Everything You Need to Help Achieve an Excellent Score

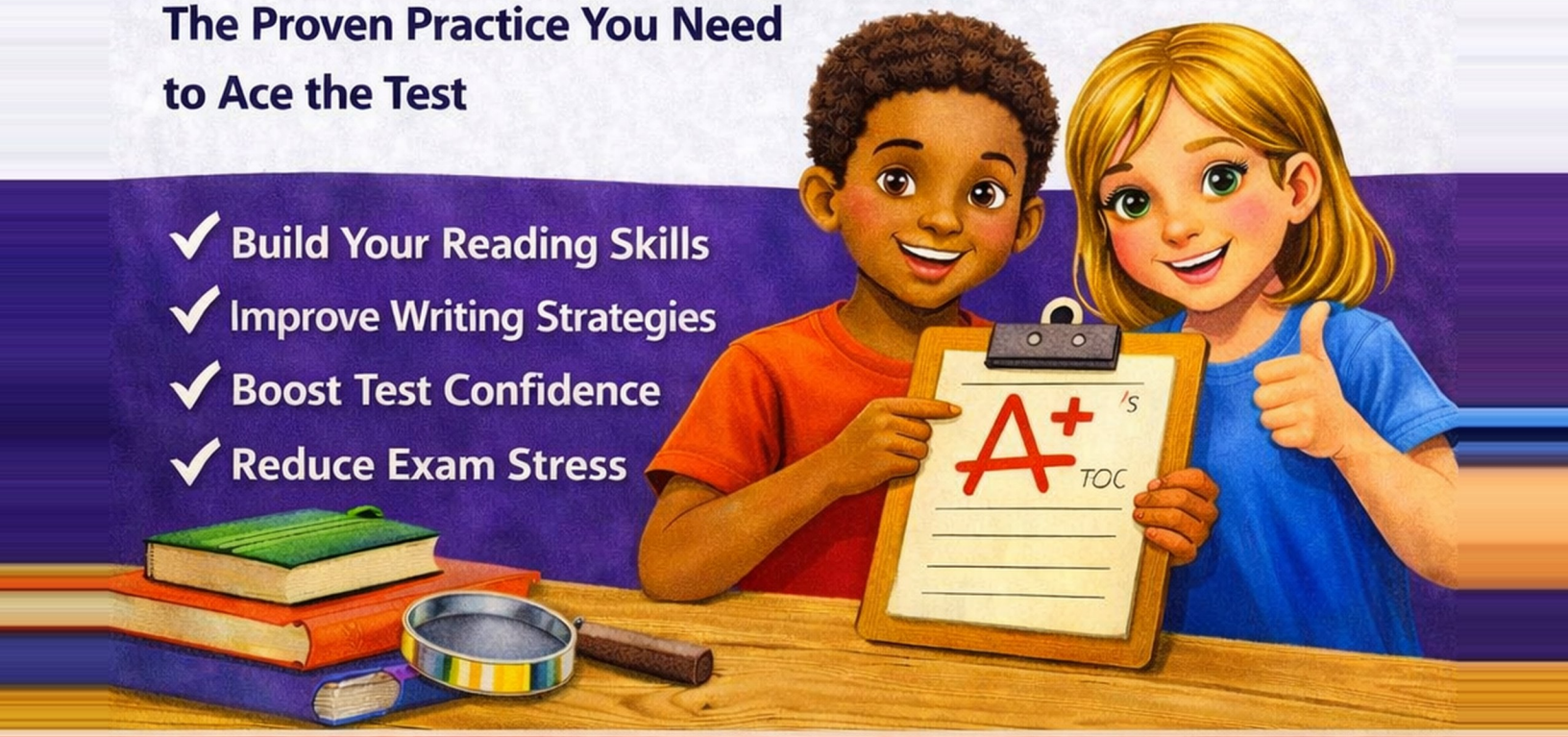
8 Nebraska NSCAS Growth

Grade 5

English Language Arts (ELA)

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 5 · Nebraska · NSCAS Growth

8 Nebraska Grade 5
English Language Arts (ELA)
Practice Tests

Full-Length Practice for NSCAS Growth 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.

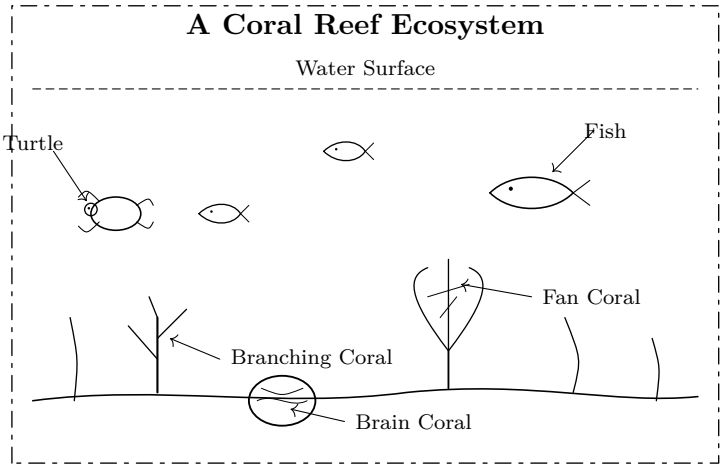
This publication is independently produced and has no official connection to any state, district, or national testing program.

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

Copyright © 2026

Copyrighted Material

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



A labeled diagram of a coral reef ecosystem

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.



Kind rows?
Proof in text.
Scan Me

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.

sensitive *adjective*	
1.	quick to notice or respond to small changes
2.	easily hurt or offended
3.	needing careful handling because of danger
4.	able to detect very faint signals

1) Which meaning of the word *sensitive* is used in paragraph 4?

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

Use the passage "The Ocean's Colorful Gardens" to answer this question.

2) Which sentence from the article is an **opinion**?

(A) A coral reef is one of the most extraordinary places on Earth. (paragraph 1)
(B) Coral reefs cover less than one percent of the ocean floor. (paragraph 1)
(C) Each polyp has a soft body and a hard cup-shaped skeleton. (paragraph 2)
(D) A bleached coral will eventually starve without its algae partner. (paragraph 4)

Use the passage "The Ocean's Colorful Gardens" to answer this question.

3) In paragraph 6, the author compares planting coral pieces to "tiny seeds of recovery." What is the **most likely reason** the author uses this comparison?

(A) To help readers picture the hopeful, careful process of growing coral back from small pieces
(B) To warn readers that coral can be eaten like regular seeds
(C) To show that coral only grows near places where plants already exist
(D) To explain that coral and seeds are made of exactly the same material



Autumn parts? Mind the tone.
Scan Me

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) practiced by drawing over and over
(C) copied from someone else's drawing
(D) worked out using a clever plan

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

Use both "The Last Note" and "Keep Going" to answer this question.

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

(A) Both rely completely on their teacher to solve their problem for them.
(B) Both discover that consistent practice and trust in themselves leads to a breakthrough moment.
(C) Both perform in front of large audiences and win first prize.
(D) Both give up after struggling for too long and choose a different activity.

Use both "The Last Note" and "Keep Going" to answer this question.

19) By the end of the story and the poem, what is the most likely reason both Lily and the speaker are able to achieve their breakthroughs?

(A) They both decide that perfection is not important and stop trying to improve.
(B) They both discover a shortcut that makes the hard part much easier overnight.
(C) They both keep practicing through difficulty and learn to trust the ability they have built over time.
(D) They both receive new equipment that makes their skill much easier to perform.

Epic gags? Scan for seas. Scan Me