

How to Use the Quiz & Results

How much do you know about foundational reading skills?

The research about how students learn to read is continuing to evolve. This discussion guide about the quiz and its results can help:

- Further teachers' understanding of how to help students build foundational reading skills.
- Drive more robust, evidence-based conversations with grade level or intervention teams.

1 | How many K-12 students in the U.S. struggle with foundational reading skills?

☐ 10%☐ 33%☐ 25%☒ 50%

Troublingly, the 2018 NAEP Oral Reading Fluency Study (2022) suggests that approximately **half of struggling readers have deficits in foundational reading skills that should have been mastered in elementary school.**

Learn more about the important, but often missing, foundational reading skills like automatic word recognition and decoding in ***Why We Need a New Approach to Reading Assessment and Intervention:*** <https://www.wordflight.com/read-new-approach>

2 | What is the most overlooked foundational reading skill?



Automatic word recognition



Phonological awareness



Vocabulary



Verbal reasoning

Automatic word recognition is a foundational reading skill that enables students to decode words instantly and without effort. In order to read fluently and with comprehension, students must acquire this skill.

It's been shown through peer-reviewed research that automatic word recognition is a critical predictor for fluency.

But, it is often overlooked in traditional assessments, core instruction, and literacy intervention programs. Learn more about this skill in ***Why We Need a New Approach to Reading Assessment and Intervention:*** <https://www.wordflight.com/read-new-approach>

(Pro tip: check out the sources for more of an in-depth look at the research)

3 | What is the most effective way to teach automatic word recognition?



Varied practice



Staying with one reading level



Writing practice



50%

The Varied Practice Model (VPM) is a learning approach that emphasizes training diversity for better retention and more flexible recall.

The VPM emphasizes targeting interleaving content, varying the tasks, assessing with immediate feedback, and incorporating “desirable difficulties” throughout learning. This practice approach has found support in a wide range of training settings, from motor skill learning to learning math concepts. **These fundamental learning principles generalize across domains to reading.**

Discover more about the research behind the Varied Practice Model in ***Why We Need a New Approach to Reading Assessment and Intervention:*** <https://www.wordflight.com/read-new-approach>

4

What is the definition of decoding?

☐

Knowing a word by sight

☐

Understanding concepts expressed through language

☒

Translating the written word into spoken sounds by applying knowledge of letter-sound relationships

☐

Understanding how the sentence arrangement affects meaning

In the science of reading, **decoding** means translating the written word into spoken sounds by applying knowledge of letter-sound relationships. Students who struggle with decoding often have difficulty “sounding out” words.

Learn more about this skill in *Why We Need a New Approach to Reading Assessment and Intervention*: <https://www.wordflight.com/read-new-approach>

5

True/False: According to NAEP, there is a reading gap between white students and Black and Hispanic students

☒

True

☐

False

Unfortunately, this is true. Despite making progress in closing the gap in average National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) fourth-grade reading scores since 1992, **2022 reading scores still show:**

- Black students score on average 28 points lower than White students.
- Hispanic students score on average 22 points lower than White students.

Continue reading about the NAEP reading results in Two Decades of Progress, Nearly Gone: National Math, Reading Scores Hit Historic Lows:

<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/two-decades-of-progress-nearly-gone-national-math-reading-scores-hit-historic-lows/2022/10>

6

According to the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ), what percentage of pre-service teachers adequately receive training in phonics?



95%



63%



82%



56%

Research shows that phonemic awareness plays a critical role in developing strong reading skills.

However, in the past decade of the Teacher Prep Review, **NCTQ says that “phonemic awareness is consistently the least addressed component” in teacher education programs.**

Explore more about the research:

Teaching Programs Fall Short on Reading Instruction, Review Claims.

<https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/teaching-programs-fall-short-on-reading-instruction-on-review-claims/2023/06>

7

Which is the strongest predictor of reading comprehension?



Vocabulary knowledge



Frontal lobe development



Decoding abilities



Syntax development

Decoding skills enable learners to translate written words into spoken sounds by applying their knowledge of letter-sound relationships.

Research finds that decoding abilities are very predictive of reading comprehension, with decoding accounting for substantially more involvement in comprehension than even spoken language comprehension.

Learn more about this skill: <https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2018-19405-001>

8 | Which part of the brain is responsible for decoding sounds?



Temporal lobe



Occipital lobe

Broca's area



Parietal lobe

A number of brain regions are involved in reading. Among them are the temporal lobe, which is responsible for phonological awareness and for decoding and discriminating sounds.

9

True/False: Without automatic word recognition, students cannot read with fluency and comprehension.



True



False

This is true. Fluent word reading stems from fundamental reading skills: phonological awareness, phonics and decoding, and automatic word recognition.

Automatic word recognition is a foundational reading skill that enables students to decode words instantly and without effort. In order to read fluently and with comprehension, students must acquire this skill. Learn more about this skill in Why We Need a New Approach to Reading Assessment and Intervention: <https://www.wordflight.com/read-new-approach>

Think your students may lack critical foundational reading skills?
Find out for free.

We offer the WordFlight Screener to schools at no charge.
<https://www.wordflight.com/free-screener>



Sources

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