



# How to choose a graded reader

There are dozens of graded readers for Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Māori, Samoan and Spanish in the LLC's Self-access Library. Here are some tips for selecting the right one for you.

Obviously you want to choose one which sounds interesting to you. This could be fiction or non-fiction. Apart from this you need to choose one at the right level for you. The point of graded readers is not to read the most difficult one that you can just about manage, but to read one below your level so you read fairly quickly, thereby understanding the vast majority of what you read. There should be no more than about three unfamiliar words per page. Any more and you won't be able to concentrate on the story as you'll be constantly looking words up in the dictionary. Read a page to check if it has three or fewer words you don't know.

All graded readers have a coloured sticker which we have added to help you find the right level. These are:

- Green ● = beginner/elementary
- Green and blue ●● = lower intermediate
- Blue ● = intermediate
- Blue and red ●● = upper intermediate
- Red ● = advanced

Many also use the CEFR level. This stands for the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. If you know your level this is the ideal way to choose a graded reader at the right level. Some books don't give the CEFR level, which is why we offer the colour coding system above as well.

