Giving the MWIA: Quick Guide

Give the 40L QST first: its score tells you which MWIA to give. You need two copies of the test (yours to mark, a clean one for the student), a pencil, a folder to hide your copy, and a timer. Test in a quiet corner.

- **Never say whether a word is right or wrong.** No “good,” no nods. Say “OK” or “Keep going” and point to the next word.
- **Mark an X over a missed word.** If the student fixes it on their own, write **S/C** (self-correct). It counts as right.
- **Didn’t hear it?** Put your finger under the word and say, “Can you read that one to me again?”
- **Lost their place?** Put your finger under the word they should read next.

MWIA: Miller Word-Identification Assessment

Say	“I’m timing you to see how you read two types of words. Read each group aloud at your normal reading speed. Don’t rush.” Show where each group starts and stops before you start the timer.
Timing	Time each group separately (holistic words, then phonetic words), with a short break between.
Mark	An X over each missed word, or write what the student said above it if you have time. S/C words are not errors.
Score	Change the time to seconds (2:27 = 147 seconds). Words per minute (WPM) = the number printed on the test (4200, 2100, or 1500) ÷ seconds. Slowdown % = 100 × (holistic WPM − phonetic WPM) ÷ holistic WPM.
Tip	Just write down the times and marks. Scoring can wait until later, and a teacher volunteer can do it.

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The MWIA Version 3, V3 short, and V1 short

About the MWIA

The Miller Word-Identification Assessment (MWIA) measures the speed and accuracy with which the student reads two types of words, holistic and phonetic. The holistic words are based on high frequency sight words and the phonetic words are phonetically regular words that are lower frequency.

These versions of the MWIA are shorter versions than the full MWIA developed by Edward Miller. The original version is available for free online from Don Potter. The full version will gave a bit more information but takes longer to give. 40L developed the short versions of the MWIA to shorten testing time for group classes. The short versions also allow for retesting after a shorter period without test bias because different words are used on each version. (You can reuse the full versions after a few months, making sure that you do not tell the student the answers, do not supply the correct word for an incorrectly read word when giving the test.)

Giving the MWIA

You will need two copies of each test, one for you and one for the student being tested. You will also need a pencil and a book or folder to hide your copy of the test from the student being tested so that they don't get distracted by what you are writing.

Tell your student that they are going to read each section aloud to you with a short break in between each section. Say, "I'm timing you to see how you read two types of words. You need to read each group aloud at your normal reading speed, don't rush through." Explain that they will read each group of words from left to right, line by line. Show the start and stop point for each group before starting timing.

On your copy, mark words missed and the time to read each group of words. If you have enough time, write the word said incorrectly above the word, for example, if the word was "squeal" and the student said "squirrel", write squirrel above the word squeal. If you do not have enough time, you can just mark an X above the word missed. If the students at first says a word incorrectly but them corrects themselves, write S/C for self-correct above the word.

Which MWIA to give

You need to give the 40L Quick Screen Reading Grade Level Test[1] (40L QST) before the MWIA. Students scoring at the 1st grade level or below on the 40L QST should take the

[1] 40L QST available at: http://www.thephonicspage.org/download/40lreadingtest.pdf

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MWIA 1 short. Students scoring above 1st grade level (a score of 1.1 or higher on the 40L QST) should take the MWIA version 3. If testing time is limited, use the MWIA version 3 short instead for these students.

Scoring the MWIA

For each section, count the number of words missed and the time to read the section. Convert the time from minutes and seconds to seconds. For example, 2 minutes 27 seconds would be 120 seconds + 27 seconds, or 147 seconds. A short version of a table showing conversions is at the end of this document. If you need a full conversion table, one is at the end of the silent reading speed test.

For the spell correct, have the student spell each word they missed on the phonetic portion and then read it. The number read correctly of the errors is the score. For example, if the student read 8 of 10 missed words correctly after spelling them, the spell correct score is 8/10. When time is short, you can skip this portion of the test.

Scoring the number of errors for each section is easy--just count up the number of missed words. Self corrected words do not count as errors. To get Words Per Minute (WPM), you multiply the number of words read by 60, then divide by the number of seconds it takes to read these words. The multiplication by 60 is pre-calculated. For example, the MWIA 3 has two sets of 70 words, so you use 4200/time to read in seconds. The MWIA 3 short has two sets of 35 words, so you use 2100/time in seconds. The MWIA 1 short has two sets of 25 words, so you use 1500/time in seconds. These numbers and the equation are on each MWIA testing document. Scoring the WPM is different for each version, example scoring for each version is shown below. The equation for the slowdown is the same for all versions but this will also be shown below since you need to get WPM rates to calculate the slowdown.

Example scoring of the MWIA 3

A student who read the 70 Holistic words in 60 seconds and the 70 Phonetic words in 80 seconds would have a WPM rate for the Holistic words of 4200/60 or 70 WPM and a WPM rate for the Phonetic portion of 4200/80 or 52.5 WPM. You round to 53 WPM. To calculate the slowdown, use the formula 100 X (Holistic WPM - Phonetic WPM) / Holistic WPM. This example student would have a slowdown of 100 X (70 - 53)/70, or 100 X (17/70), which is a slowdown of 24%.

Example scoring of the MWIA 3 short

For a student that read the Holistic portion in 30 seconds and the Phonetic portion in 45 seconds, you would have Holistic WPM of 2100/30 = 70 WPM and Phonetic WPM of 2100/45 = 46.7 WPM, round to 47 WPM. The slowdown would be 100 X (70 - 47)/ 70 or 33%.

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Example scoring of the MWIA 1 short

For a student who read the Holistic portion in 42 seconds and the Phonetic portion in 50 seconds, you would have Holistic WPM of 1500/42 or 35.7 WPM, round to 36 WPM and Phonetic WPM of 1500/50 or 30 WPM. The slowdown would be 100 X (36 - 30)/36 or a 17% slowdown.

Interpreting MWIA Scores

The MWIA is very powerful tool for understanding the underlying cause of a reading problem. 40L's students who had dyslexia had less than a 10% slowdown on the phonetic words, missed an equal number of words on both tests, and had WPM rates of 5 - 25 WPM. 40L's students who had problems from sight words and other whole language practices in school had a slowdown of 15 - 60+ %, missed more phonetic words than holistic words, and read from 20 - 90 WPM. A student with dyslexia who was also taught with sight words will read at a slow WPM rate and may also miss a few more phonetic words than holistic words. For more information about understanding and interpreting MWIA scores, see 40L's MWIA videos.[2]

40L's students with problems from sight word teaching usually got to grade level within 6 months using resources such as 40L's Syllables Spell Successprogram. Older students with more ingrained sight word reading habits sometimes took a bit longer. Students with dyslexia were also helped by the Syllables Spell Success program but made much slower progress and had to repeat the program several times. Spelling remediation usually lags reading remediation by several years.

An actual MWIA duplicated with the student's name removed is shown on the next page. You will write and score on your version and use a blank MWIA for the student to read.

[2] 40L's MWIA YouTube video playlist, available at: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJLxBWdK_5l1hszDT4DBohbex3S332Xap

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MWIA Version 1 Short, Version A

Name [JANE DOE] M(__)/F(__) Age 6 Grade 1st Test Date 30 APR 16

Holistic - 1A Time 0 : 54sec (1500/ 54 sec) = 28 WMP Err 7

MWIA 1 Short Holistic Words, Version A

me (my)	they	say	not (out)	the
rain (rin)	car	mouse (X)	Sam	fox
a	train (tren)	on	ham (him)	if
boat (s/c)	in	eggs (s/c)	could (s/c)	anywhere
you	here (her)	and	thank	will

Phonetic - 1A Time 1 : 28 = 60+28= 88 sec (1500/ 88 sec) = 18 WMP Err 10

Spell-Correct 6 / 10 Slow-Down = 100*(H. WPM - Ph. WPM)/Hol WPM = 36 %

$= 100 \times \left(\frac{28-18}{28}\right) = 100 \times \frac{10}{28} = 35.71$

MWIA 1 Short Phonetic Words, Version A

mix	mash	rest (reest)	kid	Ben
met (meet)	kick	hump (X)	tent	gulps (s/c)
belt (dealt)	dust	land (lad)	rush	rash (rush)
luck (look)	men	fuzz	duck (dark)	cut
lock (look)	rack (X)	ask	jet	food

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Conversion from minutes and seconds to seconds:

Minutes	Seconds	Time in Seconds	Min.	Sec.	Time in Seconds	Min.	Sec.	Time in Seconds
1	0	60	2	0	120	3	0	180
	1	61		1	121		1	181
	2	62		2	122		2	182
	3	63		3	123		3	183
	…	…		…	…		…	…
	57	117		57	177		57	237
	58	118		58	178		58	238
	59	119		59	179		59	239
4	0	240	5	0	300	6	0	360
	1	241		1	301		1	361
	2	242		2	302		2	362
	3	243		3	303		3	363
	…	…		…	…		…	…
	57	297		57	357		57	417
	58	298		58	358		58	418
	59	299		59	359		59	419

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MWIA Version 3, Combined Word List, Version A

Name_____M(__)/F(__) Age _____ Grade_____Test Date_____

Holistic - 3A Time _____:_____ (4200/_____sec) = _____ WMP Err_____

MWIA 3 Combined Holistic Words, Version A

what	stand	sun	will	sunny	hop	me
know	ham	another	today	play	get	sad
kite	bit	eat	open	lots	rid	step
no	last	little	gown	or	two	kick
fan	show	at	is	hear	pat	them
look	dark	way	milk	bent	some	bad
thump	to	tall	rake	fun	he	dear
one	in	put	toy	that	wet	a
red	back	made	dish	call	top	good
kind	tame	can	then	fear	cat	on

Phonetic - 3A Time _____:_____ (4200/_____sec) = _____ WMP Err_____

Spell-Correct_____/_____ Slow-Down = 100*(H. WPM - Ph. WPM)/Hol WPM = _____%

MWIA 3 Combined Phonetic Words, Version A

hum	clamp	win	or	sled	fuss	pan
yell	glad	deck	fib	men	shrub	whisk
set	fins	chick	spout	food	ask	launch
Tim	soot	dog	cloud	slot	mush	bulk
melt	nap	Tom	chunk	well	chop	found
much	charm	gulps	hound	hot	veal	lend
punch	pest	girl	bangs	ring	dress	web
mill	rib	thrash	mend	job	sob	patch
wax	nip	hunt	leaf	land	tag	wept
Jill	bugs	ten	ink	stop	fuzz	cool

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MWIA Version 3, Combined Word List, Version B

Name_____M(__)/F(__) Age _____ Grade_____Test Date_____

Holistic - 3B Time _____:_____ (4200/_____sec) = _____ WMP Err_____

MWIA Combined Holistic Words Version B

with	rain	not	anywhere	yet	wish	hold
when	do	bow	mother	of	they	ball
shut	got	yours	could	him	saw	wall
for	those	from	train	like	them	fast
are	fall	say	we	dots	their	come
pink	our	always	may	pot	there	out
hat	yes	try	be	was	let	box
funny	went	new	want	if	bump	big
down	head	hands	goat	game	plop	take
why	make	shine	Sam	see	came	ran

Phonetic - 3B Time _____:_____ (4200/_____sec) = _____ WMP Err_____

Spell-Correct_____/_____ Slow-Down = 100*(H. WPM - Ph. WPM)/Hol WPM = _____%

MWIA Combined Phonetic Words Version B

thrill	mist	drink	stir	street	hints	dig
muff	how	beg	block	rob	fir	crack
desk	storm	sketch	loin	quench	chart	nest
sick	scat	wheat	wig	roof	gang	kid
bar	dash	fort	beast	Ann	branch	doll
hunt	brat	map	broil	long	sell	Ted
fill	nod	strip	torn	masks	proud	ground
bib	Gus	mix	kick	brink	moss	flint
trip	lifts	camp	belt	cut	tent	moist
farm	neck	hack	pass	monk	spit	pack

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MWIA Version 3, Combined Word List, Version C

Name_____M(__)/F(__) Age _____ Grade_____Test Date_____

Holistic - 3C Time _____:_____ (4200/_____sec) = _____ WMP Err_____

MWIA Combined Holistic Words Version C

us	high	eggs	hall	thank	mat	tail
car	my	near	bet	tell	find	so
shook	hit	as	pack	sat	said	hook
sank	cold	think	deep	yellow	tree	things
mess	would	had	but	fish	this	fell
now	tip	away	playthings	jump	lit	cake
how	shake	have	after	these	did	mind
up	green	you	fox	cup	house	it
man	pick	ship	go	shame	and	all
net	sit	here	something	the	boat	am

Phonetic - 3C Time _____:_____ (4200/_____sec) = _____ WMP Err_____

Spell-Correct_____/_____ Slow-Down = 100*(H. WPM - Ph. WPM)/Hol WPM = _____%

MWIA Combined Phonetic Words Version C

mud	facts	ouch	squeal	stub	switch	rash
chink	rush	tap	thaw	shark	pad	pout
Paul	foil	ash	sheep	moth	kept	test
lord	hand	lid	flap	prompt	bed	grip
clap	frog	sing	jet	fog	met	lock
dad	sop	notch	duck	Dan	peach	slip
lumps	jar	talk	tank	spook	mink	lark
step	beam	Nat	rest	jam	rip	gas
clip	hump	strap	drawn	map	den	boost
hills	luck	rack	lamp	fig	bit	jazz

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MWIA Version 1 Short, Version A

Name_____M(__)/F(__) Age _____ Grade_____Test Date_____

Holistic - 1A Time _____:_____ (1500/_____sec) = _____ WMP Err_____

MWIA 1 Short Holistic Words, Version A

me	they	say	not	the
rain	car	mouse	Sam	fox
a	train	on	ham	if
boat	in	eggs	could	anywhere
you	here	and	thank	will

Phonetic - 1A Time _____:_____ (1500/_____sec) = _____ WMP Err_____

Spell-Correct____/_____ Slow-Down = 100*(H. WPM - Ph. WPM)/Hol WPM = _____%

MWIA 1 Short Phonetic Words, Version A

mix	mash	rest	kid	Ben
met	kick	hump	tent	gulps
belt	dust	land	rush	rash
luck	men	fuzz	duck	cut
lock	rack	ask	jet	food

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MWIA Version 1 Short, Version B

MWIA Version 1 Short, Version B

Name_____M(__)/F(__) Age _____ Grade_____Test Date_____

Holistic - 1B Time _____:_____ (1500/_____sec) = _____ WMP Err_____

MWIA 1 Short Holistic Words, Version B

box	would	dark	may	like
be	with	that	let	eat
goat	good	house	try	tree
or	are	I	do	am
see	them	green	so	there

Phonetic - 1B Time _____:_____ (1500/_____sec) = _____ WMP Err_____

Spell-Correct_____/_____ Slow-Down = 100*(H. WPM - Ph. WPM)/Hol WPM = _____%

MWIA 1 Short Phonetic Words, Version B

ponds	bulk	deck	neck	nip
wig	wax	pass	sick	hot
mud	desk	map	job	tag
sip	Tom	pick	pad	hack
pack	tank	hunt	lamp	pest

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MWIA Version 3 Short, Combined Word List, Version A1

Name_____M(__)/F(__) Age _____ Grade_____Test Date_____

Holistic - 3A1 Time _____:_____ (2100/_____sec) = _____ WMP Err_____

MWIA 3 Combined Holistic Words, Version A1

what	stand	sun	will	sunny	hop	me
know	ham	another	today	play	get	sad
kite	bit	eat	open	lots	rid	step
no	last	little	gown	or	two	kick
fan	show	at	is	hear	pat	them

Phonetic - 3A1 Time _____:_____ (2100/_____sec) = _____ WMP Err_____

Spell-Correct_____/_____ Slow-Down = 100*(H. WPM - Ph. WPM)/Hol WPM = _____%

MWIA 3 Combined Phonetic Words, Version A1

hum	clamp	win	or	sled	fuss	pan
yell	glad	deck	fib	men	shrub	whisk
set	fins	chick	spout	food	ask	launch
Tim	soot	dog	cloud	slot	mush	bulk
melt	nap	Tom	chunk	well	chop	found

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MWIA Version 3 Short, Combined Word List, Version A2

Name_____M(__)/F(__) Age _____ Grade_____Test Date_____

Holistic - 3A2 Time _____:_____ (2100/_____sec) = _____ WMP Err_____

MWIA 3 Combined Holistic Words, Version A2

look	dark	way	milk	bent	some	bad
thump	to	tall	rake	fun	he	dear
one	in	put	toy	that	wet	a
red	back	made	dish	call	top	good
kind	tame	can	then	fear	cat	on

Phonetic - 3A2 Time _____:_____ (2100/_____sec) = _____ WMP Err_____

Spell-Correct_____/_____ Slow-Down = 100*(H. WPM - Ph. WPM)/Hol WPM = _____%

MWIA 3 Combined Phonetic Words, Version A2

much	charm	gulps	hound	hot	veal	lend
punch	pest	girl	bangs	ring	dress	web
mill	rib	thrash	mend	job	sob	patch
wax	nip	hunt	leaf	land	tag	wept
Jill	bugs	ten	ink	stop	fuzz	cool

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