

# Training Module #4

## How to Benchmark Materials to the ARB

# **Learning Module #4:**

## **How to Benchmark Materials to the ARB**

### **Resources needed for this module:**

- How to Benchmark Reading Materials to the ARB Video
- A Starter List of Materials for ARB Levels 1A to 2B (Goulet)
- Benchmarking Tools:
  - ARB Quick Reference Guide For Benchmarking
  - ARB Chart for Benchmarking Resources

### **Tasks:**

1. Watch the "How to Benchmark Reading Materials" video.
2. Find the Benchmarking Tools (ARB Quick Reference Guide for Benchmarking, ARB Chart for Benchmarking Resources) on the ARB website
3. Complete the Learning and Response.

### **Objective:**

Learning Module #4 is designed to help you become familiar with the materials and the methodology for benchmarking resources for use with your learners. There is a starter list of suggested resources available for each ARB level (see Starter List of Materials for ARB Levels 1A to 2B) but you probably already have many resources in your organization that you would like to use. This module will help you choose appropriate resources for each benchmark level.

# LEARNING MODULE #4

## Learning and Response:

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### How to Benchmark Resources to the ARB

Get ready to watch the video. Have the Benchmarking Tools in hand.

On the video you will be guided through two documents. The first one will show you what features to notice when looking at a resource. The second one will help you in the benchmarking process.

As you watch the video click on the listed websites and pause the video so you can examine the featured resources for characteristics. See how they fit into the ARB Quick Reference Guide and decide what you would write on the ARB Chart for Benchmarking Resources.

Trades in Alberta - <http://alis.alberta.ca/pdf/cshop/aaet/tradesinalberta.pdf>

Inge Cuts Hair - [http://www.esl-literacy.com/readers/phase1/initial/inge\\_cuts\\_hair.pdf](http://www.esl-literacy.com/readers/phase1/initial/inge_cuts_hair.pdf)

### More Benchmarking Practice

For further practice click on the following websites. Please remember that most existing adult literacy resources are not referenced to the Alberta Reading Benchmarks. So if three categories out of four are in one benchmark that might be as good as it gets. For example, you might find a resource that has organizing features, vocabulary and visuals at level 1C but has sentence structure at 2A. You would benchmark that at level 1C.

Print off one ARB Chart for Benchmarking Resources for each resource and see if it helps organize your thinking. After you've made your best educated guess, look through the Starter List of Materials for ARB Levels 1A to 2B (Goulet) for the answers. Remember, even though a resource is benchmarked at a certain level, it can be used at other levels, depending upon the tasks you ask the learner to perform.

## Benchmarking Links:

### **North West Territories Literacy Council**

Go to: Enviro Print Fun “What do these signs mean?”

[http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/resources/famlit/howtokit/learning\\_everyday\\_life.pdf](http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/resources/famlit/howtokit/learning_everyday_life.pdf)

### **ALIS (Government of Alberta, Human Services)**

Easy Reading Job Profiles - Baker

<http://alis.alberta.ca/pdf/easyreading/baker.pdf>

### **Health Canada**

Canada Food Guide

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/food-guide-aliment/index-eng.php>

### **English Express**

Easy Potatoes

[http://eae.alberta.ca/englishexpress/articles/pdf/r04\\_10\\_11.pdf](http://eae.alberta.ca/englishexpress/articles/pdf/r04_10_11.pdf)

### **VRRI (Vocational and Rehabilitation Research Institute – now Vecova)**

Simply Health: Dental Learn about Teeth and Gum Problems

<http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/vrri/dental/dental.pdf>

(NOTE: if a link does not take you to the correct website, then copy the link and paste it in the address bar of your browser)

## Benchmarking Your Own Resources

After you’ve checked your answers against the Starter List of Materials for ARB Levels 1A to 2B, try benchmarking some of your existing materials. If you print off an ARB Chart for Benchmarking Resources for each resource and keep them on file, you will have information about the resource ready to inform your teaching.