



O | UNIVERSITY OF
OREGON | College of Education

Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills 8th Edition

Maze Benchmark

Grade 3

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: _____

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 my 1

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 4

mower. **It** has windows and a seat. You've **got** 6

to climb up to sit on **it**. It makes a lot of noise **and** it 8

Keep going ►

shakes and rattles and belches **smoke** . It's fun to ride in, and 9

even more fun to drive. 10

People with **land** use a brush hog to clear **the** 12

vegetation from their fields. If you **don't** brush hog every week, the 13

weeds **and** saplings grow fast and tall. Before **you** know 15

it, you'll have an entire **forest** growing in your back yard. 16

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

Keep going ►

You can now plow it and **plant** good things to grow and eat. 19

You have the tingling satisfied feeling of **a** job well 21

done. Sometimes brush hogging **makes** you very hungry. You just 22

want **to** go inside and make yourself a **sandwich** and drink 24

some cold water.

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

start brush hogging **with** Mom or Dad. You have to **sit** 28

on their laps, and you have **to** buckle in with a harness. 29

Keep going ►

You **can** put your hands on the steering **wheel**, but you can't 31

touch anything else. **The** key to the brush hog is 32

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

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

you are brush hogging. **One** day last week, I was brush **hogging** 37

with Dad when a fast, brown **animal** ran in front of us, 38

across **our** field and into the woods. It **was** so quick 40

Keep going ►

I barely had time **to** see it. We decided to stop **and** 42

get out of the brush hog **to** follow it. Dad showed 43

me how **to** track its prints. The animal ran **down** the muddy 45

hiking trail all the **way** to the dock by the lake. **Its** 47

tracks went to the edge and **disappeared**. A ripple on the water 48

showed **where** it had made a splash. 49

“Congratulations,” **said** Dad, pointing to something 50

Keep going ►

swimming in

the

distance. “You just tracked your first baby

51

moose!”



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** . 1

They grow so close together you've **got** to turn sideways to get 2

through. **It** is always cool and dark in **the** forest. 4

One day, I left my **bike** lying on its side and walked **into** 6

the evergreens. My feet made no **sound** on the thick carpet of 7

brown **pine** needles. It was so still, I **could** hear my 9

Keep going ►

own breath and even **my** heart beating. 10

Finally, I came out **of** the cool and dark forest 11

into **the** hot sun. I saw then that **I** was standing 13

on the edge of **a** big hollow. As far as I **could** see 12

there was nothing but sand. **It** was a desert! 13

I took off **my** sweatshirt and tied it around my **head**, 15

like a turban, to keep off **the** blazing sun. I walked out into 16

Keep going ►

the sand. As I walked, I looked **around** for camels and 18

palm trees, but **I** only saw tire tracks. 19

The tracks **were** big. It looked like they'd been **made** by 21

trucks. Then there were some **tracks** that were so deep they looked 22

like they'd been made by a bulldozer. **But** what were 24

trucks and a bulldozer **doing** in a desert? 25

I walked for **what** seemed like a long time, but **there** 27

Keep going ►

seemed to be no end to **this** desert. I was very hot and 28

thirsty. I decided to turn around and **go** back to the cool 30

evergreen forest. **When** I reached the shade of the **pine** 32

trees, I was a little dizzy. **I** sat down for a few minutes **in** 34

the coolness. Then I walked all **the** way through the forest, got on 35

my bike, and rode slowly home. 36

That **night** at supper I asked my dad **about** 38

Keep going ►

the desert. I told him about **the** tire and bulldozer tracks I'd seen 39

out in the middle. He said that **this** place was called a 41

"Sand-Pit." Trucks **used** to go there to dig out **and** haul 43

away tons of sand. Builders **used** the sand to make cement to 44

build houses on. He also said that **our** house foundation 46

had probably used cement **made** with sand from the Sand-Pit. 47

"Oh?" **I** murmured. But I wasn't really paying 48

Keep going ►

attention

. My dad always had interesting things **to** say about

50

just about everything. I simply felt disappointed that not only was my

secret desert not a secret, it wasn't even a real desert.



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Practice Passage

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On the Trail

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

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

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

We got **up** at dawn and had a big **breakfast** before 5

going out to ride. When **we** got to the barn, the horses 6

were already saddled and waiting. They stamped **their** 8

hooves and neighed at us as **we** walked over to them. I could 9

Keep going ►

feel my heart beating. It was exciting **to** be setting out on 11

such a **big** adventure. I still didn't feel afraid, **but** my 13

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

The horses we were **going** to ride had been 15

chosen for **us**. One of my cousins got a **pretty** gray horse 17

named Dove, and the **other** cousin got a shiny dark brown 18

horse called Bill. Mine was called Freckles, **because** she had 20

Keep going ►

rusty brown spots all **over** her white coat. Freckles had a 21

tired

look that reminded me of my **grandma** on a hot day. Our 23

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 26

me

to ride, but I didn't mind. **We** were all in a 28

good mood **starting** out on the trail. The sunlight **was** 30

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

Keep going ►

Riding Freckles felt like **being** on a boat and a 32

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

the horses walked in a line **along** the trail. Freckles and I came 35

last . Slowly we got further and further **behind** the others. The 37

guide turned around **and** called to Freckles. I tried to **encourage** 39

her by flapping my legs against **her** sides, but she would not be 40

rushed . She took her time putting one **hoof** in front 42

Keep going ►

of the other until **we** reached a turn in the trail.

43

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

45

The guide shouted at **her**, but Freckles didn't stop. She ran

46

past all the other horses. I was **bouncing** up and down in the

48

saddle. **I** was afraid I would fall off!

All

50

I could think of to do **was** to let go of the reins

51

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

53

Keep going ►

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

54

Freckles ran **all** the way back to the barn **and**

55

stopped next to her stall. I guess she wasn't so worn-out after all!



