

Reading Speed Charts

Based on research from Rosalind Streichler, Ph.D., Center for Teaching Development, University of California, San Diego; Karron G. Lewis, Ph.D., Associate Director, Center for Teaching Effectiveness. Division of Instructional Innovation and Assessment, The University of Texas at Austin; and research conducted at Cambridge University in England; we can assume that the average college student can read 250 words per minute and that the average textbook has approximately 800 words per page. Therefore, it would take 3.2 minutes to read one page, 32 minutes to read 10 pages, and a little over an hour to read 20 pages.

Hours	Pages		Hours	Pages		Hours	Pages
6	120		12	240		18	360
24	480		30	600		36	720

*Average text page = 800 words

		Percentile		
		25%	50%	75%
		Remedial student or slow reader	Average student	Above-average student
General expository reading: easy fiction and non-technical materials	Words per minute	150	250	500
	Pages per hour**	11	19	38
Advanced, scientific, and/or technical material	Words per minute	100	149	170
	Pages per hour**	8	11	13
<p>*Based on research from Rosalind Streichler, Ph. D., Center for Teaching Development, University of California, San Diego; Karron G. Lewis, Ph. D., Associate Director, Center for Teaching Effectiveness, Division of Instructional Innovation and Assessment, The University of Texas at Austin; John P. Staeck, Ph.D., College of DuPage; and Cambridge University.</p>				