

# Hemingway and Readability



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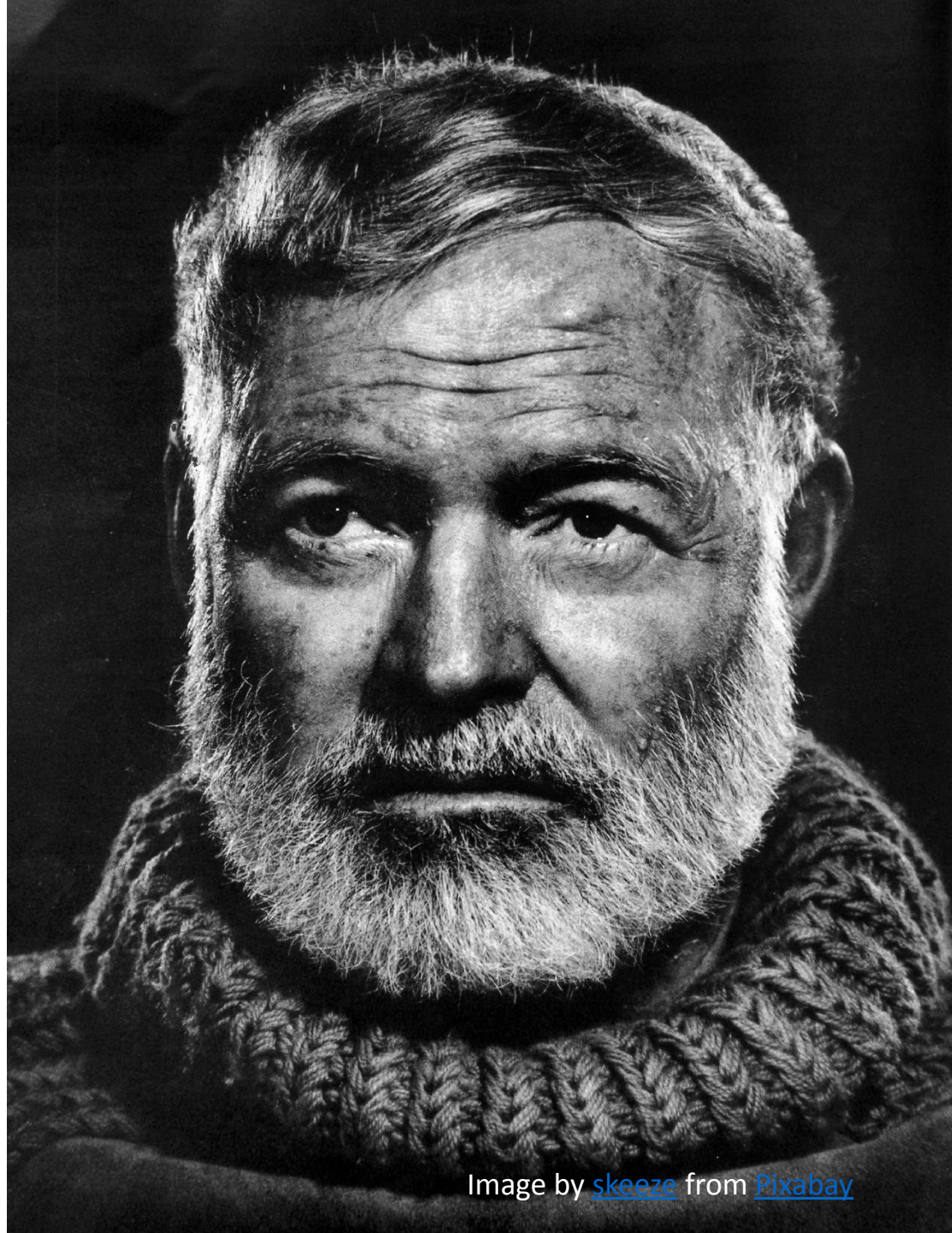


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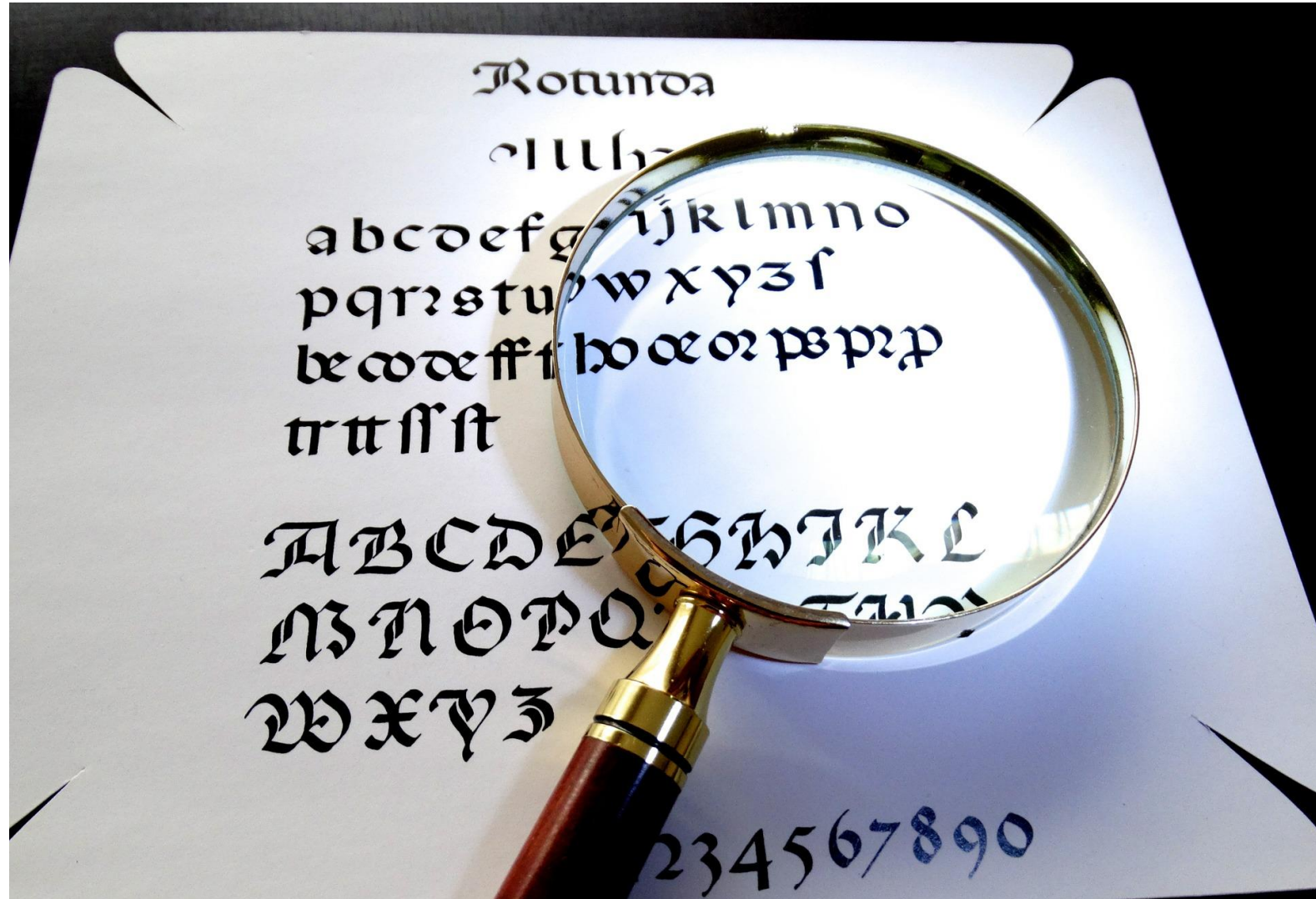
# Ernest Hemingway

- The Old Man and the Sea,  
A Farewell to Arms,  
The Sun Also Rises, ...
- Writing style
  - Succinct
  - Lucid
  - Straightforward



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# What is readability?



# What is readability?

- The quality of being **easy** or **enjoyable** to read  
(<https://www.lexico.com>)
- The fact of being **easy**, **interesting** and **enjoyable** to read; the fact of being **clear** and **easy** to read  
(<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>)

Why is readability important?



How can we determine readability?



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# How can we determine readability?

- Readability Scores, Readability Formulas

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level, Flesch Reading Ease, Automated Readability Index

Gunning Fog Index, Coleman Liau Index, SMOG Index, ...



# What makes content more readable?



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Example sentences or pieces of text (difficult to read)



Image by [AxxLC](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Example sentences or pieces of text (edited to enhance readability)



Image by [AxxLC](#) from [Pixabay](#)

# Hemingway Editor

(<http://www.hemingwayapp.com/>)

The screenshot displays the Hemingway Editor interface. At the top, there is a toolbar with options: Bold, Italic, H1, H2, H3, Quote, Bullets, Numbers, and Link. On the right side, there are buttons for 'Write' and 'Edit', and the 'Hemingway Editor' logo. Below the toolbar, the main text area contains several paragraphs. The first paragraph is titled 'Hemingway App makes your writing bold and clear.' and contains a long sentence highlighted in yellow and red. The second paragraph discusses using shorter words. The third paragraph mentions adverbs and weakening phrases. The fourth paragraph talks about passive voice. The fifth paragraph discusses formatting text. The sixth paragraph explains how to use the editor. On the right sidebar, there is a 'Readability' section showing 'Grade 6' and 'Good'. Below this, it says 'Words: 133' and 'Show More'. There are five colored boxes with feedback: a blue box for adverbs, a green box for passive voice, a purple box for a simpler alternative, a yellow box for a hard-to-read sentence, and a red box for a very hard-to-read sentence.

Bold Italic H1 H2 H3 Quote Bullets Numbers Link

Write Edit

## Hemingway Editor

### Readability

Grade 6  
Good

Words: 133  
Show More ▾

2 adverbs, meeting the goal of 2 or fewer.

1 use of passive voice, meeting the goal of 2 or fewer.

1 phrase has a simpler alternative.

1 of 11 sentences is hard to read.

1 of 11 sentences is very hard to read.

**Hemingway App makes your writing bold and clear.**

The app highlights lengthy, complex sentences and common errors; if you see a yellow sentence, shorten or split it. If you see a red highlight, your sentence is so dense and complicated that your readers will get lost trying to follow its meandering, splitting logic — try editing this sentence to remove the red.

You can utilize a shorter word in place of a purple one. Mouse over them for hints.

Adverbs and weakening phrases are helpfully shown in blue. Get rid of them and pick words with force, perhaps.

Phrases in green have been marked to show passive voice.

You can format your *text* with the toolbar.

Paste in something you're working on and edit away. Or, click the Write button and compose something new.

# Hemingway Editor

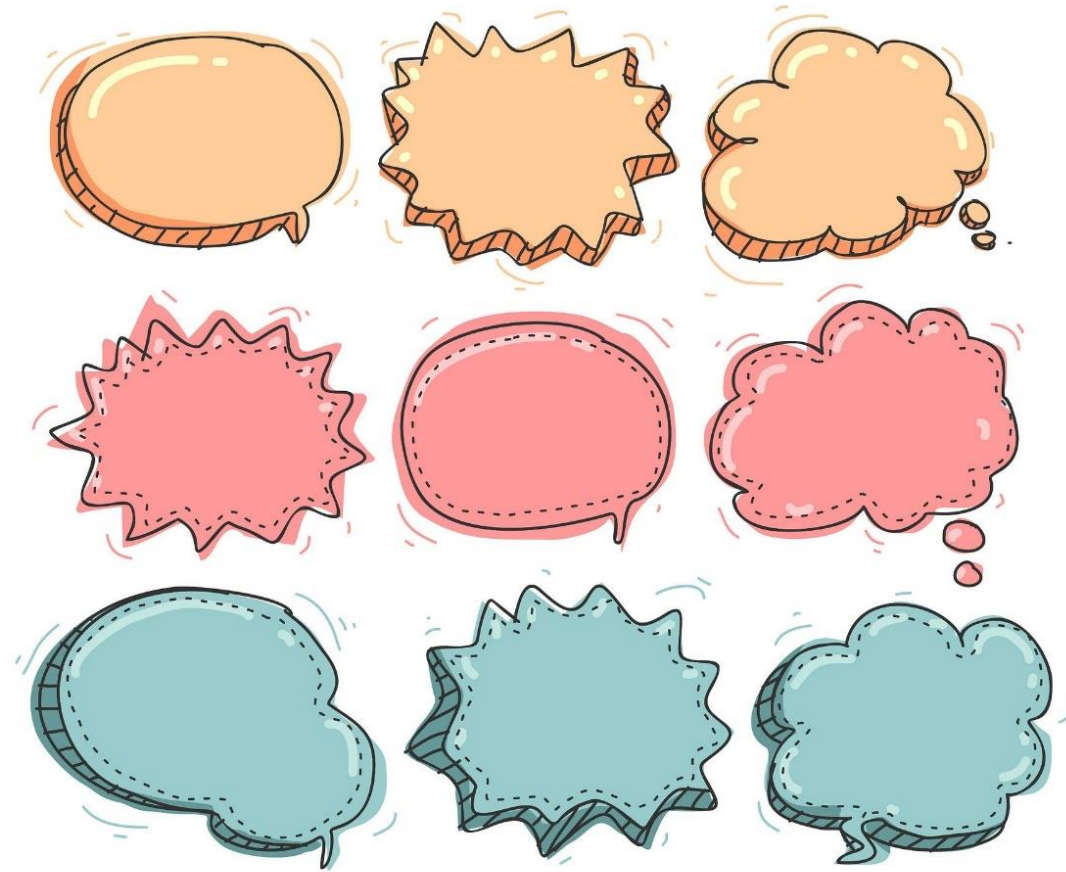
(<http://www.hemingwayapp.com/>)

- Online or Offline (Desktop App)
- Write and Edit modes
- Indicates Readability (Grade level)
- Highlights
  - Adverbs
  - Passive Voice
  - Expressions/words that are difficult to read
  - Sentences that are difficult to read

# Hemingway Editor

- Go to <http://www.hemingwayapp.com/>
- Copy given piece of text
- Click on Edit mode
- Edit for better readability

# Thoughts?



# References and Additional Information



# About Ernest Hemingway

- <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/1954/hemingway/biographical/>
- <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ernest-Hemingway>
- <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/1950/05/13/how-do-you-like-it-now-gentlemen>
- <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/ernest-m-hemingway>

# About the Automated Readability Index (ARI)

A number whose value represents the approximate US grade level needed to understand the text

Formula:

s

$$4.71 \left( \frac{\text{characters}}{\text{words}} \right) + 0.5 \left( \frac{\text{words}}{\text{sentences}} \right) - 21.43$$

References and Additional Reading:

<https://readabilityformulas.com/automated-readability-index.php>

<https://apps.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/667273.pdf>

# About the Flesch Reading Ease Formula

References and Additional Reading:

<https://readable.com/blog/the-flesch-reading-ease-and-flesch-kincaid-grade-level/>

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<https://readabilityformulas.com/flesch-reading-ease-readability-formula.php>