

Readability and Plain Language

Why do they matter?

Readability and plain language help with good translation and language access. Simpler language is easier to translate and interpret.



Readability is how easy a piece of text is to read and understand.



Plain language is communication your audience can understand the first time they read or hear it.

What's the connection to health?

Readability, plain language, and good translation all work together to help to make sure people have equitable access to information they need to make decisions.



In the health care system, this can help people have better **health literacy**. Health literacy is the skill to find, understand and use information to make health decisions, which can improve health equity.

Can you measure readability?

Two commonly used tools measure readability using total words, total sentences, and the number of syllables in words to calculate a score.



The **Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level Formula** shows readability as a U.S. grade level. The lower your score, the easier the text is to read.



The **Flesch Reading Ease Score** grades your writing from 0 to 100. The higher your score, the more readable your content is.