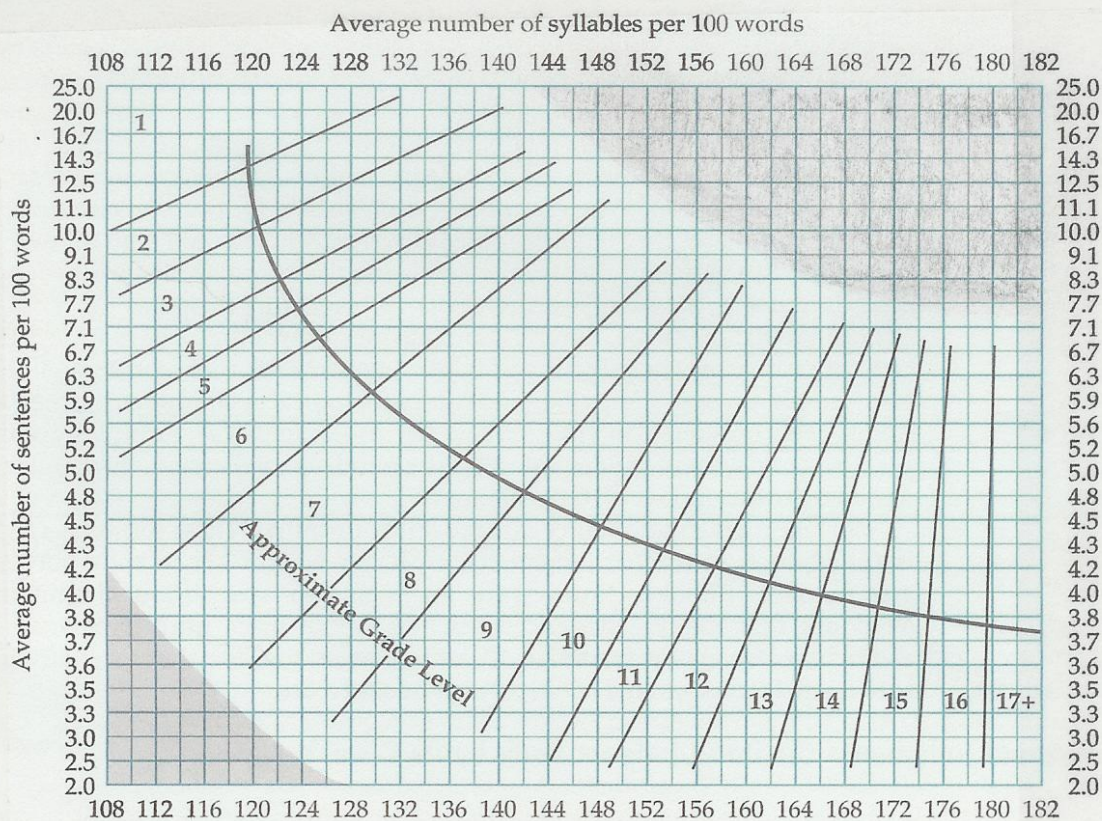


Readability

Fry Readability Graph



Directions for Computing Readability

1. Randomly select three 100-word samples from the text. A word is any group of symbols with a space on each side. A number such as 1776 counts as a word; so does an initialization such as USA.
2. Count the number of sentences within each 100-word sample. If a 100-word sample ends in the middle of a sentence, figure the decimal fraction of the sentence that is included.
3. Count the number of syllables in each 100-word sample. A syllable is defined as a phonetic syllable. In numerals and initializations, each symbol counts as a syllable. For example, 1776 counts as four syllables, and USA as three. Hint: A 100-word sample has at least 100 syllables. Make a light tic mark above each additional syllable, count the total number of tic marks, and add to 100.
4. Compute the average number of sentences and the average number of syllables per 100 words.
5. Plot these two averages on the graph. They should intersect either above or below the curved line within one of the numbered segments. The number in the segment is the approximate grade level of the text. A few books may fall in the shaded gray areas; their grade-level scores are invalid.

FIGURE 5.8 Fry readability graph (Source: Edward Fry, Rutgers University Reading Center, New Brunswick, NJ 08904.)