WIAT-4: the subtests and composites

Wechsler Individual Achievement Test, Fourth Edition (Pearson, 2020). Ages 4:0 to 50:11, pre-K to grade 12; qualification level B; one-to-one; time varies by grade and subtests chosen; age-based or grade-based (fall, winter, spring) norms. Scores: standard scores (mean 100, SD 15), percentile ranks, stanines, NCEs, age and grade equivalents, growth scale values.

The 20 subtests

Domain	Subtests
Oral language	Listening Comprehension; Oral Expression
Reading	Word Reading; Pseudoword Decoding; Reading Comprehension; Oral Reading Fluency; Orthographic Fluency (new); Decoding Fluency (new); Phonemic Proficiency (new); Orthographic Choice (new, Q-interactive only)
Writing	Alphabet Writing Fluency; Spelling; Sentence Composition; Sentence Writing Fluency (new); Essay Composition
Mathematics	Math Problem Solving; Numerical Operations; Math Fluency (addition, subtraction, multiplication)

Pseudoword Decoding: reading made-up words (phonics). Orthographic Fluency: reading irregular words fast. Decoding Fluency: reading pseudowords fast. Phonemic Proficiency: manipulating sounds quickly. Orthographic Choice: picking the correctly spelled word.

The composites

Group	Composites
Core academic	Reading; Written Expression; Mathematics; and the Total Achievement composite across them
Processing	Phonological Processing; Orthographic Processing (an extended version on Q-interactive)
Supplemental	Basic Reading; Decoding; Reading Fluency; Math Fluency; Oral Language; Writing Fluency
Dyslexia Index	A screening score from a short set of subtests, included in every kit; Pearson says under 15 minutes

Descriptive categories (mean 100, SD 15)

Score	Descriptor	Share of children	Percentile
130 and above	Extremely High	2%	98th and above
120 to 129	Very High	7%	91st to 97th
110 to 119	High Average	16%	75th to 90th
90 to 109	Average	50%	25th to 73rd
80 to 89	Low Average	16%	9th to 23rd
70 to 79	Very Low	7%	2nd to 8th
69 and below	Extremely Low	2%	2nd and below

From sciencewithshobha.com/blog/wiat-4-explained-the-wechsler-individual-achievement-test-ages-4-to-50-the-20-subtests-the-composites-and-dyslexia-index-how-it-is-scored-and-how-to-read-the-report/ · 1-on-1 online tutoring for US families, Grade 1 to AP, free 30-minute first class.

Reading a report: Pearson's sample, and your own

Pearson's sample report: a 6th grader, Total Achievement 102 (Average)

Score	Standard score	Percentile	Category
Word Reading	71	3	Very Low
Pseudoword Decoding	121	92	Very High
Oral Reading Fluency	53	0.1	Extremely Low
Orthographic Fluency	146	99.9	Extremely High
Spelling	133	99	Extremely High
Reading Comprehension	98	45	Average
Numerical Operations	127	96	Very High
Math Problem Solving	91	27	Average
Oral Language composite	134	99	Extremely High
Reading composite	82	12	Low Average
Mathematics composite	110	75	High Average

The composites average the subtests out and the Total hides them: a child who decodes and spells at the top of the range and reads real words and connected text at the bottom. Read every WIAT-4 report from the subtests up.

What else is on the page

[ ] Confidence interval (90% on the sample): the range the true score is likely in.
[ ] Age and grade equivalents: where the raw score is the median; not a placement.
[ ] Growth scale value (GSV): the number to compare across re-tests.
[ ] Dyslexia Index: a screening score, not a diagnosis.
[ ] Ability-achievement comparison when a WISC-V was given: the report's text says whether a pattern of strengths and weaknesses was found.

Your child's report

Test date, age- or grade-based norms, subtests given: _____

Lowest subtest (SS, percentile, category): _____

Highest subtest: _____

Composites: Reading / Written Expression / Mathematics / Total: _____

The skill to teach first, and the GSV to beat at the re-test: _____