



Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills
8th Edition

Australasian Version

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

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Correct: _____

Incorrect: _____

Adjusted Score: _____

Slashing

My name is Sarah, and I live on Ruttle Farm Lane in Inverloch,
Victoria. My favourite after-school activity is taking **care** of my **1**
chickens, Molly, Dolly, and Wally. **My** second favourite activity is **2**
slashing **our** field. **3**
A slasher is attached to **a** tractor and is like a big lawn mower. **4**
It has a seat and a windows. You **have** to climb up to sit on **it**. It **7**
makes a lot of noise **and** it shakes and rattles and belches **smoke**. It's **9**
fun to ride in, and **even** more fun to drive. **10**
People with **land** use a slasher to clear **the** vegetation **12**

Keep going ►

from their paddocks. If you **don't** slash every year, the weeds **and** 14

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

jungle growing in your paddock. 16

After **you've** finished slashing the land looks **clean**. You 18

can now plough it and **plant** good things to grow and eat. **You** have 20

the tingling satisfied feeling of **a** job well done. Sometimes slashing 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

slashing **with** Mum 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 30

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

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

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

slashing. **One** day last week, I was out **slashing** with Dad 37

when a fast, brown **animal** jumped in front of us, across **our** paddock 39

and into the scrub. It **was** so quick I barely had time **to** see it. We 41

decided to stop **and** get out of the tractor **to** follow it. Dad showed me 43

how **to** track its prints. The animal jumped **down** the muddy bush 45

track all the **way** to the jetty by the dam. **Its** tracks went to the edge 47

Keep going ►

and **disappeared**. A ripple on the water showed **where** it had made a splash. 49

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

the distance. “You just tracked your first baby kangaroo!” 51



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The Secret Desert

My family lives in a two-storey 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 **have** 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** jumper 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

tyre 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 34
the 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 dinner I asked my dad **about** the desert. I told 41
him about **the** tyre 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** take away tonnes of sand. Builders **used** the sand to 47

Keep going ►

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

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

Pit.

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



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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** pony rides **2**

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

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

ride. When **we** got to the stables, the horses **were** already saddled and **7**

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

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

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

mouth got a little dry **from** 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** grey horse named Dove, and my **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 **guessed** 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 **37**
and called to Freckles. I tried to **encourage** her by flapping my legs **39**
against **her** sides, but she would not be **rushed**. She took her time **41**
putting one **hoof** in front of the other until **we** reached a turn in the **43**
trail.

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**

Keep going ►

I would fall off! **All** I could think of to do **was** to let go of the reins **51**

and hold tightly onto the saddle with **both** hands! My cousins **53**

couldn't help laughing **at** how funny I looked. **54**

Freckles ran **all** the way back to the stables **and** stopped next **56**

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

