

How to Estimate Readability for Consent Forms and Assent Forms

Kristen D. Ritchey, School of Education
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Text Readability

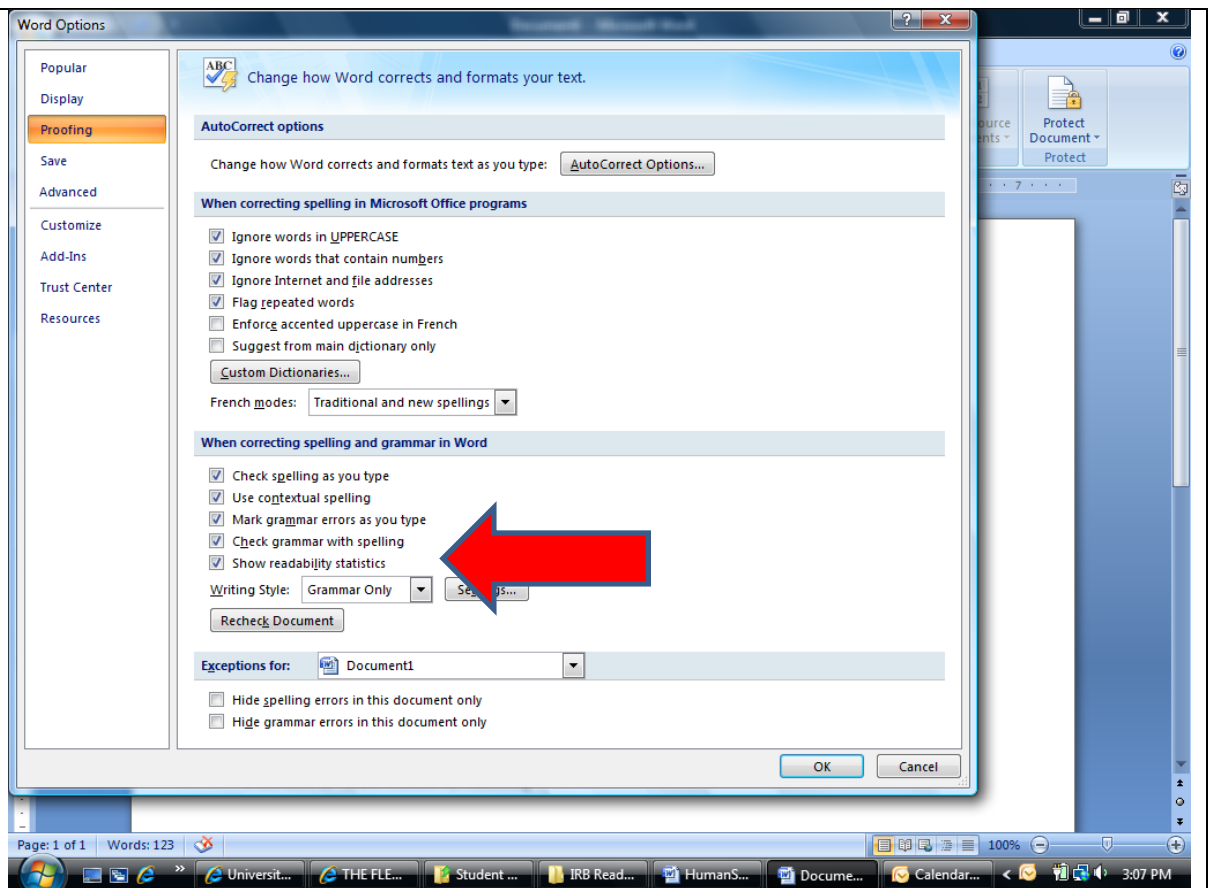
The text readability is important for consent and assent forms to ensure that potential participants can access information to give informed consent to participate in research activities. The readability of text is influenced by the phonological/morphological difficulty of words, number of words/sentence, the number of syllables in words/sentence, and frequency (i.e., how often a given word appears in printed materials) of words within the text. Text readability formula can be computed by hand or using software/web based procedures and can be estimated using procedures including Flesch-Kincaid, Dale-Chall, Spache, and Lexiles

The Easy Method: **Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level Readability**

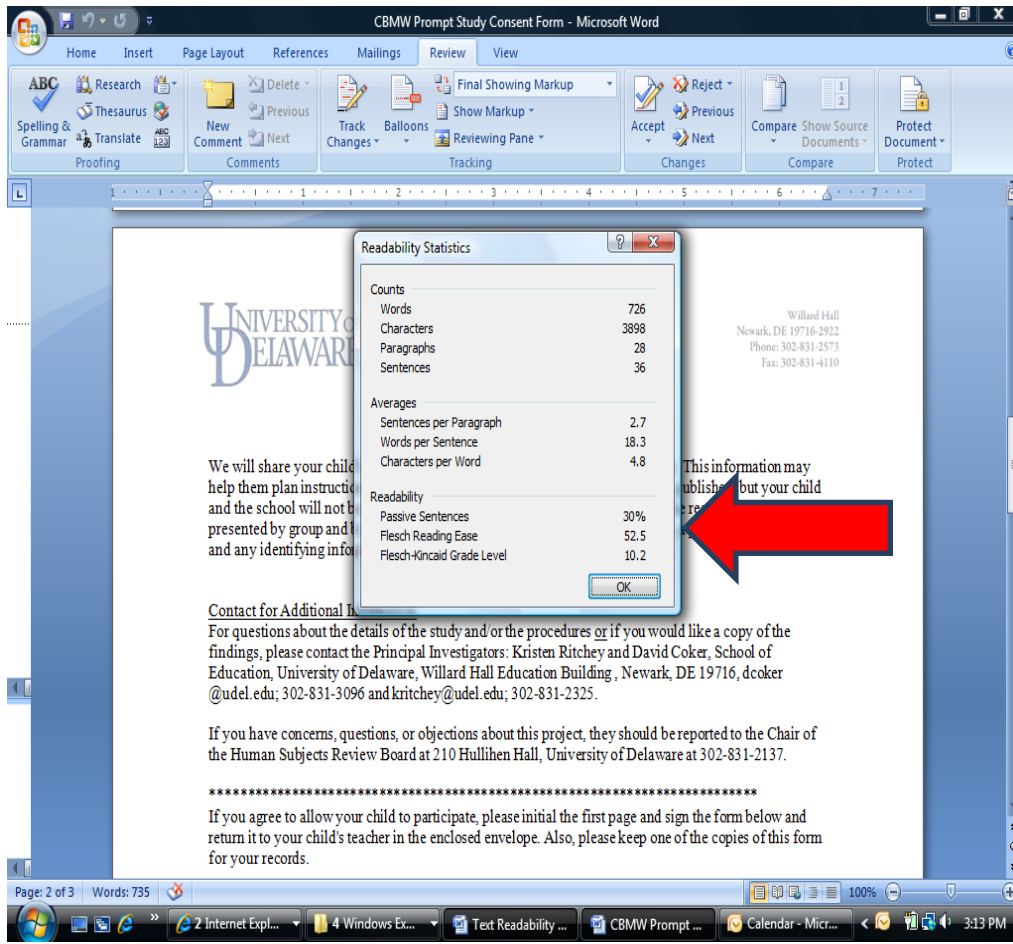
Determining the Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level Readability is an option in the Spelling and Grammar Check in Microsoft Word.

To access the option in Word 2007,

1. Click on the “Review” tab
2. Click on “Customize Quick Access Toolbar”
3. Click “Proofing” on menu (left side)
4. Check box for “show readability statistics”



Readability Statistics are presented in a Grade.Month format (e.g., 5.6 = middle of 5th grade readability)



Alternative Method: Lexile Levels

Lexile levels are an estimate of text difficulty that takes into account word frequency and what is required for comprehension of text. This process is considered a more accurate indicator of text difficulty, but is slightly more challenging to access. Lexile levels are reported as an L Level.

Grade Ranges for Lexile Levels	Examples of Common Books
Grade 3 Lexile range = 330L to 700L Grade 5 Lexile range = 565L to 910L Grade 10 Lexile range = 905L to 1195L	<i>Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows</i> : 980L <i>Charlotte's Web</i> : 680L <i>Twilight New Moon</i> : 690L <i>The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe</i> : 940L <i>Magic School Bus in the Time of Dinosaurs</i> : 490L

Lexile Analyzer: www.Lexile.com has a Lexile Analyzer that is free, but requires sign up/log in. Text has to be converted into a plain text file and uploaded to Lexile Analyzer.

More information is available at

http://lexile.com/m/uploads/downloadablepdfs/The_Lexile_Framework_for_Reading.pdf