

## 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)

Interogative: *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*Interogative *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

**Pronouns**Reciprocal: *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*