



Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills
8th Edition

Maze Benchmark

Grade 3

Administration Directions and Scoring Keys

Examiner script

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.

(Hand out the Maze student worksheets. Make sure students have written their names down before proceeding.)

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.

Tom goes to a school far from his house. Every morning, he takes a school (pause) art, bus, work (pause) to go to school.

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.

Every morning, he takes a school bus to go to school.

Now it’s your turn. Read the next sentence silently 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.

(Allow up to 30 seconds for students to complete the example and put their pencils down.)

If necessary, after 30 seconds say **Put your pencil down.** As soon as all students have their pencils down, say **Good job.**

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 afternoon, he also takes a bus home.

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.

At the end of 3 minutes, stop the timer and say **Stop. Put your pencils down.**

Reminders

Start timer	Start the timer after you say Begin.
Prompts	If a student starts reading the passage out loud, say Please read the passage silently. (Repeat as often as needed.) If a student skips an entire page, say. Please be sure not to skip pages. 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.)
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: _____

Brush Hogging

My name is Sarah, and I live on Riggerts Farm Road in
Stovepipe, Vermont. My favorite after-school activity is taking **care** of **1**
my chickens, Molly, Dolly, and Wally. **My** second favorite activity is **2**
brush hogging **our** field. **3**
A brush hog is like **a** tractor crossed with a lawn mower. **4**
It has windows and a seat. You've **got** to climb up to sit on **it**. **7**
It makes a lot of noise **and** it shakes and rattles and belches **smoke**. **9**
It's fun to ride in, and **even** more fun to drive. **10**
People with **land** use a brush hog to clear **the** vegetation **12**

Keep going ►

from their fields. If you **don't** brush hog every week, the weeds **and** 14

saplings grow fast and tall. Before **you** know it, you'll have an entire 15

forest growing in your back yard. 16

After **you're** done brush hogging the field looks **clean**. You can 18

now plow it and **plant** good things to grow and eat. **You** have the 20

tingling satisfied feeling of **a** job well done. Sometimes brush hogging 21

makes you very hungry. You just want **to** go inside and make 23

yourself a **sandwich** and drink some cold water. 24

The **rules** of our house are, when you **turn** ten, you can start 26

brush hogging **with** Mom or Dad. You have to **sit** on their laps, and 28

Keep going ►

you have **to** buckle in with a harness. You **can** put your hands on the **30**

steering **wheel**, but you can't touch anything else. **The** key to the brush **32**

hog is **hidden** in a secret place in the **house**. **34**

You can see some interesting parts **of** nature while you are **35**

brush hogging. **One** day last week, I was brush **hogging** with Dad **37**

when a fast, brown **animal** ran in front of us, across **our** field and into **39**

the woods. It **was** so quick I barely had time **to** see it. We decided to **41**

stop **and** get out of the brush hog **to** follow it. Dad showed me how **43**

to track its prints. The animal ran **down** the muddy hiking trail all **45**

the **way** to the dock by the lake. **Its** tracks went to the edge and **47**

Keep going ►

disappeared

. A ripple on the water showed

where

it had made a

49

splash.

“Congratulations,”

said

Dad, pointing to something

50

swimming in

the

distance. “You just tracked your first baby moose!”

51



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 Secret Desert

My family lives in a two-story house on a dead-end street with a
little forest where it ends. The trees there are all evergreen **trees** . They **1**
grow so close together you've **got** to turn sideways to get through. **2**
It is always cool and dark in **the** forest. **4**
One day, I left my **bike** lying on its side and walked **into** the **6**
evergreens. My feet made no **sound** on the thick carpet of brown **pine** **8**
needles. It was so still, I **could** hear my own breath and even **my** heart **10**
beating.
Finally, I came out **of** the cool and dark forest into **the** hot **12**

Keep going ►

sun. I saw then that I was standing on the edge of a big hollow. As 14

far as I could see there was nothing but sand. It was a desert! 16

I took off my sweatshirt and tied it around my head, like a 18

turban, to keep off the blazing sun. I walked out into the sand. As I 20

walked, I looked around for camels and palm trees, but I only saw 22

tire tracks.

The tracks were big. It looked like they'd been made by trucks. 24

Then there were some tracks that were so deep they looked like 26

they'd been made by a bulldozer. But what were trucks and a bulldozer 27

doing in a desert? 28

Keep going ►

I walked for **what** seemed like a long time, but **there** seemed to **30**

be no end to **this** desert. I was very hot and **thirsty**. I decided to turn **32**

around and **go** back to the cool evergreen forest. **When** I reached the **34**

shade of the **pine** trees, I was a little dizzy. **I** sat down for a few **36**

minutes **in** the coolness. Then I walked all **the** way through the **38**

forest, got on **my** bike, and rode slowly home. **39**

That **night** at supper I asked my dad **about** the desert. I told **41**

him about **the** tire and bulldozer tracks I'd seen **out** in the middle. He **43**

said that **this** place was called a "Sand-Pit." Trucks **used** to go there **45**

to dig out **and** haul away tons of sand. Builders **used** the sand to **47**

Keep going ►

make cement to **build** houses on. He also said that **our** house **49**

foundation had probably used cement **made** with sand from the Sand- **50**

Pit.

“Oh?” I **attention** murmured. But I wasn’t really paying **52**

dad always had interesting things **to** say about just about everything. I **53**

simply felt disappointed that not only was my secret desert not a secret, it

wasn’t even a real desert.



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: _____

On the Trail

The last time I visited my cousins out West, we went on a trail ride.

A trail ride is when you horses on a trail. I'd been pony rides **2**

before, so I wasn't about riding a horse. **3**

We got at dawn and had a big before going out to **5**

ride. When got to the barn, the horses already saddled and **7**

waiting. They stamped hooves and neighed at us as walked **9**

over to them. I could my heart beating. It was exciting be **11**

setting out on such a adventure. I still didn't feel afraid, my **13**

mouth got a little dry the excitement. **14**

Keep going ►

The horses we were **going** to ride had been chosen for **us**. 16

One of my cousins got a **pretty** gray horse named Dove, and the **other** 18

cousin got a shiny dark brown **horse** called Bill. Mine was called 19

Freckles, **because** she had rusty brown spots all **over** her white coat. 21

Freckles had a **tired** look that reminded me of my **grandma** on a hot 23

day. Our trail **guide** called Freckles a veteran, which I **figured** meant 25

she was old. I didn't **know** why they'd chosen this horse for **me** to 27

ride, but I didn't mind. **We** were all in a good mood **starting** out on 29

the trail. The sunlight **was** hot, but the air was cool **and** tasted sweet. 31

Riding Freckles felt like **being** on a boat and a slow-motion 32

Keep going ►

see-saw at the same time. Very slow-motion! All the horses walked 34

in a line along the trail. Freckles and I came last . Slowly we got 36

further and further behind the others. The guide turned around and 37

called to Freckles. I tried to encourage her by flapping my legs against 39

her sides, but she would not be rushed . She took her time putting 41

one hoof in front of the other until we reached a turn in the trail. 43

Then , she suddenly lifted her head and started to trot. The 45

guide shouted at her , but Freckles didn't stop. She ran past all the 47

other horses. I was bouncing up and down in the saddle. I was afraid 49

I would fall off! All I could think of to do was to let go of the reins

Keep going ►

and hold tightly onto the saddle with **both** hands! My cousins **51**

couldn't help laughing **at** how funny I looked. **53**

Freckles ran **all** the way back to the barn **and** stopped next to **54**

her stall. I guess she wasn't so worn-out after all! **56**

