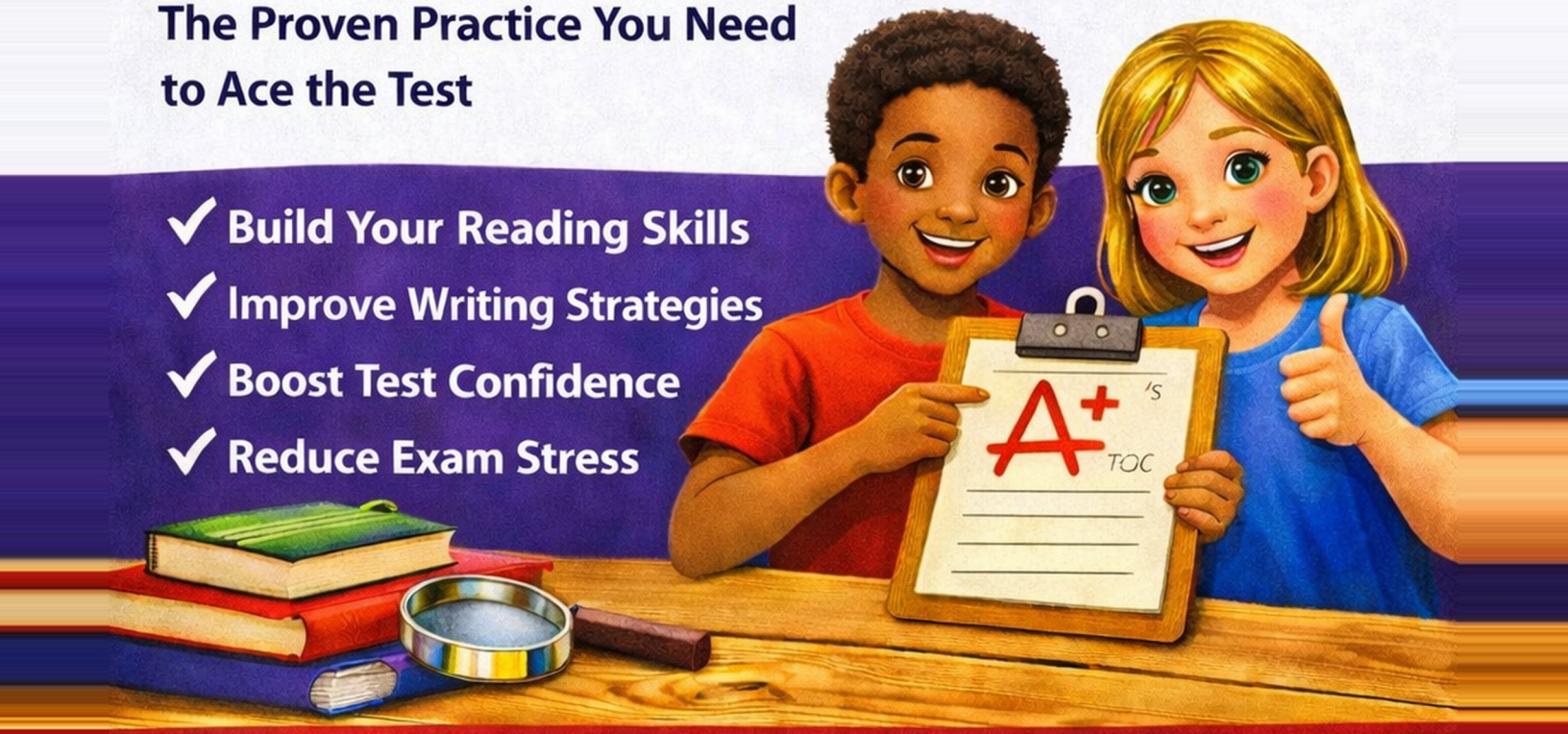
Everything You Need to Help Achieve an Excellent Score

8 Minnesota MCA-III Grade 3 Reading Practice Tests

The Proven Practice You Need to Ace the Test



- ✓ Build Your Reading Skills
- ✓ Improve Writing Strategies
- ✓ Boost Test Confidence
- ✓ Reduce Exam Stress

✓ Includes Detailed Answer Explanations

Reza Nazari

Grade 3 · Minnesota · MCA-III

8 Minnesota Grade 3 Reading Practice Tests

Full-Length Practice for MCA-III 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

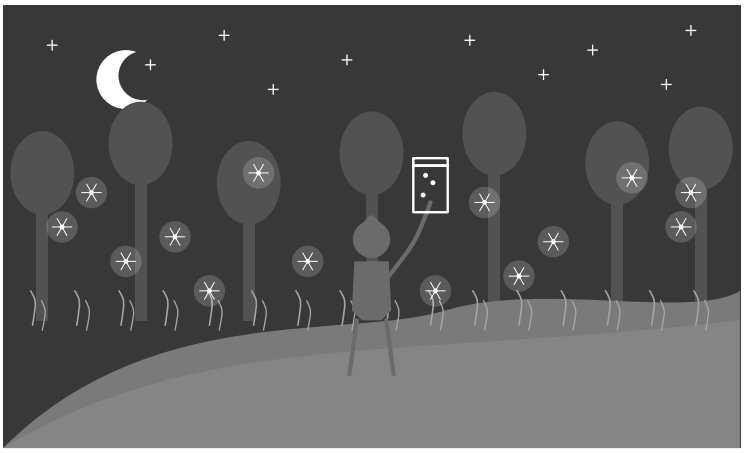
These practice items follow the style of third-grade English Language assessments. Formats can vary by section: you may see reading passages and graphics, different kinds of questions, or other tasks—follow the instructions on each page.

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



Fireflies lighting up a summer meadow on a warm night

The Secret World of Fireflies

1 On warm summer nights in meadows and backyards across North America, tiny lights begin to blink in the darkness. These living lanterns are fireflies—also called lightning bugs—and they are among the most enchanting insects on Earth. But those magical flashes are not just for show. Fireflies use light to communicate with one another, and each species has its own special pattern of blinks.

2 Fireflies are actually beetles, not flies. The light they produce comes from their lower abdomens, where a chemical reaction takes place. Two chemicals—luciferin and an enzyme called luciferase— combine with oxygen to produce a cool, nearly heatless glow. Scientists call this process *bioluminescence*, which means the production of light by a living organism. Remarkably, firefly light is almost 100 percent efficient: almost no energy is wasted as heat. Compare that to a regular light bulb, which wastes most of its energy as heat!

3 Male fireflies typically fly through the air and flash their lights to attract a mate. Females wait in the grass below. When a female sees a flash pattern she recognizes from her own species, she flashes back. The male follows the female's signal, and the two eventually find each other. Different species have different flash patterns, which helps prevent confusion between fireflies that share the same meadow.

4 Firefly larvae—the young, worm-like stage before adulthood—are predators. They eat snails, slugs, and even earthworms. Larvae inject a digestive fluid into their prey to break it down before eating. Even larvae glow faintly, which is why some people call them "glowworms." The glow may warn predators that the larva tastes bad and should not be eaten.

5 Sadly, firefly populations are shrinking in many areas. Light pollution from streets and buildings confuses fireflies and makes it harder for them to find mates. Pesticides kill both fireflies and the insects and snails they depend on for food. Loss of meadows and forests removes the habitats where fireflies live.

6 There are simple things people can do to help. Turning off outdoor lights on summer nights lets fireflies signal each other naturally. Avoiding pesticides in gardens gives fireflies a safe place to grow. Leaving leaf litter and moist areas in your yard provides the perfect home for firefly larvae. Every yard that welcomes fireflies becomes a small sanctuary of light.

Read this dictionary entry.

efficient *adjective*

1. working without wasting time or effort
2. producing the most results with the least waste
3. highly organized and neat
4. able to perform many tasks at once



Big hints? Raise the bar.

Scan Me

One More Try

I practiced all my spelling words
from Sunday until now.
But standing at the microphone,
I can't remember how.

My knees are made of wobbly jell
my voice has gone to sleep.
The judge just said a brand-new word—
I cannot make a peep.

But here inside my chest, a voice
says *quiet*, then says *still*.
It says: *you know the answer, friend,*
you always have and will.

So I pick up the letters one
by one, like scattered seeds,
and plant them in the right order—
spelling all I need.

The bell rings out, I got it right!
The crowd begins to cheer.
The best thing wasn't winning—
it was choosing not to fear.

15) What does the phrase *"my voice has gone to sleep"* most likely mean in line 6 of the poem?

(A) The speaker has been talking so much that her voice is hoarse.
(B) The speaker is so nervous that she cannot make herself speak.
(C) The speaker is actually tired and wants to take a nap.
(D) The speaker refuses to say the word until she is certain.

Use the poem "One More Try" to answer this question.

16) The most likely reason the poet uses the image of "scattered seeds" in line 14 is to show that —

(A) the speaker's letters feel jumbled and out of order, but she patiently gathers and arranges them
(B) the auditorium floor is covered in papers from the competition
(C) plants and seeds are the speaker's favorite things to think about
(D) the speaker has forgotten all her spelling words and needs to start over

Use the poem "One More Try" to answer this question.

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

(A) The speaker begins calm and confident and ends too nervous to spell any words.
(B) The speaker begins excited to lose and ends angry at the audience.
(C) The speaker begins terrified and frozen on stage but ends proud and relieved, seeing courage as the real victory.
(D) The speaker begins bored with spelling and ends deciding to leave the contest early.

Use both "The Spelling Bee" and "One More Try" to answer this question.

18) Based on the endings of the story and the poem, what do both Priya and the speaker of the poem have in common?

(A) Both win first place in their spelling competitions.
(B) Both discover that their greatest achievement was facing their fear rather than winning the contest.
(C) Both are helped by a judge who gives them an easier word.
(D) Both give up before finishing their spelling words.

Use both "The Spelling Bee" and "One More Try" to answer this question.

19) By the end of the story and the poem, what is the most likely reason both Priya and the speaker are able to perform successfully?

(A) They both memorize so many words that they no longer feel nervous.
(B) Their teachers step in to help them when they feel frozen.
(C) They both hear an encouraging inner voice and choose to trust themselves despite their fear.
(D) They both decide the competition is not important enough to worry about.

Read the passage and the illustration below. Then answer questions 20–26.

Bright themes? Scan to grow. Scan Me