



Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills 8th Edition

Maze Benchmark

Grade 8

Administration Directions and Scoring Keys

Examiner script	
<p>I am going to give you a worksheet. When you get your worksheet, please write your name at the top and put your pencil down.</p> <p>(Hand out the Maze student worksheets. Make sure students have written their names down before proceeding.)</p> <p>You are going to read a passage with some words missing from it. For each missing word you will see a box with three words in it. Your job is to circle the word you think makes the most sense in the context of the passage. Let's look at the Practice Passage together. Listen as I read.</p> <p>Tom goes to a school far from his house. Every morning, he takes a school (pause) art, bus, work (pause) to go to school.</p> <p>Let's stop there. Let's circle the word "bus" because I think "bus" makes the most sense here. Listen to how that sentence sounds now.</p> <p>Every morning, he takes a school <u>bus</u> to go to school.</p> <p>Now it's your turn. Read the next sentence <u>silently</u> to yourself. When you come to a box, read all the words in the box and circle the word that makes the most sense to you. When you are done, put your pencil down.</p> <p>(Allow up to 30 seconds for students to complete the example and put their pencils down.)</p> <p>If necessary, after 30 seconds say Put your pencil down. As soon as all students have their pencils down, say Good job.</p> <p>Now listen. In the (pause) afternoon, library, morning (pause), he also takes a bus home. You should have circled "afternoon" because "afternoon" makes the most sense. Listen. In the <u>afternoon</u>, he also takes a bus home.</p> <p>Okay, when I say "Begin," turn the page and start reading the passage silently. Start on the page with the title. When you come to a box, read all the words in the box and circle the word that makes the most sense in the passage. You will stop when you come to a stop sign or I say Stop. Ready? Begin. Start the timer.</p> <p>At the end of <u>3 minutes</u>, stop the timer and say Stop. Put your pencils down.</p>	
Reminders	
Start timer	Start the timer after you say Begin.
Prompts	<p>If a student starts reading the passage out loud, say Please read the passage silently. (Repeat as often as needed.)</p> <p>If a student skips an entire page, say. Please be sure not to skip pages.</p> <p>If a student stops working, say Please keep going until I tell you to stop. Just do your best work. (Repeat as often as needed.)</p>
Discontinue	There is no discontinue rule. Every student should be encouraged to try their best until three minutes have passed.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Practice Passage

Tom goes to a school far from his house. Every morning, he takes a school

art
bus
work

 to go to school. In the

afternoon
library
morning

, he also takes a bus home.



Correct: _____

Incorrect: _____

Adjusted Score: _____

Backstrap Weaving

Backstrap weaving is an ancient way of making cloth that has been used for thousands
of years all around the world. It requires a wooden loom that **can** be made easily and **1**
cheaply. The **backstrap** loom can be rolled up and **moved**. Since this type of weaving **3**
has **usually** been done by village women, who **are** often also responsible for **5**
making food **and** raising children, it is important that **the** loom be easy to set up **7**
quickly and put aside when necessary. **8**

The **backstrap** weaving technique is simple but it **requires** long practice. **10**
First, a warp must **be** made by stretching yarn or thread **between** two sticks. The **12**
distance between the **sticks** determines the length of the finished **fabric**. One of the **14**
sticks is tied **to** something solid, perhaps to a tree. **The** other is fastened to the weaver **16**

Keep going



with a strap that goes around her back. The strap can be made of cloth or it can
 be a leather belt.

The weaver is then able to control the tension of the threads with subtle
 movements of her body. She passes threads over and under the warp threads using
 a tool called a shuttle. It is a time-consuming process to weave fabrics in this
 way, but the results are intricate and beautiful.

The fabrics woven on these looms are an important part of the cultural
 heritage of the people who make them. They are often full of symbolic motifs that
 refer to the myths and religious beliefs of the distant past. In Guatemala, for
 example, Mayan women often learn to weave when they are four or five years old.

Keep going



They use intricate **designs** taught to them by other women **but** also invent their own 37

designs. Once **they** have woven a blouse, the women **will** often wear it for many 39

years. **Each** blouse is unique, and it is **woven** in the colors specific to a **woman's** 42

community. The specific colors and patterns **used**, as well as the way the **blouse** is 44

worn, tell others which area **the** woman comes from and whether she **is** married or 46

single.

In Indonesia, backstrap **weaving** usually involves threads dyed two different 47

colors. One traditional dye is indigo, which **makes** a range of blues, and the 49

other is morinda, which produces shades from pink **to** purplish brown. These two 51

dyes are **applied** to threads before they are woven **to** create a fabric covered in 53

Keep going ►

patterns **and** figures. Indonesian women who still practice **this** ancient technique 55

often work together in **small** groups called weaving collectives. This means **that** 57

while working they can tell each **other** stories and sing songs. In each culture where 58

backstrap weaving is used, when women teach their daughters to weave, they are also
teaching their peoples' history and ideas.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Practice Passage

Tom goes to a school far from his house. Every morning, he takes a school **art bus work** to go to school. In the **afternoon library morning**, he also takes a bus home.



Correct: _____

Incorrect: _____

Adjusted Score: _____

The Circus

A circus is a traveling group of skilled performers comprised of jugglers, acrobats, tightrope walkers, equestrians, animal tamers, strongmen, clowns and others. A circus

typically moves around a **lot** in any single country and sometimes **goes** all over the **2**

world. Circus performers **perform** their acts in the middle of **a** big tent called the **4**

Big Top. **This** middle part of the tent is **called** the ring. The Ringmaster is the **6**

person in charge of all the acts **that** take place in the ring. **8**

The **modern** circus was invented by a man **in** Great Britain named Sergeant- **10**

Major Philip Astley. **He** was a British military veteran and **a** skilled horse-trainer **12**

who had performed equestrian **tricks** all over Europe. Finally, he settled **in** London, **14**

where he opened his own **theater**. Since the theater had a circular **arena** for galloping **16**

Keep going



horses, it became known **as** a “circus.” To bring in bigger **audiences**, Astley began to **18**
 hire rope-walkers, jugglers, **and** acrobats. He also hired clowns to **make** people laugh **20**
 between the acts. Soon **he** opened another circus in Paris. He **had** found a sure-fire **22**
 way of attracting **and** thrilling large audiences. Many other circus **theaters** sprang up **24**
 all over Europe around **that** same time. Since most of the **acts** did not rely on speech **26**
 for **their** dramatic effect, a circus could move **easily** from country to country, **28**
 bypassing the **usual** language barriers. **29**
 When the circus concept **came** to the United States early in **the** nineteenth **31**
 century, it was done in **a** whole different way. Instead of a **single** theater inside a **33**
 building, the American **circus** had a big tent. That was **because** the circuses were **35**

Keep going



designed to travel **by** wagon all around the country. Also, American **circuses** imported **37**
 elephants and lions from Africa **and** used them to draw larger crowds. **By** the end of **39**
 the nineteenth century, **circuses** traveled mostly by train and they **were** by far the **41**
 most popular form **of** entertainment in America. **42**
 “Barnum and Bailey” **was** the name of a famous circus **that** began around **44**
 that time, featuring large **animals** from India and Africa as well **as** three rings **46**
 instead of one. A **group** of brothers started their own circus **to** compete with Barnum **48**
 and Bailey, calling **themselves** the Ringling Brothers. Later these brothers **bought** **50**
 out the Barnum and Bailey Circus. **It** was a lot of work for **them** because they had **52**
 to run two **circuses**. Finally, they made the two circuses **into** one circus and called **54**

Keep going



it the Ringling Brothers **and** Barnum and Bailey Circus. 55

The combined **circus** prospered for many years, but it **eventually** ran into 57

problems. A big fire **in** the circus tent at one show **cost** the Ringling Brothers a huge 59

lawsuit. **Their** tent was not safe because it **was** not flame proof and the court 61

found the Ringling Brothers to be negligent. **It** cost all the money they made **for** 64

the next ten years from their **shows** to pay the resulting fines. After **that** the circus did 66

well for many **more** years, but it could not compete **with** the new circuses and new 68

attractions **such** as Disney World. In the end, **the** Ringling Brothers closed their 70

famous circus. Nowadays, most people only know what a circus is like from reading books
and watching old movies.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Practice Passage

Tom goes to a school far from his house. Every morning, he takes a school **art bus work** to go to school. In the **afternoon library morning**, he also takes a bus home.



Correct: _____

Incorrect: _____

Adjusted Score: _____

Space Shuttles

NASA's Space Shuttle program ran for over thirty years. The Space Shuttles

could orbit the Earth **with** astronauts inside. Part of their mission **was** to study the **2**
effects of zero **gravity** on human beings, plants, and chemical **substances**. The **4**
Shuttles also launched satellites and **probes**, as well as a giant space **telescope** for **6**
viewing distant stars and galaxies. Space Shuttle **astronauts** helped to build the **7**
International Space Station. **Mostly**, the Space Shuttle program was an **enormous** **9**
success.

The Space Shuttles were designed **to** be partly reusable. They could return **to** **11**
Earth and land on a runway **just** like airplanes. There were one hundred **and** thirty **13**
Space Shuttle missions.

Keep going



The idea **for** a kind of space plane was **first** proposed in the late 1950s. NASA **engineers** wanted a spacecraft that could return **to** Earth and be fully reusable. After **a** lot of work, they finally compromised **on** a partly reusable shuttle design and **began** building the shuttles about one year **before** the Apollo Moon Landing.

The design **consisted** of a space plane, expendable liquid **fuel** tanks, and reusable rockets. It would **be** launched vertically like a normal rocket. **The** cockpit could carry five to seven **astronauts**.

Liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen were **mixed** in the external tank to ignite **the** rockets. At about two minutes after **liftoff**, the rockets would release and parachute **into** the ocean to be picked up **by** NASA. With power from its main

Keep going



engines, the craft would keep rising until **it** reached Earth orbiting height. Then the **main** engines would be shut off and **the** external fuel tank released to burn **up** in

the Earth's atmosphere.

When it **was** time for the Shuttle to come **home**, it would fire its thrusters and **fall** back into the lower atmosphere. It **would** descend to Earth like a glider, **slowed** dramatically by air pressure, finally landing **on** a long runway out in the **desert**.

Mostly, the Shuttle worked exactly as **it** was designed to work. Yet there **is** always a risk that such complicated **engineering** systems will fail just because some **little** thing goes wrong in a way **that** nobody expects. The consequences

Keep going 

of such **a** small failure can be disastrous. 49

Altogether, **there** were two such catastrophic accidents during **the** Space 51

Shuttle program's history. Both accidents **were** later traced to small mechanical failures. 52

In 1986, the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded **shortly** after launch, killing all seven 54

astronauts **aboard**. Especially tragic was the fact that **the** Challenger mission was 56

the first time **a** teacher was part of the shuttle **crew**. Then, seventeen years later, 58

the Space Shuttle Columbia **exploded** over Texas during re-entry, killing another seven 59

astronauts. 60

The Space Shuttle program was finally **retired** in 2011, right after Space 61

Shuttle Atlantis's **final** flight. But NASA has since built **a** new vehicle to explore 63

Keep going ►

deep space. **It** is called the Orion, and it **will** be launched sometime soon. 65

Even though **the** Space Shuttle program is over, it **had** a lasting impact on 67

space travel. **The** International Space Station would have been **unthinkable** and 69

much more difficult to construct **and** keep supplied without the shuttle missions. Space 70

Shuttles **proved** that space travel could be more **sustainable** than anyone believed 72

before it began. Now we know better.

