

SENTENCE COMPLEXITY QUICK CHECK

Adapted from MindWing Concepts' Data Collection & Progress Monitoring Process Manual

For ☐ Text-Based or ☐ Student-Based Analysis

Text Title _____ ☐ Paper-Based ☐ Digital

Student Name _____ School Year _____

Grade _____ Age _____ Subject Title _____

CIRCLE all structures present in passage, or chunk and total the numbers for the following three categories.

1. Subject and Predicate

- 1 Subject and predicate evident
- 2 Simple sentence/s evident
- 3 Compound sentence/s evident
- 4 Complex sentence/s evident

2. Pronouns and Referents

- 1 Pronouns present designating characters or topics (battle, invention, etc.)
- 2 Pronoun referent established for main character(s) or topic(s)
- 3 Pronoun referents need to be inferred *within* sentence/paragraph boundaries
- 4 Pronoun referents need to be inferred *across* sentence/paragraph boundaries

3. Verb Structure

- 1 Verb present
- 2 Verb tense marked (morpheme/past, present, future)
- 3 -ly adverbs or prepositional phrases (qualifiers) present
- 4 Adverbial clauses present (answering: how, when, where, why)

Quick Check Score

1 10 20 30
Slightly Complex Moderately Complex Very Complex Exceedingly Complex

LITERATE LANGUAGE FEATURES

May occur within the main sentence or clausal structures within the main sentence.

CIRCLE all structures present in passage, or chunk, and total the numbers for the following five categories yielding specific targets of clausal structure complexity.

1. Elaborated Noun Phrases

- 1 Noun modifier(s) (the little boy/the powerful leader) present
- 2 Noun qualifier(s) (prepositional phrase) present
- 3 Relative clause(s) (the little boy, who was running home...) present
- 4 Modifier(s) or qualifier(s) plus relative clause(s) present in one or more sentences.

(Literate Language Features continued next page)

SENTENCE COMPLEXITY QUICK CHECK (continued)

MICROSTRUCTURE

NOTES

2. Conjunctions (Cohesive Ties)

- 1 Additive conjunctions (and, and then) and Temporal conjunctions (first, next, then, etc.) present
- 2 Causal conjunctions (but, so, or, if, because)
- 3 Intersentential conjunctions signaling connections between story elements/key ideas in information text.
- 4 Advanced clausal structures using academic transition words such as although, when, after, before, furthermore...

3. Adverbs (verbs must be present)

- 1 Adverb of time (suddenly) pertaining to time/when
- 2 Adverb of manner (slowly, silently, angrily) pertaining to how
- 3 Adverb of degree (extremely, tremendously) pertaining to how much
- 4 Adverbial clause(s) present, serving as modifiers of the verb.

4. Mental State Verbs (necessary to discuss thoughts of characters in stories/ideas of characters in science or history)

- 1 Mental state verb present (think, know, remember, forgot, etc.)
- 2 Mental state verb used in sentence (e.g., "She remembered.")
- 3 Mental state verb in sentence structure with complement clausal structure (e.g., "She remembered that the boy was coming to school.")
- 4 Mental state verb in sentence structure with complement clausal structure plus additional clausal structures to further perspective or content (e.g., "She remembered that the boy was coming to school so she got out her crayons to share.")

5. Linguistic (Communication) Verbs

- 1 Linguistic verb "said, tell, say, call" is present in sentence structure (e.g., "She told him to go home.")
- 2 Advanced linguistic verb/s (other than "said" [e.g., yelled, whispered]) present in sentence structure (e.g., "She whispered to him about the danger.")
- 3 Linguistic verb in sentence structure with complement clausal structure (e.g., "She told him that she wanted to go to the movies.")
- 4 Linguistic verb in sentence structure with complement clausal structure plus additional clausal structures to express further content (e.g., "She told him that she wanted to go to the movies because the movie had a great review.")
(Linguistic verbs may be academic words such as "argue, confirm, restate")

In-Depth Literate Language Features Microstructure Score

1 15 30 50
Slightly Complex Moderately Complex Very Complex Exceedingly Complex

Sentence Complexity Instructional Focus: