

# Sentences: Six Terms and Techniques to Know

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DanglingElements  
CompoundPrepositions  
CorrelativeConjunctions  
Length  
Nominalizations  
Subordination

## 1. What's a good average sentence length?

20

22

25

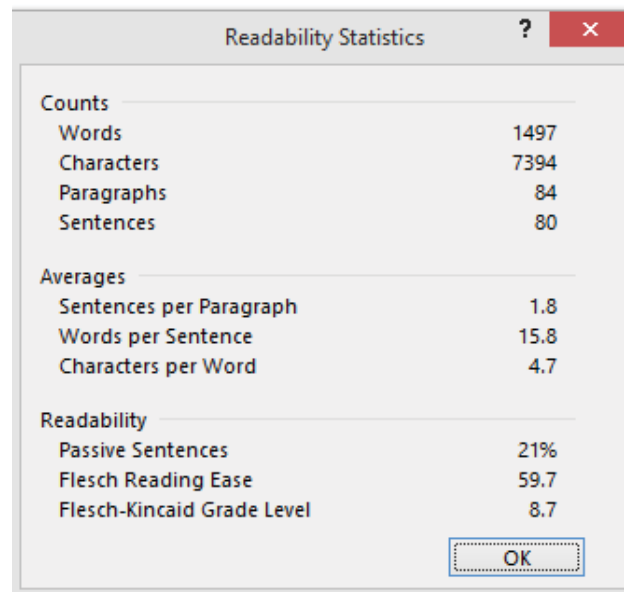
-Wydick, *Plain English for Lawyers*  
-Enquist & Oates, *Just Writing:  
Grammar, Punctuation, & Style for the  
Legal Writer*  
-Garner, *Legal Writing in Plain English*

## How do I know my average sentence length?

**Microsoft Word can tell you.**

1. File > Options > Proofing > *When correcting spelling and grammar in Word*
2. Check > *Show readability statistics*
3. You must also check > *Check grammar with spelling*

You'll get a grammar check with every spell check, but you could disable that by going to Settings and unchecking all the grammar settings.



A screenshot of a 'Readability Statistics' dialog box. The dialog has a title bar with a question mark and a close button. It contains three sections: 'Counts', 'Averages', and 'Readability'. Each section lists a metric and its corresponding value.

Counts	
Words	1497
Characters	7394
Paragraphs	84
Sentences	80
Averages	
Sentences per Paragraph	1.8
Words per Sentence	15.8
Characters per Word	4.7
Readability	
Passive Sentences	21%
Flesch Reading Ease	59.7
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	8.7

OK

How long for any given sentence?

**45**  
**words**

When do you assess maximum sentence length?

**On the edit.**

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## Title search: Six (or More) Techniques for Readable, Persuasive Sentences

Also available as part of the eCourse

[eSupplement to the 34th Annual School Law Conference](#)

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"Six (or More) Techniques for Readable, Persuasive Sentences"