

PIAAC**Reading Components – sample items**

The literacy assessment in this the Survey of adult skills is complemented by a test of “reading component” skills to provide more detailed information about adults with poor literacy skills,. These are the basic set of decoding skills that enable individuals to extract meaning from written texts: knowledge of vocabulary, ability to process meaning at the level of the sentence, and fluency in reading passages of text.

Reading Components - Sample Items*Print vocabulary*

Items testing print vocabulary consist of a picture of an object and four printed words, one of which refers to the pictured object. Respondents are asked to circle the word that matches the picture.



ear

egg

lip

jar

Sentence processing

The sentence-processing items require the respondent to assess whether a sentence makes sense in terms of the properties of the real world or the internal logic of the sentence. The respondent reads the sentence and circles YES if the sentence makes sense or NO if the sentence does not make sense.

Three girls ate the song.	YES	NO
The man drove the green car.	YES	NO
The lightest balloon floated in the bright sky.	YES	NO
A comfortable pillow is soft and rocky.	YES	NO
A person who is twenty years old is older than a person who is thirty years old.	YES	NO

Passage comprehension

In items assessing passage comprehension, respondents are asked to read a passage in which they are required at certain points to select the word that makes sense from the two alternatives provided.

To the editor: Yesterday, it was announced that the cost of riding the bus will increase. The price will go up by twenty percent starting next wife / month. As someone who rides the bus every day, I am upset by this foot / increase. I understand that the cost of gasoline / student has risen. I also understand that riders have to pay a fair price / snake for bus service. I am willing to pay a little more because I rely on the bus to get to object / work. But an increase / uncle of twenty percent is too much.

This increase is especially difficult to accept when you see the city's plans to build a new sports stadium. The government will spend millions on this project even though we already have a science / stadium. If we delay the stadium, some of that money can be used to offset the increase in bus fares / views. Then, in a few years, we can decide if we really do need a new sports cloth / arena. Please let the city council know you care about this issue by attending the next public meeting / frames.