



## Profile of Ability

### The reader can:

Understand complex unfamiliar multipurpose texts in a broad variety of styles and formats across a range of situations and contexts that are demanding and unpredictable.

### When the text is:

- Propositionally and linguistically complex and may include sophisticated reasoning, implicit subtleties, highly idiomatic and figurative language, and socio-cultural references
- With abstract, conceptual or specialized vocabulary
- Visually complex and lengthy or dense
- In demanding contexts

### Demonstrating these strengths and limitations:

- Identifies purpose, main ideas, author’s intent, mood, attitude and point of view, line of reasoning and structure
- Uses knowledge of styles, registers and language varieties to assist in comprehension
- Uses inference to integrate stated and implied information throughout a single text or across multiple texts
- Separates relevant from irrelevant details
- Summarizes and critically evaluates content
- Interprets most idiomatic and figurative language, colloquialisms and cultural references
- Uses reference materials as required to support communication

## I. Interacting with Others

- Understand complex communication conveying social politeness and cooperation, or their violations, in social and non-social correspondence.

[Texts may be dense and require high-level inference.]

- Identifies or infers mood and attitude.
- Identifies the purpose of the text and its parts.
- Identifies and evaluates expressions of social politeness and cooperation by linguistic clues, face-saving expressions (messages that convey respect and value for self and others).
- Identifies and evaluates instances of violations of social politeness and cooperation, face threatening talk (messages that convey disapproval, disrespect, challenges to criticism, assumptions about the other, demands).
- Demonstrates strengths and limitations typical of Reading Benchmark 12, as listed in the Profile of Ability.

### Sample Tasks

Read idiomatic or colloquial communication on online communities to acquire knowledge of current trends and issues as well as topics of interest that are unfamiliar and complex.

Read a workplace performance review and interpret implied meanings in the evaluation of strengths and weaknesses in light of proposed lay-offs.

Read and evaluate a formal letter threatening legal action because of a non-response to a complaint claiming a client was injured by a company product.

## II. Comprehending Instructions

- Understand complex instructional texts and evaluate and revise them for clarity.

- Follows instructions.
- Evaluates instructional texts for accuracy, consistency and clarity.
- Evaluates the effectiveness of instructions by using external criteria, such as field testing with users.
- Demonstrates strengths and limitations typical of Reading Benchmark 12, as listed in the Profile of Ability.

### Sample Tasks

Review detailed, extensive, complex, written instructions on complex tasks (such as how to balance a budget, conduct a staff briefing session, construct a spreadsheet, or conduct and report an experimental study) to ensure accuracy and usability.

Evaluate the clarity and validity of instructions using external criteria, such as a set of best practices.