitles Figure out which information is relevant and which is irrelevant to the task

