## 4i-Ready

## Assessment of Spanish Reading: What It Measures

This document provides an overview of the content assessed on the i-Ready Assessment of Spanish Reading and how it assesses students.

## Assessment of Spanish Reading

## What Is Assessed in Spanish Reading?

The i-Ready Assessment of Spanish Reading/Evaluación de Lectura en español is an authentic Spanish reading language arts assessment that is currently available for Grades K-6. It is a fixed-form (i.e., non-adaptive) assessment with 35 questions students can complete in approximately two 30-minute test sessions, depending on the grade. The Assessment of Spanish Reading can determine a student's reading performance relative to grade level. Reading skills are assessed in five key domains on the i-Ready Assessment of Spanish Reading.

Those five domains are:

- Phonological Awareness (Grades K-1)
- Comprehension: Literature (Grades K-6)
- Phonics (Grades K-3)
- Comprehension: Informational Text (Grades K-6)
- Vocabulary (Grades K-6)

After taking the i-Ready Assessment of Spanish Reading, consider assigning Personalized Instruction lessons aligned to your scope and sequence, or browse Tools for Instruction to provide reinforcement or enrichment.

On the i-Ready Assessment of Spanish Reading, students are assessed with six types of items:

## Multiple Choice



## Assessment of Spanish Reading

Six Items (Cont'd.)

## Drag-and-Drop



Cloze Dropdown


## Assessment of Spanish Reading

## Ordered List



## Matching



## Phonological Awareness

Phonological awareness is the understanding that a spoken word is made up of different parts, and each of these parts makes a sound. There are two levels in phonological awareness: phonological sensitivity (i.e., awareness of the larger segments of sound) and phonemic awareness (i.e., awareness of the individual phonemes in spoken words) (Brady, 2012). For English Learners, research suggests a close relationship between an explicit and systematic teaching of Spanish-language phonological awareness and literacy development. While teaching phonological awareness in English, the teacher will focus on teaching the word, then teaching how to break the word up by sounds, which is different than what is done in the Spanish language. The difference comes in the structure of the languages.

In teaching phonological awareness in Spanish, the student focuses on segmenting, blending, and manipulating the individual sounds of words. Phonological awareness is an important building block for phonics because it teaches students that words are represented by different sounds.

The assessment uses audio and visual cues to assess whether a student can distinguish and manipulate the sounds in spoken language. The stems, which comprise questions or directions, are read aloud to students, as are the individual answer choices in Spanish. Students can use an audio icon to hear the items and answer choices repeated. During the assessment, students are asked to perform tasks including but not limited to: identifying the word associated with the presented image, matching the segmented audio to its word, locating rhyming words, and manipulating phonemes by adding, deleting, or substituting spoken words.

## Assessed Skills

On the i-Ready Assessment of Spanish Reading, phonological awareness is assessed for Grades K-1. Some of the important skills assessed in the Phonological Awareness domain include:

- Rhyme recognition
- Syllable blending and segmenting
- Phoneme blending and segmenting
- Phoneme identification and isolation
- Phoneme addition, deletion, and substitution
- Syllable blending and segmenting


## Assessment of Spanish Reading

Phonological Awareness (Cont’d.)

## Sample Items



Grade K: This item asks students to identify the image that rhymes with the word boca. Students listen to the audio options, which are cama, foca, and sopa, and are asked to make their selection from there.

## Assessment of Spanish Reading

## Phonics

Teaching phonics is the process whereby students learn to identify the relationship between each letter in the alphabet to an individual sound. These sounds are then put together to produce a word. Teaching phonics in Spanish is a fundamental building block of literacy because the Spanish language is often referred to as having a transparent orthography, meaning once students can easily decode words in Spanish, their fluency will follow. Phonics in Spanish focuses on the acquisition of letter-sound correspondences and applying that knowledge to decode and encode words.

The i-Ready Assessment of Spanish Reading assesses a student's ability to connect the sounds they hear in spoken words to the letters they see in written words. Students see test items with both audio and visual support in the Phonics domain. Some questions have a word read aloud and require students to identify the written word that matches. Other items are written, and students are asked to choose among answer choices read aloud. Students have the option to use an audio icon to hear the items and answer choices repeatedly. Items in this domain focus on letter-sound correspondence, phoneme addition, deletion, and substitution, decoding and encoding multisyllable words, words with prefixes/suffixes, and spelling.

## Assessed Skills

On the i-Ready Assessment of Spanish Reading, phonics is assessed for Grades K-3. Some of the important skills assessed in the Phonics domain include:

- Sound spellings
- Spelling
- Decoding and encoding sound spellings
- Digraphs and diphthongs
- Alphabetic knowledge
- Phoneme identification and isolation
- Letter-sound correspondence
- Decoding and encoding multisyllable words
- Strategies for decoding multisyllable words
- Words with prefixes
- Words with suffixes
- Common syllable types


## Assessment of Spanish Reading

Phonics (Cont'd.)
Sample Items


Grade 2: In this item, students are asked to click on the speaker icon to listen to the audio. This specific item is asking for students to match the audio saying the word querido with the written form of the word.

## Vocabulary

Vocabulary are words that are acquired to help us comprehend what we read and communicate effectively. The more words a student knows, the easier it is for them to understand what they read. It is important for students to be exposed to and know a large variety of vocabulary words in order to have a better understanding of what they are reading. Students learn new vocabulary words by means of talking, reading, and being taught specific words.

The i-Ready Assessment of Spanish Reading assesses students' knowledge of vocabulary words by showing question stems that ask students to identify antonyms and synonyms of the underlined word, images that represent the unknown vocabulary word, or short stories asking students to utilize context clues to help make meaning of the vocabulary word. The vocabulary words students see in the assessment were carefully selected to demonstrate Spanish neutrality and to measure acquisition and use of vocabulary words.

## Assessed Skills

On the i-Ready Assessment of Spanish Reading, vocabulary is assessed for Grades K-6. Some of the important skills assessed in the Vocabulary domain include:

- Determine word meanings using prefixes/affixes/base words
- Analyze word relationships
- Antonyms and synonyms
- Relationships and idioms
- Word families
- Connotations and denotations
- Figures of speech
- Understand general academic and domain-specific vocabulary
- Make real-life connections with words
- Relate words and phrases to images


## Assessment of Spanish Reading

Vocabulary (Cont’d.)

## Sample Items



Grade 1: This item measures a student's ability to determine the meaning of the underlined word by using context clues.

## Comprehension: Literature

Comprehension of literature is the student's ability to turn what is being read into thoughts and ideas in order to understand and interpret the types of writing that are fictional. Fictional literary texts comprise short stories, plays, and poems. While reading fictional literary texts, a student might be able to identify the sequence of events in a story, discuss the meaning of a poem, or explain the lines a character speaks in a play. As a student develops as a reader, they will be able to understand increasingly complex stories, plays, and poems.

The i-Ready Assessment of Spanish Reading assesses students on their comprehension of fictional literary texts. The passages seen in this assessment were written by Spanish-speaking authors with grade-level experience to offer students engaging texts. Each passage is associated with a set of items that address various concepts within the domain, but all require comprehension of fictional texts to answer the set of questions associated with the passages.

## Assessed Skills

On the i-Ready Assessment of Spanish Reading, comprehension of literature is assessed for Grades K-6. Some of the important skills assessed in the Comprehension: Literature domain include:

- Ask/answer questions about stories/cite textual evidence and make inferences
- Summarize text
- Determine theme/central message of a story/poem
- Analyze how plot/characters are developed
- Interpret figurative language/allusions/connotations
- Compare and contrast story elements within one story or between two stories
- Connect words and pictures
- Determine point of view in a story


## Assessment of Spanish Reading

Comprehension: Literature (Cont’d.)

## Sample Items



Grade 6: This item measures whether students can summarize the passage in order to select the best summary for the first of two literary passages.


Grade 6: This item measures whether students can compare and contrast literary texts by asking them to classify facts from either or both literary passages.

## Comprehension: Informational Text

Comprehension of informational text assesses the student's ability to understand a type of writing known as non-fiction texts. Examples of informational texts are articles, recipes, or instructions. Informational texts may include charts, diagrams, and graphs that will assist a student in deepening their comprehension when reading. A student with an understanding of informational texts may be able to recall details, events, people, and ideas of what was read.

The Comprehension: Informational Text domain in the i-Ready Assessment of Spanish Reading was written by Spanish-speaking authors with grade-level experience. The informational texts were created to be engaging and culturally relevant to students. The assessment uses a combination of question stems, images, and audio to assess a student's knowledge of informational texts. A student who understands informational text might cite textual evidence and make inferences of what they are reading, be able to retell or summarize text, or identify and analyze the author's purpose.

## Assessed Skills

On the i-Ready Assessment of Spanish Reading, comprehension of informational text is assessed for Grades K-6. Some of the important skills assessed in the Comprehension: Informational Text domain include:

- Ask/answer questions about key details/ideas
- Identify main idea/key details
- Determine word meanings
- Understand general academic and domainspecific vocabulary/words and phrases
- Identify author's purpose using supporting details in a text
- Describe connections between ideas, events, and procedures
- Use and interpret text features
- Compare author's point of view/similar topics in two texts
- Make inferences/cite textual evidence
- Describe or analyze relationships between ideas and events in scientific, historical, and technical texts
- Integrate information from different print/digital sources
- Evaluate arguments/persuasive techniques
- Compare informational texts


## Assessment of Spanish Reading

Comprehension: Informational Text (Contd.)

## Sample Items



Grade 1: This item measures whether students are able use text features (e.g., pictures) to answer questions about the informational text.


Grade 6: This item measures a student's ability to cite textual evidence to fill in the blank by locating the information in the sampled paragraph.

## Conclusion

The i-Ready Assessment of Spanish Reading was created as an on-grade level assessment to provide educators with a better understanding of students' reading performance in Spanish. The assessment reports on students' grade-level Spanish reading as well as provides insights into domain-level performance.

To view content and skills by grade as well as Reading domain tables, click here.

## Reference

Brady, S. (2012). Taking the Common Core foundational standards in reading far enough. Perspectives on Language and Literacy, 38(4), 19-24.

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