7 Full-Length New Mexico NM-MSSA

English Language Arts (ELA) Practice Tests

A Complete Guide to Building Mastery and Excelling on the English Test

Grade 3



Practice Master Achieve

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Grade 3 · New Mexico · NM-MSSA

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

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Grade 3 English

English Language

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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!

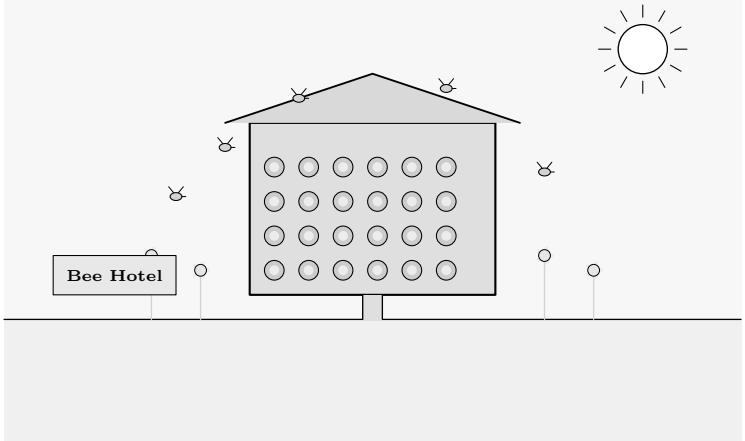


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Read the passage below. Then answer questions 1–9.

The Bee Hotel in the Schoolyard



A wooden bee hotel stands in the schoolyard near flowers, giving helpful insects a place to rest and nest.

1 Near the edge of the school garden stands a wooden box filled with bamboo tubes, pinecones, and small holes. At first glance, it may look like a craft project. It is actually a bee hotel.

2 A bee hotel gives certain bees a safe place to rest and lay eggs. Not all bees live in hives. Some kinds of bees live alone and look for tiny spaces in wood or hollow stems. The hotel gives them places to use.

3 Bees are important because they help flowers, fruits, and vegetables grow. As they move from plant to plant, they carry pollen. This helps many plants make seeds and fruit.

4 Students at the school built the bee hotel with help from a science club leader. They placed it in a sunny spot near flowers so bees could find food close by. The students also made a small sign asking people not to touch or shake the box.

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5 By late spring, the students noticed more bees visiting the garden. They kept a notebook to record what they saw. The bee hotel did not solve every problem for insects, but it gave students one simple way to help living things in their own schoolyard.

Read this dictionary entry.

record *verb*

1. to write down information so it can be remembered
2. to run quickly in a race
3. to carry something heavy uphill
4. to hide under a leaf

1) Which meaning of the word *record* is used in paragraph 5?

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

Use the passage "The Bee Hotel in the Schoolyard" to answer this question.

2) Which sentence is an **opinion**?

(A) Students placed the bee hotel near flowers.
(B) Some bees live alone instead of in hives.
(C) Bee hotels are the most wonderful school projects ever created.
(D) A bee hotel can be made from wood and bamboo tubes.



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16) What does the word *lingers* mean in line 14?

(A) Falls with a crash
(B) Stays for a while
(C) Runs away quickly
(D) Breaks into pieces

Use the poem "Rain on the Rail" to answer this question.

17) What is the most likely reason the poet describes the rail as wearing "little coats of dawn"?

(A) To help readers picture the shining drops of water
(B) To explain how to paint a porch
(C) To prove that the rail is made of cloth
(D) To show that the weather is cold enough for snow

Use the poem "Rain on the Rail" to answer this question.

18) Which sentence best describes how the speaker feels in the poem?

(A) Frustrated because the rain is too loud and the yard is crowded
(B) Calm and peaceful while watching the quiet morning rain and holding a warm mug
(C) In a hurry to finish breakfast and run through the wet grass
(D) Afraid to step onto the porch until the robin flies far away

Use both "The Box of Buttons" and "Rain on the Rail" to answer this question.

19) What do Naomi and the speaker in the poem have in common?

(A) Both notice meaning in small ordinary things
(B) Both are building something outdoors
(C) Both are hurrying to school
(D) Both are afraid of the rain



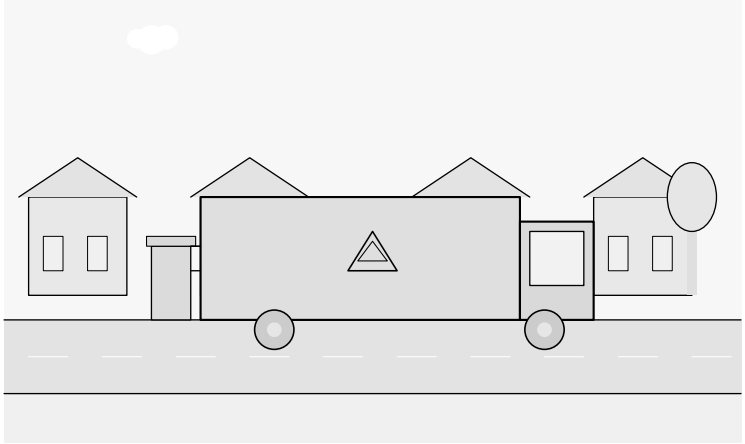
Use both "The Box of Buttons" and "Rain on the Rail" to answer this question.

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

(A) Both endings happen during a race
(B) Both endings explain a science experiment
(C) Both endings show that something small can leave a strong feeling
(D) Both endings introduce a new problem

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

The Morning Route of the Recycling Truck



A recycling truck follows its route through a neighborhood, collecting bottles, cans, paper, and cardboard from blue bins.

1 Early in the morning, before many people have finished breakfast, the recycling truck begins its route. It stops at house after house, where blue bins wait near curbs and driveways.

2 Families place paper, cardboard, metal cans, and certain plastic containers into these bins. Keeping recyclables separate from trash helps workers send the materials to the right place later.

3 At each stop, the truck lifts the bin and empties the contents into the back. Some trucks use a mechanical arm, while others are helped by workers. The route may take hours before every street on the list is finished.

4 After the truck leaves the neighborhood, the materials are taken to a recycling center. There, workers and machines sort paper, glass, metal, and plastic. Then the materials can be cleaned and prepared to become new products.

5 Recycling takes effort from many people. Families sort items at home, drivers follow routes, and workers at centers separate materials. When each step is done carefully, old materials can be used again instead of being thrown away.

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21) What is the central idea of this article?

(A) Recycling works through several steps and helps old materials get used again
(B) All trucks should be painted blue
(C) Drivers never need help on recycling routes
(D) Families should throw away all paper

Use the passage "The Morning Route of the Recycling Truck" to answer this question.

22) How does the author organize the article?

(A) By comparing trucks with buses
(B) By explaining the recycling process in order
(C) By listing the names of streets
(D) By telling a fantasy story



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