

Literacy levels as defined by the International Adult Literacy Skills Survey (IALSS)

- Level 1** Individuals at this level have great trouble reading. They have very few basic skills or strategies available to understand and work with text. Usually they are aware that they have problems. A person at this level may be unable to determine the correct amount of medicine to give a child from the information on the package.
16.6% of Canadians fit into this level.
- Level 2** Individuals at this level have limited literacy skills. They can deal only with material that is simple and clearly laid out. They often don't recognize their limitations. It will be difficult for them to face new demands, such as learning new job skills.
25.6% of Canadians fit into this level.
- Level 3** Level three is the minimum skill level for coping with the demands of everyday life and work in a complex, advanced society.
35.1% of Canadians fit into this level.
- Level 4/5** Individuals have high levels of literacy, with a wide range of reading skills and many strategies for dealing with complex materials.
22.7% of Canadians fit into this level.