

Pearson English Readers Grading System

Pearson English Readers are graded at seven levels of difficulty from Easystarts to Level 6. Easystarts titles include the 200 most frequent headwords. As you move up the levels, more and more words and more complex grammar and language structures are gradually introduced.

EASYSTARTS
200 headwords



Nouns

Singular forms and plural forms with s
Common irregular plural forms
Possessive form ('s)
Transparent compounds

Pronouns

Personal, subject and direct object
Demonstrative: *this, that*
(also as determiners)
Interrogative: *Who? What?*
It (+ be) in impersonal expressions

Determiners

Articles: *a, an, the* or zero + noun (phrase)
Cardinal numbers (also as pronouns): *1-100*
Ordinal numbers (for dates): *1st-31st*
Possessives
Quantifiers: *some, any*
Distributives: *every, all* + noun

Adjectives

Simple adjectives (attributive
and predicative)

Verbs

Parts of *be, have, have got*; *There is/are*
Positive imperative forms
Positive, negative and question forms
Short answers
Present simple (except negative questions)
Present continuous with present meaning
(except negative questions)
can for ability and permission; *Let's*

Adverbs

Some adverbs of frequency, place and time
Adjective + *ly*
Interrogatives: *Where? When? Why?;*
How (much/many)?
Intensifier: *very*
Additive: *too*

Conjunctions

and, but, or to join words, phrases, clauses

Sentences

Simple one-clause sentences
Two clauses joined with *and, but* or *or*
Direct speech + noun/pronoun + *say/as*

LEVEL 1

Beginner - 300 headwords



As previous level plus

Nouns

Possessive form (s')

Gerunds for activities and pastimes

Pronouns

As indirect objects

Possessive

Demonstrative: *these, those*

(also determiners)

Interrogative: *Which?* (also determiner)**Determiners**

Cardinal numbers

(also as pronouns): *101-1,000*Demonstrative: *these, those*

(also pronouns)

Quantifiers: *a little, a lot of, much, many*Interrogative *Which...?* (also pronoun)**Verbs***There was/were*

Negative imperative forms

Present continuous with future meaning

Past simple of listed regular verbs

Irregular past forms: *came/did/had/**said/was/were/went**going to* for prediction and intention*can* for possibility*would like* + noun phrase*-ing* forms after *like, stop*Infinitive forms after *want, start, like***Conjunctions***because***Sentences**Two clauses joined with *because*

LEVEL 2

Elementary - 600 headwords



As previous level plus

Pronouns

Indefinite: *some-, no-, any-, every-*
(*body/thing*)

Determiners

Ordinal numbers: *first - hundredth*
Quantifiers with *more*
Distributives: *another, other, each*

Adjectives

Comparative: *-er/more +*
adjective...*than, as ... as*
Superlative: *the -est (in/of), most*
+ adjective
better, best, worse, worst, more,
most

Verbs

Negative questions
Past simple of listed irregular verbs
will for offers, requests, and with
future meaning
could for past ability and possibility
have to for obligation
would like + infinitive
Common phrasal verbs with
transparent meanings
-ing forms after *go*, verbs of (dis)like

Adverbs

Adjective + (*i*)*ly*
How + adjective
Irregular adverbs of
manner
Comparative: *as...as*
too + adjective
Indefinite: *somewhere,*
nowhere, anywhere,
everywhere

Conjunctions

so, before, after, when

Sentences

Two clauses joined
with *so, before, after,*
when
Direct speech +
subject/verb inversion
Reported speech with
present tense
reporting verb
know, think, hope etc
+ that clause

LEVEL 3

Pre-intermediate - 1200 headwords



As previous level plus

Pronouns

Indefinite: *someone, anyone, everyone*
 Interrogative: *Whose?* (also as determiner)
one/ones
 Reflexive (but not for emphasis)
 Relative: *who, which, that*

Determiners

the + adjective
 All cardinal and ordinal numbers
 Predeterminers: *all*
 Relative: *whose*
 Distributives: *both, either, neither*
a meaning *per*

Adjectives

Intensifiers: *much, a bit, a lot*
 Adjective + *to*

Verbs

Present perfect simple
 Past continuous
 Passive forms: present and past forms of *be* +
 past participle
is/was/has been able to
can't to deny possibility
could for requests and suggestions
must for obligation
shall for suggestions, plans, offers
need (to)/needn't for necessity
should (positive only) for advice
would for desires, preferences
to + infinitive after *what/where* etc
 Infinitives after permitted verbs and adjectives,
 with *too/enough/very*, after indefinite
 pronouns/adverbs, infinitive of purpose
 Question tags: positive tag following negative
 statement and vice versa
 Common phrasal verbs with non-transparent
 meanings

Adverbs

Comparative: *-er/-est, more/most* + adverb

Sentences

Sentences with more than two main clauses
 Sentences with one main and one subordinate
 clause
 Zero and first conditional
 Defining relative clauses (but not embedded)
 Clauses with *wh* words
 Clauses ending in *so, not*
 Reported speech with *to* + infinitive
 Participle clauses
 Adjectives/nouns + *that* clause

LEVEL 4
Intermediate - 1700 headwords



As previous level plus

Pronouns

Indefinite: *no one*
Relative: *whose*
Reflexive, for emphasis
Reciprocal: *each other*
Pronoun + *of, to*, adjective, relative clause

Determiners

Predeterminer: *such*

Adjectives

Intensifiers: *nearly as, just as, not quite as*
Comparative/superlative with *less/least*
Adjective + *enough*

Verbs

Simple passive verb forms (except modal perfects)
Present and past continuous passive verb forms
Present simple for future reference
Present perfect continuous
Past perfect
have something done
make/let + infinitive
used to
was/were going to
had better for advice or desirability
may/might for possibility
must for deduced facts
should/ought to for advice, duty, desirability
would for hypothetical situations
Question tags: positive tag following positive statement

Conjunctions

as well as

Sentences

Complex sentences where the relations between clauses are uncomplicated
Non-defining relative clauses
Second conditional
if clauses after verbs of asking, wondering etc
Reported speech with past tense reporting verbs

LEVEL 5

Upper Intermediate - 2300 headwords

 B2

As previous level plus

Verbs

Past perfect continuous
 Future continuous
get something done
may for permission
would for willingness/refusal

Conjunctions

as soon as

Sentences

Relative clauses: embedded, defining
 Responses with *so/neither/nor*
 Third conditional

LEVEL 6

Advanced - 3000 headwords

 C1

As previous level plus

PronounsReciprocal: *one another***Verbs**

Future perfect
 Modal perfects
might for a suggested course of action
must have/can't have for assumptions
should (have) for expectation
will (have) for assumptions
would for habitual past actions

Sentences

Mixed conditionals
 Inversion after *hardly, no sooner* etc
-ing/wh- clause as subject
 Sentences with *wish + were/would/had*