



Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills  
8<sup>th</sup> Edition

*Maze* Benchmark

Grade 8

Student Materials

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Practice Passage

Tom goes to a school far from his house. Every morning, he takes a school \_\_\_\_\_ to go to school. In the \_\_\_\_\_, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ in any single country and sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ all over the world. Circus performers \_\_\_\_\_ their acts in the middle of \_\_\_\_\_ big tent called the Big Top. \_\_\_\_\_ middle part of the tent is \_\_\_\_\_ the ring. The Ringmaster is the \_\_\_\_\_ in charge of all the acts \_\_\_\_\_ take place in the ring.

The \_\_\_\_\_ circus was invented by a man \_\_\_\_\_ Great Britain named Sergeant-Major Philip Astley. \_\_\_\_\_ was a British military veteran and \_\_\_\_\_ skilled horse-trainer who had performed equestrian \_\_\_\_\_ all over Europe. Finally, he settled \_\_\_\_\_ London, where he opened his own \_\_\_\_\_. Since the theater had a circular \_\_\_\_\_ for galloping

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horses, it became known as a “circus.” To bring in bigger crowds, Astley began to hire rope-walkers, jugglers, and acrobats. He also hired clowns to entertain people laughing between the acts. Soon after, he opened another circus in Paris. He discovered a sure-fire way of attracting and thrilling large audiences. Many other circuses sprang up all over Europe around the same time. Since most of them did not rely on speech for dramatic effect, a circus could move from country to country, bypassing the language barriers.

When the circus concept came to the United States early in the nineteenth century, it was done in a whole different way. Instead of a theater inside a building, the American circus had a big tent. That was how the circuses were

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designed to travel wagon all around the country. Also, American imported elephants and lions from Africa used them to draw larger crowds. the end of the nineteenth century, traveled mostly by train and they by far the most popular form entertainment in America.

“Barnum and Bailey” the name of a famous circus began around that time, featuring large from India and Africa as well three rings instead of one. A of brothers started their own circus compete with Barnum and Bailey, calling the Ringling Brothers. Later these brothers out the Barnum and Bailey Circus. was a lot of work for because they had to run two . Finally, they made the two circuses one circus and called

Keep going 

it the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus.

The combined prospered for many years, but it ran into problems. A big fire the circus tent at one show the Ringling Brothers a huge lawsuit. tent was not safe because it not flame proof and the court the Ringling Brothers to be negligent. cost all the money they made the next ten years from their to pay the resulting fines. After the circus did well for many years, but it could not compete the new circuses and new attractions as Disney World. In the end, Ringling Brothers closed their famous circus. Nowadays, most people only know what a circus is like from reading books and watching old movies.

