



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

*Maze* Progress Monitoring

Grade 4

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 <b>Put your pencil down.</b> As soon as all students have their pencils down, say <b>Good job.</b></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 <b>Stop. Put your pencils down.</b></p>	
Reminders	
Start timer	Start the timer after you say <b>Begin.</b>
Prompts	<p>If a student starts reading the passage out loud, say <b>Please read the passage silently.</b> (Repeat as often as needed.)</p> <p>If a student skips an entire page, say, <b>Please be sure not to skip pages.</b></p> <p>If a student stops working, say <b>Please keep going until I tell you to stop. Just do your best work.</b> (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

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Incorrect: \_\_\_\_\_

Adjusted Score: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Kellogg Brothers

The Kellogg brothers are now famous for their cold breakfast cereal. Most

people have at one time **or** another eaten Kellogg's Corn Flakes or one **of** the 2

other breakfast cereals that the Kellogg **brothers** created. But the two brothers 3

were **not** always known for being the creators **of** breakfast cereal. 5

John Kellogg was a **doctor**. He worked at a medical clinic **where** 7

people went to get healthy. John's **brother** Will worked at the clinic, too. Will 8

**was** a businessman, but he helped his **brother** make food for the patients. 10

John **was** a respected doctor. Some believe he **was** well ahead of his 12

time, a **true** pioneer. He knew smoking was bad **for** you long before other 14

doctors did. **He** believed that many illnesses started in **the** stomach and the 16

Keep going ►

intestines. He prescribed **cures** focused on a healthy diet. The **cleaner** the **18**  
 body, the less chance for **illness** to start. So, he designed a **high** fiber diet to **20**  
 help rid the **body** of toxins. **21**  
 At that time in **the** United States, most people tried to **eat** a hot **23**  
 breakfast. They ate eggs, **bacon**, and sausages. They ate hot oatmeal **with** **25**  
 cream. Sometimes people even drank beer **or** cider with breakfast. The Kellogg **26**  
 brothers **did** not think that this type of **breakfast** was good for their patients. **28**  
 They **wanted** to create a simple breakfast that **could** be served cold. **30**  
 One day Will **stumbled** upon the recipe for wheat flakes. **The** rumor is he **32**  
 left a batch **of** bread dough sitting out too long. **The** dough went stale. But the **34**

Keep going ►

brothers **didn't** throw it out. They put it **through** the bread rollers anyway. 36  
 When the **flattened** dough turned into flakes, the brothers **toasted** them. Then 38  
 they served the flakes **to** the patients with fresh cold milk. **The** new cereal 40  
 was a hit, making **the** patients feel healthier and stronger. 41  
 So, **the** brothers experimented with other grains. After **several** attempts 43  
 they created flakes from white **corn** grits, too. The patients loved the **new** cereal, 45  
 and it was in great **demand** at the clinic. 46  
 Soon, Will Kellogg **established** a company to sell the cereal **flakes** to the 48  
 public. But John refused **to** be part of the business. Why? **Because** Will had 50  
 added sugar to the **original** recipe. And John believed the sugar **lowered** the 52

Keep going ►

health benefits of their flakes.

**The**

Kellogg Company is still in business,

**making**

a wide variety of

**54**

breakfast cereals

**as**

well as many other foods. Its products are sold in almost two

**55**

hundred countries.



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

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### Practice Passage

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

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## Two Little Monkeys

Two little monkeys went swinging through the big trees in a dark tropical

forest. They stopped at the top of **a** huge banana tree. One of the **little** monkeys **2**  
shimmied down a big banana **stalk** and plucked two ripe bananas from **the** **4**  
colorful bunch. He brought them carefully **back** to the top of the tree **and** held **6**  
one banana out to his **dear** friend. But the other little monkey **just** stuck his **8**  
snout in the air, **scowled**, and shook his head angrily. The first **little** monkey **10**  
was puzzled but he peeled **and** ate both bananas, one after another. **They** were **12**  
scrumptious.

The next day the two **little** monkeys went swinging through the trees **13**  
**again**. Once again, they stopped at the **top** of a huge banana tree. The first **15**

Keep going ►

**little** monkey shimmied down to a big **banana** stalk and picked two bananas. 17  
 The **bananas** were those nice, fat crimson ones. **He** climbed back up to the top 19  
**of** the tree and held out one **banana** to his dear friend. But once **again**, the 22  
 second little monkey refused to **accept** the offered banana. Instead he stuck **his** 24  
 snout in the air, scowled, and **shook** his head angrily. The first little **monkey** 26  
 was puzzled again. But he peeled **and** ate both bananas, one after the **other**. 28  
 They were even more scrumptious than **the** two he ate yesterday. 29  
 On the third **day**, the two little monkeys went further **in** the jungle than 31  
 they had ever **gone** before. They climbed higher than ever, **and** swung more 33  
 wildly, and jumped further **between** huge trees. They finally stopped to **rest** in 35

Keep going ►

the top of a huge **banana** tree. This banana tree was one **that** grew those 37

adorable tiny yellow bananas. **The** first little monkey climbed down and **picked** 39

a whole bunch of these yellow **bananas**. He brought them back to the **top** of the 41

tree. The second little **monkey** just stuck his snout in the **air**, scowled, and 43

shook his head.

The first **little** monkey was puzzled once again. He **decided** to try 45

something new. He peeled one **of** the bananas and waved it under **his** friend's 47

nose. The second little monkey **just** stuck his snout in the air, **scowled**, and 49

said, "You know, everyone assumes **that** all monkeys love bananas. But I prefer 50

mangoes."



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## Tom's Supper

Tom's parents had gone away on an important errand in the afternoon. They wouldn't be home until the **following** day, because it took so long **to** drive to 2  
and from town.

It **began** snowing at dusk. Tom rounded up **the** sheep and put them into 4  
the **big** barn, all forty of them. The **sheep** crowded together against the far wall 6  
**in** the straw-smelling dimness. Tom stood there **for** a moment with the 8  
kerosene lantern **in** his hand looking at them. The two **lambs** in the midst of 10  
the white **woolly** mass let out thin beh-behs. 11  
Tom **smiled** and walked back outside into the **blowing** snow. As he put 13  
down the **bar** on the outside of the wooden **door**, stinging cold snowflakes 15

Keep going



settled on the **back** of his neck and melted instantly **to** ice water. 17

He trudged up the **path** to the house, snow whirling around **him**. In the 19

entryway, he stamped the **crusted** snow off his boots. It was **good** to get inside 21

out of the **howling** storm. 22

He sat down on the **bench** and pulled off his boots. He **felt** sleepy after 24

rounding up the sheep **in** the snowstorm and chasing them into **the** barn. But 26

he decided that he **should** make himself something to eat before **getting** into 28

bed.

Going barefoot into the **kitchen**, Tom greased a frying pan with **bacon** 30

grease and put it on the **hot** stove. Soon the grease sizzled. 31

Keep going ►

Next, Tom **cracked** three eggs into the pan one **after** another. They

33

crackled in the grease.

**He** picked up the heavy pine-handled bread **knife** and cut a big slice

35

off **the** loaf of bread sitting on the **back** of the stove. He laid the **slice** of bread

38

flat on a white **plate** .

39

Tom looked into the cast iron **pan** at the eggs, now almost done

40

**cooking** . The egg yolks were turning brilliant **and** the whites sputtered,

42

golden brown.

Tom **pulled** out the sleeve of his flannel **shirt** over his right hand,

44

picked up **the** frying pan, and slid the eggs **out** onto the slice of bread on **his**

47

Keep going ►

plate. He put the pan back **down** before the heat from it could **burn** his fingers 49

through the sleeve. It **was** a maneuver he had seen his **father** do dozens of 51

times.

So there **was** Tom's supper: three fried eggs sprinkled **with** salt on a 53

slice of warm **bread** His mouth watered even before he bent down to take the first 54

bite.







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## Homemade Ice Cream

Maria likes to eat ice cream on a hot day. She says it cools her off. **But** she 1  
likes to eat ice cream **any** day. Who doesn't? Maria likes strawberry **the** best 3  
and rocky road second best. **Her** brother Leo likes bubble gum and **vanilla**. 5

They both like chocolate, too.

Neither Maria **nor** Leo likes coffee ice cream, but **that** is their father 7  
Juan's favorite. He **says** that he first tasted coffee ice **cream** when he was only 9  
four years **old** and ever since then it is **the** only ice cream he ever wants **to** 12  
eat. Their mother Carla used to **get** soft serve ice cream cones on **the** way to 14  
the beach with her **parents**. There was a little roadside stand **that** sold them. 16  
The cones were thin **and** easy to break. The ice cream **swirled** into the cones, 18

Keep going ►

and then the **cones** were dipped into a syrup that **hardened** on them instantly. 20

You could get **either** strawberry syrup or chocolate syrup. Carla **always** chose 22

chocolate.

When the ice cream **truck** rings its bell, Maria and her **brother** dash 24

outside to buy ice cream. **They** sit waiting on the sidewalk with **the** other 26

children until the truck turns **the** corner onto their street. The ice **cream** truck 28

sells drumsticks, ice cream bars, **and** bonbons. Maria likes the bonbons best. 29

**The** bonbons are balls of ice cream **with** a hard chocolate shell. 31

One summer **the** ice cream truck hardly came to **their** street at all for 33

almost a **whole** month, and Maria and Leo were **both** sad about it. So, their 35

Keep going ►

father **got** the hand crank ice cream machine **out** of storage in the garage and 37  
**set** it up in the kitchen. 38  
 Carla **carefully** measured out milk, sugar, and eggs, **and** after stirring 40  
 them all together poured **the** mixture inside the steel ice cream **container** inside 42  
 the old wooden bucket. She **placed** the lid on the container. Then **she** opened a 44  
 big bag of ice **and** packed it slowly around the sides. **She** packed the ice in 46  
 layers and **sprinkled** each layer with rock salt, making **the** ice steam, until the 48  
 bucket was **full** of ice. Then she let Maria **and** Leo take turns cranking the 50  
 handle. **Their** hands got cold and their arms **felt** tired, but finally the ice cream 52  
**was** ready to eat. 53

Keep going ►

Their mom let **them** lick the ice cream paddle. They **both** cried out,

55

“Wow!” That very first taste of homemade ice cream was the best ice cream of all.





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## Maya and the Manatees

One day Maya went on a school trip to the aquarium. She felt awed by all the

**bright**

, colorful fish swimming overhead in a

**tunnel**

with a glass roof. She

2

kept

**turning**

around in place to look at

**the**

fish glide and dart in the

4

**illuminated**

blue water.

5

Meanwhile, the other children

**in**

the group followed the teacher off

**to**

7

another part of the aquarium. This

**left**

Maya alone. When she realized that

8

**she**

wasn't with the group anymore, she

**became**

anxious and started walking

10

more quickly

**through**

the rooms, hardly looking at the

**fish**

at all.

12

Suddenly she entered a

**big**

room with a glass wall and

**saw**

four

14

manatees. Two of the manatees

**sat**

on boulders. They were big and

**dignified**

16

Keep going



looking. Two others were swimming around **gracefully** in the deep pool of 17

seawater. **She** could see them diving and swimming **because** of the glass wall. 19

She stepped **very** close to the exhibit, hardly daring **to** breathe in her amazement. 21

When she **joined** up with her class a few **minutes** later, Maya was 23

smiling. She thought **the** manatees she had seen were awesome. **She** liked 25

their chubby, enormous bodies. She **liked** that they were gentle and that **they** 27

could hold their breath under water **for** a long time. 28

That evening, Maya **looked** online for books about manatees. She **found** 30

one that was in the public **library**, but it had been checked out **already**. It was 32

due to be returned **in** two weeks. 33

Keep going ►

Maya put a hold **on** the book. In two weeks, she **would** be going to 35

Florida on spring **break** to visit her grandpa. She looked **forward** to reading the 37

book about manatees **on** the plane. Her grandpa had promised **to** take her 39

to a beach where **she** would see wild manatees, and she **wanted** to be able to 41

impress him **with** all the facts that she would **learn** from the library book. 43

Unfortunately, the **book** was not returned to the library **on** time. Maya 45

was disappointed. Her mom **checked** out a few books on dolphins **and** jellyfish 47

instead. Those were okay, but **they** weren't what she really wanted. 48

When **they** got to Florida, her grandfather picked **them** up at the airport. 50

A bookstore **bag** was waiting in the backseat. "Look **in** there," her grandfather 52

Keep going ►

said. "I got

**you**

a surprise."

53

She looked. Inside the bag she found three books, all of them on manatees.





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## Butterflies and Moths

You seldom see anyone swat at a butterfly. But people often take a swipe

**or** two at a fluttering moth. Why **is** it that people seem to love **butterflies** 3

as much as they dislike moths?

**Moths** are usually considered by people to **be** dull, drab pests. But why 5

is **that**? They don't bite or sting. They **don't** attack people or pets. And moths 7

**don't** eat clothing, though some moth larvae **do**. Most adult moths don't 9

eat at **all**. They can't because they don't have **a** mouth. And the few moths 11

that **can** eat like to feed on nectar. 12

**In** fact, butterflies and moths are closely **related**. They are so much 14

alike they **are** classified as the same order of **insects** by scientists. 16

Keep going ►

They both have scales **that** cover their bodies and wings. These **scales** 18  
 are not the same as reptile **scales** but are odd hairs that have **evolved** into tiny 20  
 scale-like structures. Both butterflies **and** moths continue to grow and shed 21  
**these** scales throughout their lifetimes. So, it **is** a myth that if you touch 23  
**a** butterfly's wing and the powder rubs **off** on your fingers, the butterfly or 25  
**moth** will not be able to fly. **That** powder is just made up of **the** tiny scales. 28  
 How do you tell **butterflies** and moths apart? Consider these facts: 29  
**Most** moths appear only at night. And **most** butterflies fly only during 31  
 the day. **But** there are some moths that are **active** during the day. Most moths 33  
 are **small** and dull in color. And most **butterflies** are brightly colored. But 35



there are **some** large and colorful moths as well. **And** some species of butterflies 37

are quite **small** and dull. But even that detail **has** exceptions. 39

One way to tell moths **and** butterflies apart is to look closely **at** the 41

antennae. The antennae of a **butterfly** are usually straight and thick at **the** tip 43

while most moths have feathery **antennae** that come to a point. 44

Butterflies **also** usually fold their wings straight up **over** their backs, so 46

that the wings **touch** each other and align perfectly like **a** single wing. Moths, 48

by contrast, usually **hold** their wings in a tent-like way. 49

**Butterflies** grow from larvae which are protected **within** a hard and 51

smooth covering called **a** chrysalis, whereas moths make cocoons which 52

are

wrapped in a covering of silk.

53

The

fact is that there is no

single

feature that distinguishes all butterflies

55

all

from

moths. The more that scientists discover and study new species of

56

butterflies and moths, the more any strong distinctions between the two become hazy

and uncertain.





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## Getting Back on the Bike

Late last fall, Martin went bike-riding on one of the last days of the year  
before the snow started. It was already cold outside. The **streets** were dark and 1  
slick from rainfall, **and** the gutters were full of slippery, **fallen** leaves. He 3  
was on his way **to** a friend's house, in a hurry. **So**, he was riding perhaps a 5  
little **too** fast. He turned a corner and **did** not see the pothole. His front 7  
**tire** hit the pothole, and he bounced **and** skidded and went down. 9  
He did **not** hit his head or break any **bones**, but he got a big scrape 11  
**on** his leg, and his hands were **ripped** up. 13  
He picked himself up carefully **off** the street and wheeled his bike 14  
**home**, limping. His aunt was home. She **helped** him clean his wounds and 16

Keep going ►

checked **the** bike for damage. Martin called his **friend** to say he was too **18**

shaken **up** to visit, and his aunt put **the** bike away in its winter storage **20**

**spot** . **21**

Now it is spring. The weather **is** warm, and the sun is bright. **Everyone** **23**

is out in short sleeves. Martin **sees** people of all ages riding bikes **on** the **25**

streets and paths. He wants **to** ride his bike, too, but the **thought** of it makes **27**

him anxious. Even **though** his scrapes have long since healed, **leaving** no **29**

scars, he remembers how scary **it** was to find himself suddenly on **the** **31**

ground. He remembers how sore his **leg** was, and how rattled and lonely **he** **33**

felt as he limped home. He **remembers** how his beloved bike suddenly felt **34**

Keep going ►

**like** an enemy that he had to **bring** home with him, like it or **not** . 37

But, he also remembers how nice **it** feels to bike through the city **in** 39

the sunlight with the wind of **his** passage flowing over him. He imagines 40

**his** bike, all alone in the dark, **getting** dusty and growing cobwebs, its chain 42

**getting** stiff from lack of use. He takes his helmet down from the shelf in his 43

closet and asks his aunt to help him bring his bike out of the storage locker.



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## Another Ice Cream Headache

Ava was at the kitchen table, reviewing the instructions for her math homework.

She was also spooning mouthfuls of **ice** cream from a half-gallon tub of **fudge** 2  
ripple. Suddenly, she felt a sudden **ache** in her temples and a pain **at** the 4  
center of her forehead. She **put** the spoon down. She knew what **was** happening 6  
to her, and she knew **it** was entirely her fault. Her friends **called** it Brain 8  
Freeze, though that wasn't **an** accurate description because no part of **her** 10  
brain was actually freezing.

She closed **her** eyes and tried to remember the **medical** term her 12  
mother had used. Ava's **mom** was a nurse, and she had **explained** the science 14  
behind the sensation. But **that** was years ago when Ava was **much** younger. 16

Keep going ►

The scientific name was just two **words**, but they were long words. Ava **had** 18

trouble pronouncing them. After several tries, **her** mother had told her, “Don’t 19

worry **about** it, sweetheart. They’re not easy words **to** say. Most people just 21

call it **a** cold-stimulus headache. Personally, I’ve always preferred ‘ **ice** 23

cream headache.’”

Ava liked that name. **Ice** cream headache had a friendlier sound **than** 25

“brain freeze”, which sounded like something **a** person really needed to worry 26

about. **Of** course, ice cream wasn’t to blame **or** the only cause. Simply sipping 28

a **cold** drink too fast could produce the **same** effect. Same with any frozen 30

treat. **A** few quick bites of a popsicle **would** easily do the trick. 32

Keep going



When Ava's **mother** explained how these headaches occurred, she **said** 34  
 everyone had a bundle of nerves **in** their mouth. When those nerves chilled 35  
**too** fast, the rapid temperature change affected **paths** that fed blood to the 37  
 brain. **The** chill caused those paths to shrink **and** then expand. The brain 39  
 detected these **changes** and confused them with pain. 40  
 Ava **took** a deep breath and let it **out** slowly. There was no need for 42  
**her** to worry. An ice cream headache **was** harmless. And they usually lasted 44  
 no **more** than thirty seconds. She fit the **lid** on the tub of ice cream **and** 47  
 put it back in the freezer. **She** took a glass from the cupboard **and** went to the 49  
 sink. Her mother **had** taught her a very simple cure **for** the relief of an ice 51

Keep going ►

cream **headache** . After a few sips of lukewarm **water** , the temperature in

53

Ava's mouth returned **with** normal. Now she could get back **to** her math

55

homework. She reminded herself **that** when eating something cold, she should

56

**take** smaller bites. It was a good idea not to wolf it down, but to take a little time

57

to actually enjoy it.





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## Stargazing at the Lakehouse

My friend's family rents a lakeside cottage for breaks from the city. During  
the school year, they spend **weekends** there now and then. During the **1**  
**summer**, they go for a whole week. **One** weekend just before the end of **3**  
**the** school year, she invited me to **go** with them. They picked me up **in** **6**  
front of my apartment building, and we **drove** for about two hours away from **7**  
**the** city. **8**  
When we got there, we **dropped** our bags off in her room, **changed** our **10**  
clothes, and ran right into **the** lake for a frigid swim. The **cold** water made **12**  
us shriek, and our **voices** bounced off the water. We sat **on** the warm planks **14**  
of the dock **to** dry off in the late afternoon **sun**. My friend said that after **16**

Keep going ►

dinner, **we** would take the canoe out, and **after** that, once it got dark, we **18**

**would** go stargazing. **19**

“Stargazing?” I laughed. “I’ve **seen** stars.” **20**

“Not like this,” she assured **me**. **21**

It did not get fully dark **until** quite late. By then, we had **already** **23**

paddled the canoe to the far **side** of the lake and back. We **had** started **25**

playing cards in the kitchen **when** my friend’s parents finally said it **was** time. **27**

We put fleeces on, and **my** friend led me to the garage, **which** stood **29**

next to the cottage like **a** matching smaller house. There was an **aluminum** **31**

ladder leaning against the back. My **friend** climbed it first while I held **the** **33**

Keep going ►



legs, and then she held onto

**the**

top while I followed her.

34

We

**crawled**

over the gently sloping, gritty tiles

**and**

lay flat in the

36

middle of

**the**

roof. The night smelled like damp

**grass**

, and we could hear the

38

lake

**brushing**

the rocks on the shore.

39

She

**swept**

her hand toward the sky and

**said**

, “Do you see what I

41

?”

**mean**

42

I was suddenly dizzy. The sky

**felt**

like an enormous black dome above

43

**us**

at first, but then, somehow my

**perspective**

flipped. I felt that I was

45

**above**

and looking down into an infinitely

**dark**

and deep pool. Then, slowly,

47

I

**felt**

the roof tiles beneath my back

**again**

, and the sky was overhead once

49

Keep going



**more** . I thought I was used to **seeing** stars at night at home in **the** city, 52  
 but I realized I was **used** to only seeing a handful of **stars** in the entire sky. 54  
 Now I **could** see that really there were millions, **spread** across the sky, nearer 56  
 and more **distant** , some faint and others piercingly bright. 57

“Yes, I see,” I breathed softly.





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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Nesting Birds

Late March and April is a good time to look around for nest-building birds.

That's the time of year for **birds** to lay eggs and raise their **young**. While **2**  
many birds build nests, there **are** some that do not. **3**  
Among birds **that** don't build nests are cowbirds, woodpeckers, **and** **5**  
owls. Cowbirds simply lay their eggs **in** the nests of other birds. Woodpeckers **6**  
**don't** build, they drill. The only material **they** use are the wood chips they **8**  
**create** when they peck holes into trees **or** utility poles. The wood chips fall **10**  
**inside** and become the bed for the **eggs**. Some owls reuse the empty nests **12**  
**of** other large birds found in high **trees** and cliffs. Screech owls prefer **14**  
natural **cavities** or spaces made by other critters, **like** woodpeckers. **16**

Keep going ►

Most birds that do build **nests** usually require only a few days **to** do 18

so. They spend a lot **of** time and energy before they settle **in** and get down 20

to the business **of** laying eggs and raising their young. **Instinct** directs each 22

bird how to build **a** design unique to that species. As **a** result, birds often 24

use different materials **to** make their nests. 25

Sparrows prefer to **collect** material close to where they are 26

**nesting**. They'll use hay, grasses, fur, hair, **and** other natural materials. 28

Starlings like to **use** fresh cut leaves pruned from shrubs. **They** also use 30

moss, fur, and wool. Blackbirds **and** thrushes add mud to their nests. **Some** 32

birds even use spider web silk **as** a kind of glue to keep **things** together. 34

Keep going ►

Birds are great fun to **watch**, and they provide a chorus of **sounds** and **36**

songs. When the babies are **born**, you'll hear whistles, chirps, hoots, and **37**

**trills**. Many people like to try and **draw** birds that sing the nicest songs **39**

**to** nest near them. **40**

One way to **attract** more songbirds is to put out **nesting** materials for **42**

them to use. To **attract** sparrows, put out hay, hair, and **other** long, thin **44**

objects found in nature, **like** twigs. To bring starlings around, put **out** fresh- **46**

cut leaves, moss, and even spare **pieces** of wool. Other birds may use **objects** **48**

made by people, like yarn, string, **thread**, paper, and cotton balls. Only use **49**

**short** pieces of yarn or string, or **else** birds can easily end up tangled **and** **52**

Keep going ►

hurt. Don't put out pet fur **if** your pet has been treated for **fleas**. Human hair 54

might also contain traces **of** products that may be toxic to **birds**, so it's best to 56

skip that, **too**. 57

If you place some of these **items** outside, in a hanging plant basket **or** 59

on top of a bush, the **birds** can collect them as they need **them**. If you time it 61

right, you'll **see** the items are gone very quickly. **And** if you live in a city, 63

**don't** worry too much about the pigeons. They manage to nest around eight times 64

a year without any help from anyone.

