# Estimating Reading Times for Course Material <br> Compiled by Holly Riley, University of Montana, Fall 2022 

## Find your reading words per minute speed:

http://www.readingsoft.com/
(includes comprehension test)
https://swiftread.com/reading-speed-test
(includes comprehension test)
https://www.arealme.com/speed-reading-test/en/
(includes options to change font size and color)

## Find the total word count of an article or document:

https://wordcounter.net/website-word-count (insert a URL)
https://wordcounter.net/ (copy and paste all text)
If you have a large article or PDF OR an article with lots of pages of notes/bibliography, copy-paste ONE full page of text and then multiply that by the number of full-text pages in the document. (Don't include the title page, bibliography, etc. in your calculations.)

## Find the estimated reading time of an article or document:

https://www.omnicalculator.com/everyday-life/reading-time
(allows you to enter your reading speed as "slow" "average" or "quick" and enter \# of pages)
https://multifoxtheme.com/reading-time-calculator/
(copy-paste text into the calculator and it does it for you. You can set your reading speed as 100-300 words per minute.)
https://usa.gravyforthebrain.com/reading-speed-calculator/
(this one is more customizable: click the button over to "reading speed" and then select option 1 to enter the number of words or option 2 to paste in your text. You can set your reading speed as 100-600 words per minute. Note: this is geared towards voice actors, but it's the same calculation.)

## But wait: it's more complicated than that.

Your reading speed will vary based on a few factors, including difficulty of the reading, your interest level in the reading, and whether you're "skim reading", "deep reading", or somewhere in between.
Use these calculators to determine the difficulty level of a reading excerpt:
http://gunning-fog-index.com/fog.cgi
https://readabilityformulas.com/free-readability-formula-tests.php
You can learn more about those readability indexes here:
Paste in a few different excerpts from course readings to gauge which ones are the most difficult.
You can also go back to this calculator and use the timer (in option 2, in the reading speed selection) to gauge your reading speed for different types of excerpts (or slow reading vs skim reading, etc.)
https://usa.gravyforthebrain.com/reading-speed-calculator/

It's also worth taking tests on this site and changing around the font size and color to see if your reading speed is different for different types of text.
https://www.arealme.com/speed-reading-test/en/
Once you've figured out the reading difficulty level for your excerpt and other potentially influential factors, you might go back to the calculators and adjust your words-per-minute level accordingly.

