7 Full-Length Washington Smarter Balanced

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 · Washington · Smarter Balanced

7 Washington Grade 3
English Language Arts (ELA)
Practice Tests

Full-Length Practice for Smarter Balanced 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

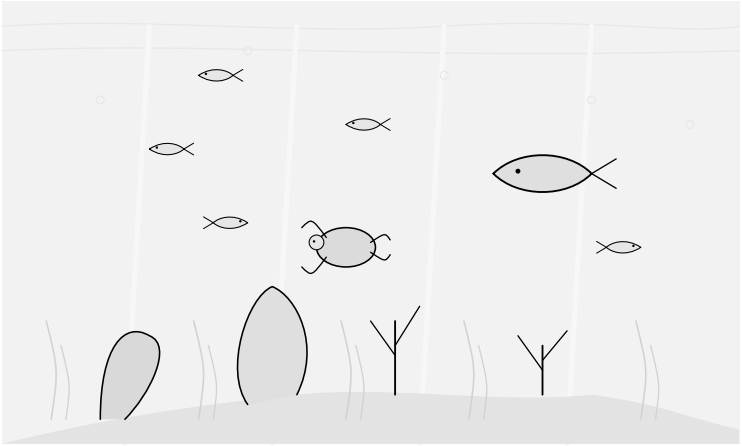
These practice items follow the style of third-grade English Language assessments. Formats can vary by section: you may see reading passages and graphics, different kinds of questions, or other tasks—follow the instructions on each page.

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!

Read the passage and the illustration below. Then answer questions 1–8.



A vibrant coral reef teeming with colorful fish and sea life

The Ocean's Colorful Gardens: Coral Reefs

1 Imagine a garden so full of color, life, and movement that it looks like a painting come to life. Now imagine that garden exists underwater. That is a coral reef—one of the most extraordinary places on Earth. Although coral reefs cover less than one percent of the ocean floor, they are home to more than twenty-five percent of all ocean species. Scientists often call them "the rainforests of the sea."

What Is Coral?

2 Despite looking like colorful rocks or plants, coral is actually made up of thousands of tiny living animals called *polyps*. Each polyp is smaller than a pea. A polyp has a soft body and a hard cup-shaped skeleton made of calcium carbonate—the same material as seashells and human bones. Over hundreds and thousands of years, layer upon layer of these skeletons build up to create the massive structures we call reefs.

A Perfect Partnership

3 Inside each coral polyp lives a type of microscopic algae called *zooxanthellae*. This partnership is one of the most important relationships in nature. The algae use sunlight to make food through photosynthesis and share that food with the coral. In return, the coral provides the algae with a safe home and nutrients. The brilliant colors of coral—yellows, purples, pinks, and oranges—come mostly from these algae living inside them.

Danger: Coral Bleaching

4 Coral is extremely sensitive to temperature. When ocean water becomes even a small amount too warm, the coral becomes stressed and expels its algae. Without the algae, the coral turns ghostly white—a process called *coral bleaching*. A bleached coral is not immediately dead, but without its algae partner providing food, it will eventually starve. Rising ocean temperatures caused by climate change have led to massive bleaching events across the world's reefs.

5 Coral reefs also face damage from pollution, overfishing, and physical destruction from boat anchors and careless divers. Chemicals from sunscreen have been found to damage coral polyps, which is why many places near reefs now require "reef-safe" sunscreen.

Hope for the Reef

6 Scientists and volunteers are working to restore damaged reefs. Coral nurseries grow small pieces of healthy coral on underwater frames, and divers plant them on damaged reefs like tiny seeds of recovery. Some scientists are breeding heat-resistant varieties of coral that may survive warming oceans. When people reduce pollution, protect ocean areas, and choose reef-safe products, every action helps these magnificent gardens of the sea survive.

Read this dictionary entry.



Epic gags?
Scan for seas.
Scan Me

Read the poem. Then answer questions 15–16.



Keep Going

The first three weeks I tried to draw,
my horses looked like sheep.
My trees were clouds, my birds were dots,
my car a broken heap.

My teacher said: *"Press on, young friend,*
no master starts out great.
The hand needs time to learn the eye—
be patient. Do not wait."

So every day I filled a page
with lines that curved and crossed.
Some days my drawings looked okay;
some days I felt quite lost.

But one bright day, a horse appeared
exactly as I'd dreamed—
four legs, a mane, a lifted head,
more real than I could have schemed.

I still make mistakes, it's true,
not every drawing's right.
But now I know the secret door:
just show up and keep the fight.

15) What does the word *schemed* most likely mean in line 16?

(A) hoped for or imagined in advance
(B) copied from someone else's drawing
(C) worked out using a clever plan
(D) practiced by drawing over and over

Use the poem "Keep Going" to answer this question.

16) The teacher says "The hand needs time to learn the eye" in line 7. What does this line most likely mean?

(A) The eye is more important in drawing than the hand.
(B) The hand and the eye are two different body parts that should never work together.
(C) Students should study how eyes work before they learn to draw hands.
(D) Drawing well takes time because your hand must practice until it can create what your eye sees and imagines.

Use the poem "Keep Going" to answer this question.

17) Which sentence **best** describes how the speaker's feelings about drawing **change** from the beginning to the end of the poem?

(A) The speaker begins winning contests and ends afraid to draw in public.
(B) The speaker begins proud of every sketch and ends deciding that art is a waste of time.
(C) The speaker begins bored with the teacher and ends angry that the class is too short.
(D) The speaker begins discouraged when drawings look wrong but ends hopeful after a breakthrough, valuing steady practice as the path forward.

Conflict maps? Scan to revise. Scan Me