

Checklist: How COMPLEX is my text?



		LOW COMPLEXITY	MODERATELY-LOW COMPLEXITY	MODERATELY-HIGH COMPLEXITY	HIGH COMPLEXITY
Content	Prior knowledge	<p>topic is familiar, with some details new to the reader</p> <p>no references to/citations of other texts or outside ideas, theories, events, etc.</p>	<p>requires some content knowledge; although information is rolled out slowly and ideas are repeated to support understanding few</p> <p>references to/citations of other texts or outside ideas, theories, events, etc</p>	<p>requires moderate levels of specific content knowledge; minimal repetition of ideas throughout the text</p> <p>some references to/citations of other texts or outside ideas, theories, events, etc.</p>	<p>topic is mostly unfamiliar to the reader; requires extensive, perhaps specialized content knowledge</p> <p>many references to/citations of other texts or outside ideas, theories, events, etc.</p>
	Level of abstraction	<p>contains simple and concrete ideas and concepts,</p> <p>many examples from daily practice</p>	<p>contains both simple and concrete ideas and concepts, as well as more complex ones</p> <p>some examples from daily practice</p>	<p>contains a series of recognisable ideas alternated with challenging, more unfamiliar/abstract concepts,</p> <p>examples from professional practice</p>	<p>contains many new, unknown ideas and/or complex, challenging abstract concepts, possibly</p> <p>examples based on theory</p>
	Information density	<p>low information density</p>	<p>moderately low information density</p>	<p>moderately high information density</p>	<p>high information density</p>
Text features	text length	<p>short text</p> <p>medium/large size, plain font</p>	<p>medium text</p> <p>medium size plain font</p>	<p>long text</p> <p>medium/small plain font</p>	<p>long text</p> <p>small size; plain and/or ornate font</p>
	text structure	<p>connections between ideas/sections are explicit through use of signposts, etc.</p> <p>easy to follow</p>	<p>connections between ideas/section are largely explicit</p> <p>mostly easy to follow</p>	<p>connections between ideas/sections may be hard to follow at times</p>	<p>connections between ideas/sections are subtle and hard to follow</p>
	illustrations	<p>easy-to-understand illustrations</p> <p>they support the text, not essential to understanding it</p>	<p>somewhat complex illustrations,</p> <p>not essential to understanding the text</p>	<p>complex illustrations</p> <p>they may not be essential to understanding the text</p>	<p>complex illustrations</p> <p>essential to understanding the text</p>
Language features	vocabulary	<p>familiar, explicit, easy-to-understand</p>	<p>largely familiar, explicit, easy-to-understand</p> <p>some academic or domain-specific vocabulary</p>	<p>somewhat complex vocabulary</p> <p>occasionally unfamiliar, domain-specific, or overly academic</p>	<p>dense and complex language</p> <p>generally unfamiliar, domain-specific, overly academic or ambiguous</p>
	sentence length	<p>mainly simple sentences</p>	<p>simple and more complex sentences</p>	<p>many long and complex sentences</p>	<p>many long and complex sentences, often containing intricate detail or concepts</p>
Task		LOW COMPLEXITY	MODERATELY-LOW COMPLEXITY	MODERATELY-HIGH COMPLEXITY	HIGH COMPLEXITY