

Calculating Reading Fluency

- Reading levels alone do not give information about whether students are reading fluently.
- Reading fluency is calculated by taking the total number of words read in one minute and subtracting the number of errors. Only count one error per word.
- This gives you the words correct per minute (wpm). The words correct per minute represent students' fluency levels.

One-Minute Reading

$$\boxed{\text{Total Words Read}} - \boxed{\text{Errors}} = \boxed{\text{Words Correct Per Minute (wpm)}}$$

Example:

If the student read 53 words and had 7 errors in one minute, the student had 46 words correct per minute (wpm).

- Always encourage students to do their best reading, not their fastest reading.

This gentle reminder helps second graders understand that the purpose is to read well even though you are timing them.

- When students read the entire passage, the fluency level can be calculated following these steps:

Step 1: Calculate words read correctly:

Total # of words read _____ - errors _____ = _____ words read correctly

Step 2: Calculate words per minute:

Total # words read correctly _____ x (multiply by) 60; ÷ (divide by) # of seconds to read passage = wpm