Readability - Matching Reader with Text

What factors affect readability?
Factors

1. Sentence length
2. Word difficulty
3. Legibility
4. Layout
5. Conditions
6. Interest and motivation
7. Content
Length and difficulty

- A short sentence is easy to read. (2.3)
- A more complex sentence, perhaps containing an adjectival clause and multi-syllabic words, will have a higher reading level. (9.1)
Legibility

• Serif for text,
• San-serif for banners
• **SOME** fonts are easier to read
• **ALL CAPS NOT QUICKLY READ**
• **Bold type** better than italics
Size & Layout

- Depends on age
- Adults prefer 10-12 point.....think about the situation for the type!

- Length of line

- Spacing

- Justification

- Headings/Subheadings

- White-space
Conditions

• Purpose
• Where
• How book is held
• Lighting
• Brightness & color of paper
Interest & Motivation

- Interest and desire enhance ability
- Success begets success
Content

- Non-fiction is most difficult to comprehend.
- Specific vocabulary adds to the difficulty.
Why do I need to know this?

• Matching text to student
• Creating worksheets
• Writing tests
• Success!
Calculating Reading Level

1. Microsoft Word
2. Readability Formula (Fry) (one of 1500)
Microsoft Word “03

- “Tools”
- “Spelling and Grammar”
- “Options”
- ‘Grammar Only”
- “Show Readability Statistics”
Microsoft Word “07

- Press the “Office Button” upper left corner of the screen.
- Choose “Word Option,” bottom left.
- Select “Proofing” from the list.
- Check “Show Readability Statistics”
- Spelling must be corrected before stats will show.
Fry Chart (-5 for grade)

Fry Graph for estimating Reading Ages (in years)
www.educational-psychologist.co.uk/fry_readability_program.htm

- Nmnmnmnmnmnmnmnmnmnmnmnmnmnmnmn
- Sentences per 100 words
- Syllables per 100 words
- "Sentence Length/word difficulty"
How Can I Find Reading Levels?

1. Accelerated Reader
2. Lexile Score
Accelerated Reader

- Gives approximate grade level for books
- $2.4 = 2^{nd}$ grade, $4^{th}$ month
- Renlearn.com/ see “Quiz Store”
www.bookadventure.com

- Sylvan Learning Center is similar to Accelerated Reader.

- Check it out!
Lexile Level

- 200 to 1700 - Approximately first grade to fourteenth grade levels
- SIRS
- Lexile.com
Internet References
