5 New Mexico NM-MSSA

English Language Arts

Grade 3

Practice Tests



Practice Smart. Score Higher.

Small Steps, Big Gains!

Small Steps, Big Gains!

Practice Master Achieve

Reza Nazari

Grade 3 · New Mexico · NM-MSSA

5 New Mexico Grade 3 English Language Arts (ELA) Practice Tests

Full-Length Practice for NM-MSSA Preparation and Academic Confidence

Reza Nazari

Copyrighted Material

Copyright © 2026

Effortless Math Education Inc

Published by Effortless Math Education
www.effortlessmath.com

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the author, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law, including Section 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act.

This publication is independently produced and has no official connection to any state, district, or national testing program.

Test names and organizational names used herein are the property of their respective trademark holders.

Copyright © 2026

Copyrighted Material

Grade 3 English

English Language

1

Questions: Varies by section **Duration:** No time limit

Important Test Information

These practice items follow the style of third-grade English Language assessments. Formats can vary by section: you may see reading passages and graphics, different kinds of questions, or other tasks—follow the instructions on each page.

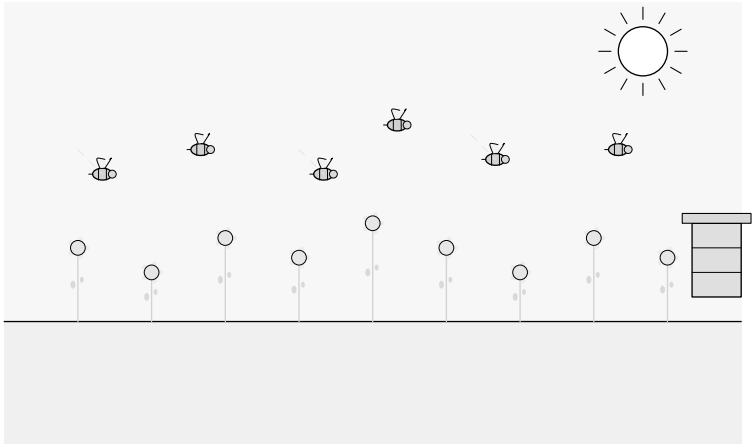
Test-Taking Tips:

- Read each question and every answer choice before you decide.
- Look back at the reading material or graphic when a question is based on them.
- Work carefully—there is no time limit on these practice tests, so use the time you need.

Remember: Take your time, stay calm, and do your best. You've prepared well for this practice—you've got this!

Read the passage below. Then answer questions 1–9.

The Amazing World of Honeybees



Busy honeybees buzz above bright flowers as sunlight shines over a grassy meadow and a hanging hive.

1 On a warm spring day, a meadow can sound almost like music. If you listen closely, you may hear the gentle buzzing of honeybees as they move from flower to flower. These tiny insects do an important job that helps many plants grow.

2 Honeybees collect nectar, a sweet liquid found inside flowers. They also gather pollen, which is a dusty powder made by plants. As bees travel, some pollen sticks to their bodies and moves from one flower to another. This process helps plants make seeds, fruits, and more flowers.

3 A honeybee colony is like a busy little city. Inside the hive, each bee has work to do. Worker bees clean the hive, feed young bees, and gather food. A queen bee lays eggs, and drones help the colony grow.

Scan Me
Poems? Scan for cats.

4 Honeybees also have a clever way to share information. When a worker bee finds flowers full of nectar, it returns to the hive and performs a special movement called the waggle dance. This dance helps other bees know where to fly.

5 Honeybees face some dangers. Harsh chemicals, fewer wildflowers, and changing weather can make life harder for them. People can help by planting flowers, avoiding harmful sprays, and protecting places where bees can live safely.

6 The next time you see a honeybee resting on a flower, remember that it is doing more than making honey. It is helping the world bloom.

Read this dictionary entry.

collect *verb*

1. to gather things together
2. to sing in a loud voice
3. to fall suddenly to the ground
4. to hide from sight

1) Which meaning of the word *collect* is used in paragraph 2?

(A) Definition 4
(B) Definition 2
(C) Definition 3
(D) Definition 1



Conflict maps? Scan to revise.
Scan Me

Evening Lights

When evening folds the daylight up
And lays it near the hill,
Small lights begin their gentle work
While all the trees grow still.

A porch lamp glows, a window shines,
A lantern sways below,
The fireflies stitch the dark with sparks
Wherever soft winds blow.

The moon peeks through a silver cloud,
The stars begin to wake,
And every light, both far and near,
Leaves brightness in its wake.

So when the sky turns deep and blue,
I do not mind the night,
Because the dark is never dark
When little things give light.

Proud robots? Spot the mood.
Scan Me

16) What does the word *sways* mean in line 6?

(A) Moves gently back and forth
(B) Hides under the ground
(C) Falls with a loud crash
(D) Breaks into tiny pieces

Use the poem "Evening Lights" to answer this question.

17) What does the phrase "the fireflies stitch the dark with sparks" most likely mean?

(A) Fireflies sew clothes in the forest
(B) Fireflies make the sky turn orange
(C) Fireflies hide all the porch lamps
(D) Fireflies flash small lights through the darkness

Use the poem "Evening Lights" to answer this question.

18) Which sentence best describes what the speaker thinks about nighttime?

(A) The speaker believes nighttime is always dangerous and wants every light turned off
(B) The speaker thinks the moon and stars disappear as soon as evening begins
(C) The speaker does not mind the night because porch lamps, lanterns, fireflies, moon, and stars make the darkness feel less empty and frightening
(D) The speaker is angry that trees move and knock over every lantern

Use both "Lanterns by the Pond" and "Evening Lights" to answer this question.

19) What do the story and the poem have in common?

(A) Both are mainly about building a lamp
(B) Both describe people staying indoors all night
(C) Both show how light can make the evening feel warm and special
(D) Both take place during a thunderstorm

Use both "Lanterns by the Pond" and "Evening Lights" to answer this question.

20) How are the endings of the story and the poem most alike?

(A) Both endings happen early in the morning
(B) Both endings describe a race through the park
(C) Both endings leave the reader with a feeling of comfort and brightness
(D) Both endings reveal that the lights go out suddenly

Read the passage below. Then answer questions 21–29.



Main owls? Scan the code.
Scan Me