

BIBLE TRANSLATION CHART

Translation	Grade Reading Level	Readability	Market Share Percentage*	Number of Translators	Translation Philosophy	Distinctives	Passage Comparison 2 Corinthians 10:13
NIV New International Version	7.8	A highly accurate and smooth-reading version in modern English	42.62%	115	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	The best-selling translation, widely accepted by evangelical Christians. Purpose in translation was to "produce an accurate translation, suitable for public and private reading, teaching, preaching, memorizing, and liturgical use." Published in 1978. Most Read. Most Trusted.	We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us, a field that reaches even to you.
KJV King James Version	12.0	Difficult to read due to 17th-century English vocabulary and word order	19.31%	54	Word-for-word	Traditionally loved and accepted by all Christians. Purpose in translation was "to deliver God's book unto God's people in a tongue which they can understand." Published in 1611. Timeless Treasure	But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you.
NKJV New King James Version	9.0	Easier word usage, but somewhat choppy because it maintains 17th century sentence structure	12.46%	119	Authors used the original KJV as a benchmark, while working to produce an accurate and modern word-for-word translation	A modern language update of the original KJV. Purpose was to update and modernize the original KJV but preserve the KJV as much as possible. Published in 1982.	We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us -- a sphere which especially includes you.
NLT New Living Translation	6.3	A readable translation; uses vocabulary and language structures commonly used by the average person	8.77%	90	Translators were involved in bringing the classic Living Bible from it's status as a paraphrase to a thought-for-thought translation of Scripture	The New Living Translation is a dynamic equivalence translation based on the work of 90 Bible scholars and a smaller team of English stylists. These scholars and stylists went back to the original languages and sought to produce the closest natural equivalent of the message in natural, contemporary English. Published in 1996.	But we will not boast of authority we do not have. Our goal is to stay within the boundaries of God's plan for us, and this plan includes our working there with you.
Updated NASB New American Standard Bible	11.0	Formal style, but more readable than the King James Version.	4.75%	54	Word-for-word	A highly respected, formal translation of the Bible. Purpose of the work was to update the American Standard Version into more current English. Published in 1971. Updated in 1995. The most literal is now more readable.	But we will not boast beyond our measure, but within the measure of the sphere which God apportioned to us as a measure, to reach even as far as you.
NIRv New International Reader's Version	2.9	Very easy to read and understand; uses simple, short words and sentences	2.18%	11	Balance between word-for-word translation and thought-for-thought, with an emphasis on meaning when necessary for simplification	A thorough, scholarly simplification of the NIV, the NIRv was specifically designed to help young children and new readers understand the Bible for themselves and create an easy stepping-stone from a children's Bible to an adult Bible. The NIRv for kids. Published in 1994. Updated in 1998.	But I won't brag more than I should. Instead, I will brag only about what I have done in the area God has given me. It is an area that reaches all the way to you.
Message, The (New Testament and OT Wisdom books)	4.8	An easy-to-read, modern-language paraphrase	1.75%	Eugene H. Peterson	Thought-for-thought. Converts the original languages into the tone and rhythms of modern-day American speech while retaining the idioms and meaning of the original languages	This paraphrase was translated using the rhythms and tone of contemporary English to communicate to the modern reader. Published in 1993.	We're not, understand, putting ourselves in a league with those who boast that they're our superiors. We wouldn't dare do that. But in all this comparing and grading and competing, they quite miss the point. We aren't making outrageous claims here. We're sticking to the limits of what God has set for us. But there can be no question that those limits reach to and include you.
Amplified	N/A	Expanded and "amplified" by means of a system of brackets and parentheses, which sometimes make for fragmented reading	1.75%	Frances E. Siewert, plus 12 others	Word-for-word plus additional amplification of word meanings	A popular translation used to understand the hidden meaning of Greek and Hebrew words. Published in 1964 (updated in 1987). Break through the language barrier.	We, on the other hand, will not boast beyond our legitimate province and proper limit, but will keep within the limits [of our commission which] God has allotted us as our measuring line and which reaches and includes even you.
NAB New American Bible	6.6	A clear and straightforward translation that reads smoothly. Written in basic American English	0.70%	55	Word-for-word	Published under the direction of pope Pius XII, this Catholic version of the Bible represents more than 25 years of effort by the Catholic Biblical Association of America. All editions include the Deuterocanonical/Apocryphal books. Published in 1970.	But we will not boast beyond measure but will keep to the limits God has apportioned us, namely, to reach even to you.
NRSV New Revised Standard Version	10.4	Contemporary, dignified with generic language with reference to humans	0.53%	30	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	A widely accepted translation in the tradition of the King James Version. Purpose was to "make a good one better." Published in 1990. A Bible for all Christians.	We, however, will not boast beyond limits, but will keep within the field that God has assigned to us, to reach out even as far as you.
GNT Good News Translation. Formerly Today's English Version and Good News Bible	6.0	Very simple, readable version without jargon. Uses a limited vocabulary	0.30%	R. Bratcher (NT) Bratcher plus six others (OT)	Thought-for-thought	"A translation intended for people everywhere for whom English is either their mother tongue or an acquired language." Published in 1976. Real. Clear.	As for us, however, our boasting will not go beyond certain limits; it will stay within the limits of the work which God has set for us, and this includes our work among you.
CEV Contemporary English Version	5.4	Clear, simple English that a child can understand, but with a mature style that adults can appreciate	0.13%	Over 100 (including reviewers)	Thought-for-thought	Written at an elementary-school reading level, the CEV is readable and understandable for the modern reader. Published in 1995.	We don't brag about something we don't have a right to brag about. We will only brag about the work that God has sent us to do, and you are part of that work.
TNIV Today's New International Version	N/A	A highly readable, accurate translation written in modern English	N/A	115	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Based on the NIV, the most read and most trusted translation. Combines uncompromising accuracy with the clarity of contemporary language. New Testament published in 2001; Old Testament to be published in 2005. The classic translation in today's language.	We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the sphere of service God himself has assigned to us, a sphere that also includes you.
NJB New Jerusalem Bible	7.4	Highly literary, inclusive, modern language	0.03%	36	Balance between word translation and meaning	An updated version of the 1966 Jerusalem Bible. The New Jerusalem Bible is the official English language text used in Catholic liturgy outside the United States.	By contrast we do not intend to boast beyond measure, but will measure ourselves by the standard which God laid down for us, namely that of having come all the way to you.
HCSB Holman Christian Standard Bible	N/A	A highly readable, accurate translation written in modern English	N/A	90	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	A new translation that attempts to combine both formal and dynamic equivalence. New Testament published in 2000.	We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but according to the measure of the area of ministry that God has assigned to us, which reaches even you.
ESV English Standard Version	8	Literal style, but more readable than the King James Version	N/A	100+	Word-for-word	A literal update of the Revised Standard Version, seeks to produce a word-for-word correspondence. Published in 2001.	But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even you.

*Data based on actual sales in Christian retail stores in the United States during 2000.
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