Woodcock-Johnson IV: reading the score columns

Three batteries normed together on 7,416 people aged 2 to 90+ (Riverside, 2014): Cognitive Abilities (18 tests), Oral Language (12), Achievement (20; tests 1-11 are the Standard Battery in forms A, B and C). Every test and cluster: a standard score (mean 100, SD 15), a percentile rank, a classification, a Relative Proficiency Index, age and grade equivalents.

Standard score classification (Riverside's chart; all three batteries)

Standard score	Percentile rank	WJ IV classification
131 and above	98 to 99.9	Very Superior
121 to 130	92 to 97	Superior
111 to 120	76 to 91	High Average
90 to 110	25 to 75	Average
80 to 89	9 to 24	Low Average
70 to 79	3 to 8	Low
69 and below	0.1 to 2	Very Low

Relative Proficiency Index: how grade-level tasks will feel

The RPI predicts the child's success on tasks that average age- or grade-mates do with 90% success; the denominator is always 90.

RPI	Difference from peers (W points)	Riverside's implication
100/90	+31 and above	Extremely easy
98/90 to 100/90	+14 to +30	Very easy
95/90 to 98/90	+7 to +13	Easy
82/90 to 95/90	-6 to +6	Manageable
67/90 to 82/90	-13 to -7	Difficult
24/90 to 67/90	-30 to -14	Very difficult
3/90 to 24/90	-50 to -31	Extremely difficult
0/90 to 3/90	-51 and below	Nearly impossible

The other columns

[ ] AE and GE (age and grade equivalents): the age or grade at which the child's raw score is the median; not a placement.

[ ] W score: Riverside's equal-interval scale centred at 500; the RPI is computed from it.

[ ] Clusters are more reliable than single tests: read Broad Reading, Broad Mathematics and Broad Written Language first.

[ ] Standard score and RPI can disagree: an Average score with a Very difficult RPI still means hard homework.

From sciencewithshobha.com/blog/woodcock-johnson-test-explained-wj-iv-scoring-the-standard-score-classifications-the-relative-proficiency-index-the-achievement-tests-and-clusters-and-what-changed-in-the-wj-v/ · 1-on-1 online tutoring for US families, Grade 1 to AP, free 30-minute first class.

The achievement tests and clusters, the WJ V, and the planner

WJ IV Tests of Achievement: the Standard Battery

Test	Name	What the child does
1	Letter-Word Identification	Reading real words aloud from a list
2	Applied Problems	Maths word problems, with pictures at the early items
3	Spelling	Writing dictated letters and words
4	Passage Comprehension	Supplying the missing word in a short passage
5	Calculation	Written arithmetic through algebra and calculus items
6	Writing Samples	Writing sentences to a prompt, scored for quality
7	Word Attack	Reading nonsense words aloud: phonics
8	Oral Reading	Reading sentences aloud, scored for accuracy and fluency
9	Sentence Reading Fluency	Reading simple sentences and marking true or false, timed
10	Math Facts Fluency	Simple arithmetic facts, timed
11	Sentence Writing Fluency	Writing simple sentences from three given words, timed

Extended Battery: 12 Reading Recall, 13 Number Matrices, 14 Editing, 15 Word Reading Fluency, 16 Spelling of Sounds, 17 Reading Vocabulary, 18 Science, 19 Social Studies, 20 Humanities.

Clusters: Reading, Broad Reading, Basic Reading Skills, Reading Comprehension, Reading Fluency, Reading Rate; Mathematics, Broad Mathematics, Math Calculation Skills, Math Problem Solving; Written Language, Broad Written Language, Basic Writing Skills, Written Expression; Academic Skills, Academic Fluency, Academic Applications, Academic Knowledge; Phoneme-Grapheme Knowledge; Brief Achievement, Broad Achievement.

WJ V (2025)

Same CHC framework and the same kinds of scores; digital-native (laptop for the examiner, tablet for the child); normed 2022-2024 on more than 5,000 people against the 2020 census; 26 achievement tests across 22 clusters, 20 cognitive tests across 12 clusters, a seven-test nonverbal battery. A WJ IV report from 2023 and a WJ V report from 2027 are on different norms.

Reading the report

Test date, edition (WJ IV or WJ V), age- or grade-based norms: _____

Broad Reading / Broad Mathematics / Broad Written Language: SS, PR, classification: _____

Lowest cluster, its RPI and Riverside's implication: _____

Fluency cluster against the matching skills cluster: _____

Did the cognitive battery predict higher achievement than found? (report text): _____

The skill to teach this term: _____