

Exhibit 4.3: Students Speak the Language of the Test at Home

Because learning to read is dependent on children’s early language experience, the language or languages spoken at home can be important influences in reading literacy development. Exhibit 4.3 shows, on average, that 63 percent of the students reported “always” speaking the language of the test at home and most of the rest (31%) speaking it “almost always” or “sometimes.” There was relatively small variation in average achievement across these categories (511, 520, and 504, respectively), probably because of the many different interactions between the different languages which are spoken in homes and the various policies for the language(s) spoken in school, described in the [PIRLS 2016 Encyclopedia](#). However, the few students (5% on average) who “never” spoke the language of the test at home had much lower average reading achievement (433).

Exhibit 4.3: Students Speak the Language of the Test at Home*Students' Reports*

Country	Always		Almost Always		Sometimes		Never	
	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement
Australia	72 (1.0)	546 (2.6)	13 (0.6)	557 (4.4)	14 (0.7)	532 (5.1)	1 (0.1)	~ ~
Austria	69 (1.4)	553 (1.7)	13 (0.8)	536 (4.8)	16 (0.9)	501 (5.3)	3 (0.2)	495 (9.6)
Azerbaijan	76 (1.4)	472 (4.0)	12 (0.8)	473 (9.0)	11 (0.8)	490 (5.1)	1 (0.2)	~ ~
Bahrain	52 (1.0)	437 (2.7)	13 (0.5)	467 (5.7)	29 (0.8)	467 (4.1)	5 (0.4)	407 (9.5)
Belgium (Flemish)	66 (1.2)	536 (1.8)	10 (0.5)	524 (3.6)	19 (0.8)	500 (3.2)	4 (0.4)	486 (7.3)
Belgium (French)	61 (1.2)	504 (2.4)	17 (0.8)	504 (4.0)	20 (0.9)	478 (4.1)	2 (0.2)	~ ~
Bulgaria	75 (2.1)	567 (3.5)	8 (0.6)	556 (6.0)	11 (1.3)	508 (8.6)	6 (1.2)	445 (14.8)
Canada	60 (1.1)	542 (2.1)	18 (0.6)	559 (2.5)	19 (0.8)	539 (2.4)	3 (0.3)	518 (8.5)
Chile	78 (0.8)	498 (2.5)	9 (0.4)	515 (5.8)	7 (0.4)	491 (5.4)	6 (0.5)	441 (6.6)
Chinese Taipei	39 (0.9)	555 (2.7)	20 (0.7)	574 (3.1)	40 (0.9)	557 (2.2)	1 (0.2)	~ ~
Czech Republic	77 (0.7)	542 (2.2)	16 (0.7)	556 (3.4)	7 (0.4)	531 (3.7)	1 (0.1)	~ ~
Denmark	69 (1.1)	553 (2.1)	20 (0.8)	547 (4.0)	10 (0.8)	521 (6.3)	1 (0.2)	~ ~
Egypt	57 (3.0)	328 (7.7)	11 (1.4)	346 (9.8)	16 (2.2)	354 (10.5)	16 (2.2)	317 (11.6)
England	73 (1.1)	559 (2.1)	11 (0.6)	575 (3.4)	14 (0.8)	555 (3.6)	2 (0.2)	~ ~
Finland	71 (1.2)	570 (1.8)	19 (0.8)	568 (3.2)	9 (0.9)	541 (5.1)	1 (0.2)	~ ~
France	71 (1.1)	514 (2.4)	13 (0.7)	520 (4.1)	15 (0.7)	494 (3.6)	1 (0.2)	~ ~
Georgia	75 (1.2)	490 (2.9)	9 (0.5)	511 (5.9)	14 (1.0)	484 (5.3)	2 (0.6)	~ ~
Germany	67 (1.4)	552 (2.6)	16 (1.0)	536 (7.3)	15 (0.9)	510 (4.8)	1 (0.2)	~ ~
Hong Kong SAR	54 (1.4)	566 (2.9)	14 (0.7)	577 (4.4)	28 (1.2)	573 (4.4)	4 (0.4)	554 (8.8)
Hungary	82 (0.8)	556 (2.8)	15 (0.8)	554 (5.2)	2 (0.4)	~ ~	0 (0.1)	~ ~
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	59 (2.5)	448 (3.9)	8 (0.7)	435 (9.4)	14 (0.9)	436 (9.0)	19 (2.1)	360 (9.9)
Ireland	79 (1.2)	567 (2.4)	10 (0.7)	587 (5.1)	10 (0.8)	559 (5.5)	2 (0.3)	~ ~
Israel	69 (1.3)	527 (2.7)	13 (0.6)	553 (4.9)	16 (0.9)	539 (3.9)	2 (0.3)	~ ~
Italy	70 (1.1)	554 (2.4)	14 (0.8)	552 (3.7)	14 (0.8)	523 (3.6)	2 (0.4)	~ ~
Kazakhstan	78 (1.2)	537 (2.5)	8 (0.5)	546 (4.6)	13 (0.9)	530 (4.5)	1 (0.2)	~ ~
Kuwait	13 (0.9)	374 (9.0)	24 (1.3)	393 (5.2)	33 (1.4)	420 (5.7)	30 (2.0)	384 (5.3)
Latvia	67 (1.3)	560 (2.1)	20 (1.0)	562 (2.8)	11 (0.8)	543 (3.7)	2 (0.3)	~ ~
Lithuania	70 (1.2)	549 (2.6)	19 (0.8)	562 (3.8)	10 (0.8)	526 (6.0)	1 (0.2)	~ ~
Macao SAR	54 (0.7)	550 (1.4)	15 (0.5)	561 (3.3)	29 (0.7)	535 (2.2)	2 (0.2)	~ ~
Malta	49 (0.9)	459 (2.3)	20 (0.7)	463 (3.6)	26 (0.7)	451 (3.4)	5 (0.4)	378 (7.3)
Morocco	12 (0.9)	338 (6.9)	15 (1.1)	369 (9.2)	26 (1.1)	392 (4.7)	47 (1.8)	340 (4.3)
Netherlands	66 (1.1)	549 (2.0)	16 (0.8)	549 (3.4)	15 (0.9)	527 (3.9)	3 (0.6)	527 (10.8)
New Zealand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Northern Ireland	85 (0.9)	565 (2.3)	9 (0.7)	578 (5.5)	5 (0.5)	555 (7.6)	1 (0.2)	~ ~
Norway (5)	68 (1.2)	563 (2.5)	21 (1.0)	557 (3.2)	10 (0.7)	542 (4.5)	1 (0.2)	~ ~
Oman	59 (1.6)	420 (3.6)	16 (0.9)	419 (5.1)	18 (0.7)	438 (4.6)	8 (0.6)	392 (7.5)
Poland	81 (1.0)	560 (2.2)	16 (0.9)	588 (3.5)	3 (0.4)	573 (7.0)	0 (0.1)	~ ~
Portugal	83 (0.8)	528 (2.5)	9 (0.5)	538 (4.1)	8 (0.5)	512 (3.8)	1 (0.2)	~ ~
Qatar	37 (0.8)	423 (2.5)	15 (0.4)	455 (3.3)	38 (0.7)	470 (2.5)	10 (0.5)	408 (5.2)
Russian Federation	79 (1.0)	583 (2.3)	11 (0.7)	584 (4.4)	8 (0.8)	569 (7.0)	1 (0.3)	~ ~
Saudi Arabia	27 (1.6)	408 (5.2)	22 (1.4)	452 (5.4)	24 (1.2)	454 (5.9)	28 (1.6)	438 (7.4)
Singapore	30 (0.6)	585 (3.4)	22 (0.6)	599 (3.2)	45 (0.7)	564 (3.7)	3 (0.2)	508 (9.0)
Slovak Republic	69 (1.3)	543 (2.8)	17 (0.7)	554 (3.3)	11 (1.1)	494 (10.6)	2 (0.6)	~ ~
Slovenia	74 (1.6)	547 (2.0)	14 (0.7)	552 (4.1)	10 (0.8)	508 (4.5)	3 (0.7)	487 (10.4)
South Africa	66 (1.3)	314 (4.1)	9 (0.4)	313 (8.0)	19 (0.9)	363 (7.5)	6 (0.4)	308 (8.1)
Spain	57 (1.3)	531 (1.4)	13 (0.6)	542 (3.0)	20 (0.8)	523 (3.8)	10 (0.8)	502 (4.3)
Sweden	68 (1.4)	562 (2.5)	18 (0.9)	550 (3.6)	13 (0.9)	531 (6.0)	1 (0.1)	~ ~
Trinidad and Tobago	81 (1.3)	479 (3.2)	8 (0.7)	498 (9.6)	9 (0.9)	486 (6.9)	2 (0.3)	~ ~
United Arab Emirates	39 (0.8)	431 (3.4)	16 (0.6)	482 (4.2)	37 (0.7)	479 (4.4)	8 (0.5)	405 (6.4)
United States	72 (1.3)	555 (2.8)	11 (0.7)	553 (4.9)	16 (1.2)	529 (6.2)	1 (0.2)	~ ~
International Avg.	63 (0.2)	511 (0.5)	14 (0.1)	520 (0.7)	17 (0.1)	504 (0.8)	5 (0.1)	433 (1.9)

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

A dash (-) indicates comparable data not available. A tilde (~) indicates insufficient data to report achievement.

Exhibit 4.3: Students Speak the Language of the Test at Home (Continued)

Country	Always		Almost Always		Sometimes		Never	
	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement
Benchmarking Participants								
Buenos Aires, Argentina	75 (0.7)	479 (3.4)	11 (0.5)	505 (5.3)	12 (0.6)	489 (5.1)	2 (0.2)	~ ~
Ontario, Canada	57 (1.8)	541 (3.7)	19 (0.9)	563 (3.9)	21 (1.3)	540 (4.3)	3 (0.3)	510 (10.8)
Quebec, Canada	53 (2.2)	548 (3.5)	21 (1.2)	557 (3.9)	21 (1.6)	535 (4.4)	5 (0.7)	550 (7.6)
Denmark (3)	67 (1.2)	508 (3.2)	20 (0.9)	501 (3.9)	11 (0.9)	471 (6.4)	1 (0.2)	~ ~
Norway (4)	65 (1.1)	521 (1.9)	21 (0.9)	521 (3.5)	13 (0.8)	499 (4.3)	2 (0.2)	~ ~
Moscow City, Russian Fed.	79 (0.8)	613 (2.1)	14 (0.7)	617 (3.9)	6 (0.4)	591 (5.7)	0 (0.1)	~ ~
Eng/Afr/Zulu - RSA (5)	51 (2.0)	400 (5.8)	10 (0.7)	414 (11.8)	34 (2.0)	427 (8.2)	5 (0.8)	357 (9.0)
Andalusia, Spain	76 (0.9)	524 (2.1)	11 (0.7)	545 (3.6)	10 (0.6)	521 (4.4)	3 (0.3)	467 (9.9)
Madrid, Spain	64 (0.9)	548 (2.2)	18 (0.7)	561 (2.6)	15 (0.6)	547 (3.6)	2 (0.3)	~ ~
Abu Dhabi, UAE	41 (1.3)	390 (5.7)	14 (0.8)	449 (7.3)	35 (1.0)	452 (7.2)	10 (0.9)	386 (8.9)
Dubai, UAE	29 (0.7)	511 (2.8)	21 (0.6)	532 (2.6)	44 (0.8)	524 (2.6)	6 (0.5)	459 (6.0)

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016