

WORKING PAPER ON

TECH-ENABLED READING ASSESSMENT

By READ Alliance & Educational Initiatives



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READAlliance



Based on the insights gathered and the suggestions given by the advisory board, the tool was scientifically truncated to its current form to make the test more comprehensive, user-friendly and at the same time scientifically relevant.

ROUND-1 (DEMO VERSION)

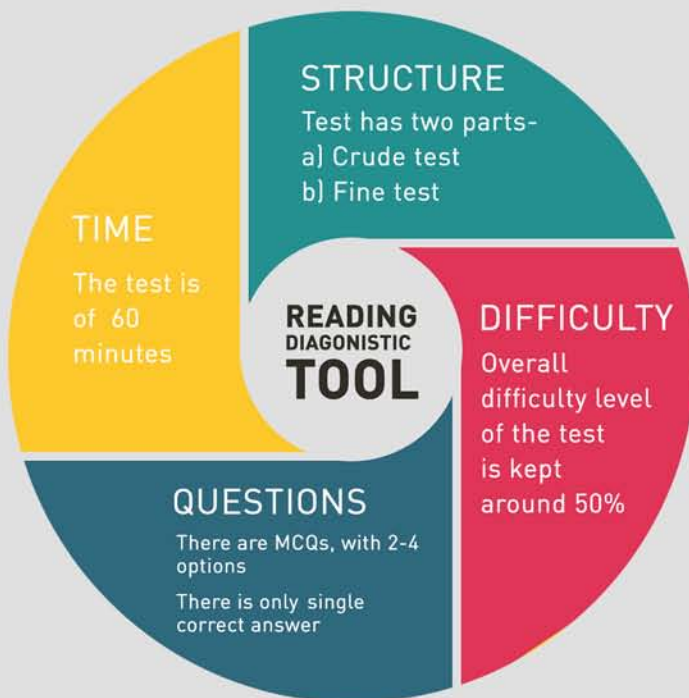
- Common Test, 230 questions
- Testing 4 core skills and 12 sub-skills
- Core skills- Letter knowledge, Vocabulary, Syntax and Semantic Knowledge
- Not timed

ROUND-2 (FINAL VERSION)

- Test divided into two parts- Crude and Fine, 100 questions
- Testing 4 core skills and 12 sub-skills
- 60 minutes

THE TEST STRUCTURE

The comprehensive online Hindi language testing tool helps in identifying the learning gaps and the reading levels of the students.

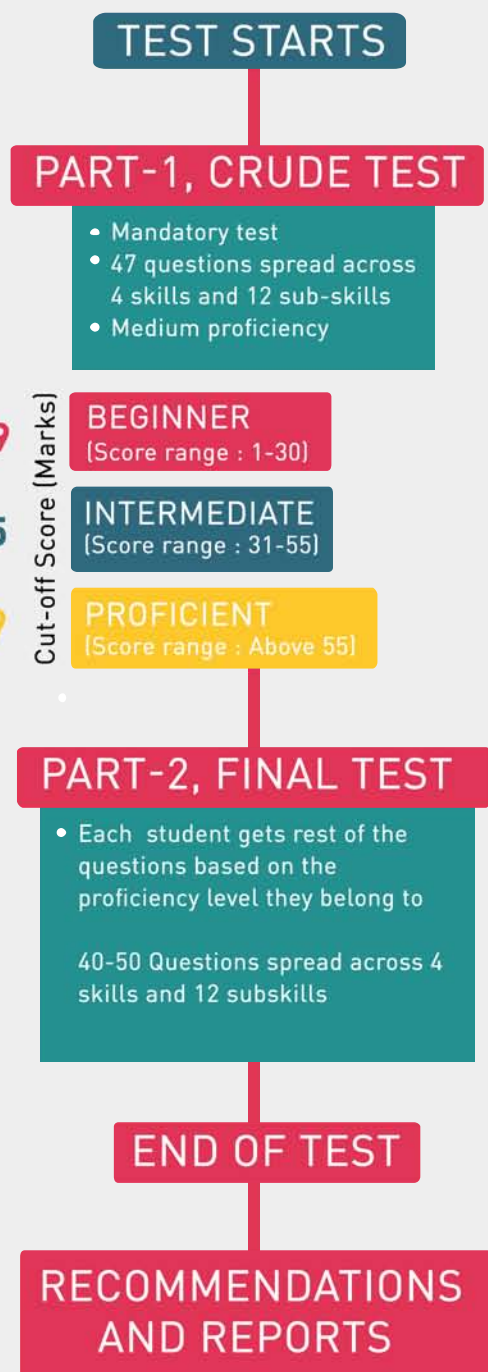


The test divides a single session into two parts:

- The first part, the crude test (restricted to 47 questions) is mandatory for all students irrespective of their grades. This part determines the overall language level of the child. Further testing of student performance on various skills and sub-skills is based on that level which is done based on the adaptive logic.

- The second part is a fine test which gets into depths of diagnosing the issues each student is facing at the assigned level of Hindi reading and identifying the reasons for it. The fine level of the test divides the student into three types- beginner, intermediate and proficient.

Every student is expected to give a crude level test comprising 47 questions. If student performance is up to 30 percent then the student will appear for '**Beginner level**', if the performance is between 31 to 55 percent then the student will appear for '**Intermediate level**' and if the performance is above 55 percent then the student will appear for '**Proficient level**' test.



SKILLS TESTED ON THE TOOL

The overall test consists of a pool of 100 questions spread across four skills, which are further divided into 12 sub-skills. The spread of questions across sub-skills was based on weightage given by language experts to each sub-skill respectively and available data.

स्वरों की पहचान
व्यंजनों की पहचान
मात्रा की पहचान
शब्द के विभिन्न वर्णों की पहचान

अक्षर
ज्ञान

Letter
Identification

Vocabulary

शब्दबोध

सामान्य शब्दबोध
शब्दार्थ
शब्द का प्रयोग

सुनना- पढ़ना
वाक्य संरचना ज्ञान
विरामचिह्न की जानकारी
शुद्ध-अशुद्ध वाक्य की जानकारी

वाक्य
संरचना

Sentence
Structure

Reading
Comprehension

अर्थ
ग्रहण

कथबोध

Figure 2: Skills and sub-skills tested across the tool

HOW DOES READING DIAGNOSTIC TOOL WORK

STEP 1

Student enters the Username and password



STEP 2

Student chooses 'bhasha kaushal test' and attempts the test



STEP 3

After completing the test, student can analyse the performance and access their reports and recommendations

| कक्षा | विषय | प्रश्नों की संख्या | सही उत्तरों की संख्या | प्रतिशत |
|-------|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| 100 | बोली और शैली का परीक्षण | 10 | 10 | 100% |
| 100 | भाषा का शैली परीक्षण | 10 | 10 | 100% |
| 100 | शैली का परीक्षण | 10 | 10 | 100% |
| 100 | बोली और शैली का परीक्षण | 10 | 10 | 100% |
| 100 | भाषा का शैली परीक्षण | 10 | 10 | 100% |
| 100 | शैली का परीक्षण | 10 | 10 | 100% |

THE READ AND TRACK FEATURE: to track the reading improvement

Based on the research done by EI in the Mindspark centres across Delhi, the Reading Diagnostic Tool also tracks the longitudinal improvement in oral reading of the students using real time video recordings.

An important feature of the tool is that since the sessions are recorded and stored online, it allows the teachers to monitor the reading ability of each student, and also compare and contrast the recent sessions with the old ones for the entire class.

STEP 1

Student enters the Username and password



STEP 2

Student chooses 'bhasha kaushal test' and attempts the test



STEP 3

Student reads the text based on his/her reading level while the video is recorded.



STEP 4

After completing the test, student can analyse the performance and access their reports



KEY INSIGHTS OF THE STUDY

A. Performance of Students on Different Levels of Hindi reading proficiency-

The Beginner and Intermediate language level children are seen to be struggling with the reading comprehension skill as compared to the proficient level students.

More than 60% students in grade 2 and 3 were found to be in intermediate level, while approximately 50% students in grade 4 and 5 were at the proficient level.

The performance in grade 3 questions on identifying consonants, basic vocabulary, recall and reading comprehension were specifically found to be low in crude level of students which were allotted the beginner level.

B. Misconceptions and Errors-

Students usually show misconceptions in language learning as they go to higher grades, because often these learning gaps widen when they are not addressed at the appropriate level. This tool helped in identifying some of these fundamental misconceptions among students across grades-

- Students across grades & language level have confusion on the usage of है and हैं
- Students are struggling with questions in which they have to identify *sanyukt akshars* (compound letters) and *ardhakshars* (half letters).
- Children were seen struggling in recognizing ह्रस्व and दीर्घ letters, which included स्वर as well as मात्रा, example- इ-ई, उ-ऊ, ओ-औ, ए-ऐ.
- Students are able to score well on non-similar letters & sound or the given letter but can't differentiate well between the similar sounding letters.
- Students are struggling in differentiating between short & long vowels like इ/ई or उ/ऊ मात्रा letter.
- Students across grades & language levels had low performance at questions with listening & recalling a longer sentence



Only around 16% students filled up all the correct answers for the blanks (i.e. लड़का खेलता है। लड़के खेलते हैं। कमरा सुंदर है। कमरे सुंदर हैं।).

Around 57% students answered it incorrectly.

48.6% students selected the sound for ई, when asked to choose sound for letter- इ.



BENEFITS FROM THE STUDY AND THE TOOL

THIS TOOL CAN BE ACCESSED AT WWW.READANDTRACK.COM FOR FREE! ANY CHILD OR TEACHER CAN CREATE A USERNAME AND USE THIS TOOL TO ASSESS HINDI READING PROFICIENCY.

A. For Students

- Multiple grade students can be assessed on the same test simultaneously at their own pace irrespective of their grade and at any location
- Easy access to recommendations which are tailored for each student based on their individual learning path

B. For teachers-

- The tool allows action and remediation, progress monitoring, grouping of children basis their learning levels and skillwise performance.
- Identification of misconceptions and errors existing among students can help teachers in addressing those during the classroom instructions

C. For school management and heads-

- Designing teacher support material to assist teachers in remediation process
- Gauging Hindi language learning level and redesigning the policy framework at the school level

ABOUT READ Alliance, EI & USAID

About READ Alliance:

The Center for Knowledge Societies (www.cks.in) is an innovation consulting firm, which focuses on user research, user experience design, design strategy and systems innovation. Since 2002, CKS has worked on the social, public and business innovation challenges of Indian and multinational corporations and nonprofit organizations working in different sectors, ranging from education, healthcare, to financial services. There are several different kinds of organizations, all of which are co-located at the CKS Campus in New Delhi.

READ Alliance is a \$3.2-million initiative supported by USAID and implemented by CKS. The project aims at nurturing and promoting early grade reading in India by supporting promising grassroots innovations. Through the two rounds of Early Grade Reading Innovation Challenges held in 2014 and 2015, READ Alliance is supporting six organizations that will impact the reading skills of more than 100,000 under-served school children living in the tribal districts of Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu. The alliance also aims to train more than 1,000 teachers to provide quality reading instructions and build their capacities to help and support reading.

About Educational Initiatives:

Established in 2001, Educational Initiatives believes in making a difference in education through personalized learning and ensuring that students learn with understanding. EI has over 15 years of expertise in education, with a deep understanding of child psychology and efficient methods of teaching, based on detailed research and a formidable database of student learning through ASSET- their scholastic assessment tool data.

Through their other interactive tools like Mindspark (digital self-learning program), Detailed Assessment, CCE Certificate Course, Teacher Evaluation Program, Teacher Sheets and more, Educational Initiatives assists thousands of teachers in improving their students' achievements. EI has worked with leading organizations like World Bank, Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, Google, Azim Premji Foundation and is currently working with various State Governments on large scale assessment projects.

About USAID:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) works to end extreme poverty and promote resilient, democratic societies while advancing United States security and prosperity. USAID is an independent government agency that provides economic, development, and humanitarian assistance around the world in support of the foreign policy goals of the United States. Leveraging India's growing financial and human resources, USAID is harnessing the strengths and capabilities of both countries to tackle development challenges not only in India, but worldwide. In all sectors of its activities, USAID builds private sector partnerships to foster in-country sustainability and ownership, with a focus on issues such as health, urban water and sanitation, food security, climate change, early grade reading, and women's empowerment.

READ Alliance is supported by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and being implemented by Center for Knowledge Societies (CKS). This newsletter is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of CKS and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.