



MATRS™ Frequently Asked Questions

What is MATRS?

The Morphological Awareness Test for Reading and Spelling™ (MATRS™) is a standardized assessment that measures students' morphological awareness—the ability to recognize, understand, and use meaningful parts of words, such as prefixes, suffixes, and base words. Morphological awareness is a critical skill that supports reading, spelling, vocabulary, and reading comprehension.

Who is MATRS designed for?

MATRS is designed for students in **Grades 1–6**. It measures the development of morphological awareness across the elementary school years, when these skills become increasingly important for literacy success.

Why is morphological awareness important?

Morphological awareness helps students understand how words are formed and how their meanings change. Strong morphological awareness supports:

- Reading unfamiliar and multisyllabic words
- Accurate spelling
- Vocabulary development
- Reading comprehension
- Academic language

Research shows that morphological awareness is a strong predictor of both current and future reading and spelling achievement.

When should I administer MATRS?

MATRS may be appropriate when a student:

- Is struggling with reading or spelling
- Has difficulty learning new vocabulary
- Has trouble reading or spelling complex words
- Is not making expected progress with literacy intervention
- Would benefit from a more detailed evaluation of morphological awareness

It may also be used as part of a comprehensive literacy or language evaluation.

How is MATRS different from other literacy assessments?

Many literacy assessments provide a broad picture of a student's reading and language skills. MATRS focuses specifically on morphological awareness, providing a detailed evaluation of the skills that contribute to successful reading and spelling.

Rather than replacing other literacy assessments, MATRS complements them by helping educators better understand a student's morphological awareness strengths and areas of need.

Can MATRS be used with other literacy assessments?

Yes. MATRS is designed to complement many commonly used literacy assessments.

For example:

- **Universal screeners** can identify students who may be at risk for reading difficulties.
- **Comprehensive literacy assessments** provide a broad picture of reading and language skills.
- **MATRS** provides an in-depth assessment of morphological awareness, helping educators determine which specific morphology skills may need targeted instruction.

To see how MATRS works alongside other literacy assessments check out [How MATRS Complements Your Existing Literacy Assessments](#).

Does MATRS replace my current literacy assessment?

No. MATRS is intended to complement, not replace, existing literacy assessments. It provides additional information about morphological awareness that can support instructional planning and intervention. For more info, see [How MATRS Complements Your Existing Literacy Assessments](#).

What skills does MATRS assess?

MATRS evaluates the full breadth of morphological awareness, including students' ability to:

- Recognize prefixes and suffixes
- Understand the meaning of common affixes
- Analyze words into meaningful parts
- Recognize relationships among related words
- Apply morphological knowledge when reading and spelling

- Spell multi-morphemic words (Grades 4–6)

Together, these tasks provide a comprehensive picture of a student’s morphological awareness.

How can MATRS results be used?

MATRS helps educators:

- Identify students’ strengths and areas of need
- Better understand factors contributing to reading and spelling difficulties
- Inform instructional planning
- Target morphology instruction more effectively
- Monitor students’ understanding of morphological awareness concepts over time, as appropriate and consistent with the assessment’s intended use

Who can administer MATRS?

MATRS is intended to be administered by trained professionals who are qualified to administer standardized assessments, including speech-language pathologists, reading specialists, school psychologists, educational diagnosticians, special educators, and other qualified professionals.

How long does MATRS take to administer?

The test takes 35–45 minutes.

How does MATRS support evidence-based literacy instruction?

Research has shown that morphological awareness plays an important role in reading, spelling, vocabulary, and comprehension. By providing a standardized measure of these skills, MATRS helps educators identify instructional needs and make informed decisions about intervention.

The International Dyslexia Association (IDA) explicitly included morphology in their 2025 [updated definition of dyslexia](#), reinforcing the critical role morphological awareness plays in literacy development. IDA also includes morphology as part of their [Structured Literacy Approach](#).

What makes MATRS unique?

MATRS was developed specifically to provide a comprehensive, standardized assessment of morphological awareness. By measuring multiple dimensions of morphology through a variety of tasks, MATRS gives educators detailed information that can support more targeted literacy instruction and intervention.

How does MATRS fit into my existing assessment process?

MATRS fits alongside your current literacy assessments. Universal screeners and comprehensive literacy assessments can identify students who may need additional support. MATRS provides a deeper evaluation of morphological awareness, helping educators understand whether morphological awareness is contributing to a student's literacy difficulties and which specific skills should be targeted during instruction or intervention.

[Click here to see how MATRS complements the literacy assessments you are using.](#)

How can I purchase MATRS?

[You can get your copy of MATRS here.](#)

What comes in the MATRS Kit?

The MATRS Kit contains everything you need, including:

- Detailed manual
- Examiner Administration Booklet
- Pack of 10 Student Response Forms for each grade
- Plus, digital access to:
 - Materials for follow-up testing
 - Demonstration videos for each task
 - Audio files
 - Technical Report
 - MATRS Excel automated scoring solution

Can I monitor progress after intervention with MATRS?

Yes. MATRS includes access to a full set of assessment materials for administering a follow-up test, so you can easily determine the effectiveness of interventions.

How can I learn more about the research that went into MATRS?

You can view a comprehensive summary of the [MATRS Technical Report here](#).

Can I get a preview of MATRS?

Yes! You can read an [excerpt from the MATRS Manual here](#) and watch the [demonstration videos for each task on our Download Hub](#).

Are there discounts if I purchase more than one copy of MATRS?

Yes! Brookes offers bulk discounts on our products. Please [reach out to your rep](#) for more information on how you can save on MATRS.