



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

Australasian Version

*Maze* Progress Monitoring

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 <b>Begin</b> .
Prompts	If a student starts reading the passage out loud, say <b>Please read the passage silently.</b> (Repeat as often as needed.)  If a student skips an entire page, say, <b>Please be sure not to skip pages.</b>  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.)
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: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Time Capsule

One day, when they were both nine, Millie and Pete made a  
time capsule. They filled an old metal box **with** stuff and buried **1**  
it in a **secret** place. **2**

Two years passed. So much **happened** in the world and in **3**  
their **lives** since they put that metal box **in** the ground. Millie **5**  
grew three centimetres. Pete **got** a dog. Millie's dad found a **6**  
**new** job and bought a new car. **They** both began writing to pen **8**  
pals **in** foreign countries. **9**

Now seemed like a **good** time to dig up the time **capsule**. **11**

They wanted to compare how they **were** at eleven to how they **12**

Keep going ►

used **to** be when they were nine. Then **they** would sit down 14  
together and write **letters** to their new foreign friends, 15  
describing **their** progress on various life goals. 16  
Millie **told** Pete that she had forgotten just **what** they 18  
put into the time capsule. **She** remembered a few things, she 19  
was **sure**, but not all. It would be **surprising** to open it and 21  
find out **what** was in it. Pete said that **he** could not remember 23  
exactly what they **had** put into the box, either. He **said** it 25  
might feel strange to see **these** things that they had not seen 26  
**in** two years. 27  
Millie found her old **beach** sand castle set in the back 28

**Keep going** ►

**of** her wardrobe. She and Pete each took **a** plastic spade 30  
and went out into Millie's **back** yard. Pete walked to the base 31  
**of** the oak tree. Millie walked to **the** old gum tree about ten 33  
metres away.

“Hey!” **she** shouted. “It’s over here!” 34

“No way,” Pete **replied**. “I know we buried it here.” 35

**They** argued for a bit. Each was **sure** about the 37  
location of the time **capsule**. They used Rock Paper Scissors to 38

**decide** where to dig first. Millie won. 39

**They** spent an hour digging a hole **under** the gum tree. 41

Nothing. They spent another **hour** digging another hole under 42

**Keep going** ►

the oak. **The** capsule wasn't there, either. 43

Five holes **later**, Millie's dad pulled his car into 44

**the** driveway. He jumped out of the **car** and shouted: "What 46

are you doing?"

**Suddenly**, Millie remembered something important about 47

the **day** they buried the time capsule. They had buried it in Pete's 48

backyard.



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## Grandpa's Lizards

When my grandpa was a kid, he lived in Queensland. He  
lived with his parents and **his** little sister. Back then the land 1  
**was** not so settled. There were few **buildings**. But there were 3  
loads of paddocks **and** orchards. You could see cows, horses, 4  
**and** chickens. Grandpa and his sister used **to** go looking for 6  
small animals. But Grandpa's **favourite** thing to do was collect 7  
lizards.

**After** school, he'd change into blue jeans, **grab** a peanut 9  
butter and jelly sandwich **and** his lizard gear, and head for **the** 11  
hills. His lizard gear was a **pillow** case, a forked stick, and a 12

Keep going ►

**pair** of his mother's old gardening gloves.

13

**To** catch a lizard, first you've got **to** find it. Grandpa

15

was a good **finder** of lizards. He knew where they **liked** to

17

sleep during the hot days. **He** knew lizards liked to sun

18

themselves **early** in the morning but that they **tried** to stay

20

cool in the shade **during** the heat of the day. So, **lizards** could

22

best be found underneath rocks, **in** hollow trees, or at the roots

23

**of** thick bushes.

24

Once he'd found the **lizard's** hiding place, he would sneak

25

up **to** the end of the tail. When **he** got close enough, he

27

used his **forked** stick to trap its head. Then **he** picked it up

29

**Keep going** ►

with gloved hands **and** put it in the pillow case. **Most** of the 31

time Grandpa caught blue **tongued** lizards and goannas. 32

Once, he caught **a** blue tongued lizard. He carried it home 33

**in** his pillow case and put it **in** the bathtub. He knew 35

that the **water** would not hurt it but would **just** keep it from 37

escaping. When it **was** captive, he'd be able to study **it**. 39

But he forgot to tell his **mother** it was there. 40

The next time **his** mother went into the washroom, she 41

**got** a big surprise! She screamed so **loudly**, Grandpa said, 43

that she scared the **horses** in the nearby paddock. The 44

**lizard** was sleeping, but it still shocked **her** to see it there. 46

**Keep going** ►

After that, she made a rule: if grandpa put a lizard in the bathtub,  
he had to tape a warning on the door of the washroom.





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## Dear Pen Pal

Dear Pen Pal,

I am a robot called Deet. But I think of myself as **an** ordinary 1  
eight-year-old kid, just like you.

**I** live on the planet Firth. Firth **is** a human-made 3  
planet, the first of **its** kind. Scientists from your space program 4  
**built** it one hundred years ago. We **have** red oceans and one 6  
large, green **landmass** called Bern where all of us **live** 8  
together, robots and humans. The continent **of** Bern is mostly 9  
flat, with a **long** line of hills running down the **middle**. These 11  
flat lands are where our **farmers** grow food. The forested hills 12

Keep going ►

are **where** the people live. 13

I live in **a** big city. Here we have many **parks** filled 15

with trees that were brought **from** Earth. There are big squares 16

with **fountains** that splash red water. There are **paths** for 18

walking and riding your bike. **We** even have magnetic 19

skateboards.

On Firth, **robots** and humans skateboard together. Every 20

year, **there** is a big skateboarding contest between **the** Robot 22

team and the Human team. **It** is broadcast on television and 23

on **the** radio. People take the day off **work** to watch or listen 25

to it **and** to cheer on their favourite skaters. **Last** year I won a 27

**Keep going** ►

blue ribbon **for** my magnetic skateboarding. The Prime Minister 28

pinned **it** to my jacket. I was given **a** parade through the 30  
streets of Bern.

**Last** week, Earth scientists came to see **us**. A small team 32

of them hiked **into** the hills to study our trees. **A** storm 34

struck and they had to **build** an emergency shelter to sleep under. 35

**In** the morning, the rains had stopped, **but** the fog made it 37

difficult to **see**. The Earthlings were stranded. 38

Our leaders **put** together a search party to look **for** 40

them. Because I am the best **at** climbing trees, I was asked to 41

**help**. I climbed the tallest tree on **the** steepest hill and found 43

**Keep going** ►

them huddled **together** around a small campfire under a 44

**canopy** of gum trees. 45

Dr. Anthony, the head **scientist**, was thankful and asked 46

if I **would** accept a great honour: to be **the** robot pen pal of 48

Firth to **planet** Earth. I could start by writing **a** letter to you, 50

the son of Earth's **leader**. I said that I would be **happy** and 52

proud to do so. If **you** are ever on Firth, I'd like **to** show 54

you the parks and the **fountains**. I also hope we can go 55

**skateboarding** together. 56

So that's why I'm writing. Hello, **friend**! I hope you'll 57

write back soon.

**Keep going** ►

Yours truly,

Deet



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## Dandelion Salad

Luca's mother liked to pick wild plants. She knew which  
ones were safe **to** eat and which ones were not. **He** often 2  
walked along the street with **his** mother. He watched her as she 3  
**picked** out wild plants. She put the **plants** into a basket she 5  
carried over **her** arm. 6  
Sometimes, she used the plants **to** make into drinks to heal 7  
him **and** his brother when they were sick. **Sometimes**, she 9  
made jam to spread on **toast**. Sometimes, she mashed up flower 10  
petals **and** made paints for her artwork. The **paintings** were 12  
very colourful. He liked to **help** his mother mash up the flower 13

Keep going ►

**petals** using a mortar and pestle. He **liked** the way the 15  
colours got even **stronger** the more flowers he mixed. 16

The **shelves** of the kitchen pantry were packed **with** glass 18  
jars. Each jar was tightly **sealed** . There were many different 19  
colours of **things** inside the jars. He liked to **look** at all the 21  
colourful jars. A **label** was stuck to the lid of **each** of these 23  
jars. On each label **was** the name of what was inside **the** jar 25  
and the date it had **been** picked. 26

Luca's mother seemed to know **everything** about wild 27  
plants. When she did **not** know what a plant was, she **looked** 29  
it up in a book that **she** carried along with her in the **basket** . 31

**Keep going** ►

Today, she wanted to make a **salad**. She liked to make 32  
salads out **of** wild greens that she found on **her** walks. It was 34  
spring and dandelions **were** coming up everywhere. 35  
“Luca, can you **go** outside and pick me some dandelion 36  
**greens** ?” she asked. He was happy his **mother** trusted him. 38  
He knew how to **find** dandelions. It was easy. You just **had** to 40  
look for the bright yellow **flowers**. Dandelions grew in the 41  
backyard. He **picked** a bag full of the greens **and** brought it 43  
inside.

His mother told **him**, “That’s the wrong kind, honey. These 44  
**are** too big. That means they are **older**. And when dandelion 46

Keep going ►

greens get older, **they** are too bitter for salad. You **have** to **48**  
pick the young, small leaves.”

**He** felt disappointed for a moment. Then **his** mother **50**

touched his face and smiled **radiantly**. “But I have an idea,” she **51**

**said**. “These would be perfect to feed **to** your rabbit!” So, he **53**

fed the **older** greens to his rabbit. The rabbit **seemed** not to **55**

find them too bitter. Then he went out again and picked a bag of  
young, tender greens for the salad.





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## Brain Freeze

Have you ever eaten ice cream so fast that you got a headache?

If so, you have had a **brain** freeze! 1

This happened to me just **last** week when I was at the 2

**mall** with my friends, George and Judy. **We** all got waffle 4

cones. I started **eating** mine fast. Too fast, it turned **out**, 6

because I got a sudden and **painful** headache. 7

Judy told me that the **same** thing happened to her last 8

summer. **She** ate a dish of ice cream **so** fast that suddenly 10

she couldn't even **speak**. For a moment she couldn't even 11

**see**. 12

Keep going ►

George said he gets the same **blinding** headache when he 13  
drinks a chocolate **shake** too fast. George was the first **one** I 15  
ever heard call it “brain **freeze**.” When I first heard him say 16  
**it**, I laughed. But when it happened **to** me, it wasn’t so funny. 18  
Since **then** I’ve asked lots of people if **they** ever get 20  
“brain freeze.” Almost everybody **has** said yes. 21  
Brain freeze or ice cream **headaches** can result from eating 22  
any cold **food** or drink. Because of this, they **are** also called 24  
cold stimulus headaches. But what **causes** them? 25  
Brain freeze occurs because we **have** nerves inside our 26  
mouths. Nerves allow **us** to feel things such as heat, **cold**, or 28

Keep going ►

pain. When you drink or **eat** something that is very cold, your **29**

**nerves** feel a shock. Also, the roof **of** your mouth can swell **31**

up and **squeeze** the nerves tight. This can lead **to** a big **33**

headache.

There are few **cures** for brain freeze. Some suggest that **34**

**you** can warm up the affected areas **of** your mouth. You do **36**

this by **pressing** your tongue against the roof of **your** mouth. **38**

Some other people say that **you** should take another bite of ice **39**

**cream** to keep the area cold until **the** pain passes. Yet others **41**

suggest breathing **in** through your mouth and out your **nose**. **43**

This helps bring warmer air into **your** mouth. **44**

Keep going ►

Humans aren't the only animals **to** experience brain 45  
freeze. There is evidence **that** cats, dogs, monkeys, and even 46  
otters **can** experience brain freeze! However, it is unknown if 47  
animals respond to the cures the same way people do.





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## The West

Rosa was going out West with her mother by horse and cart.

Her father had already gone by **ship** two years earlier. They 1

were going **to** join up with him there and **become** farmers. 3

But Rosa hated to leave **her** friends in Connecticut. Also, she 4

was **a** little worried that the people in **the** West might not like 6

her. She **was** afraid they might not like her **duck**, Quirk, either. 8

She knew that some **of** the people who already lived in 9

**the** West felt that the new people **coming** out brought bad 11

habits along with **them**. For example, some of the new **people** 13

tossed banana peels from their carts **when** they were done eating. 14

Keep going ►

This made **the** horses slip and fall, often with **their** riders 16  
still on them.

Also, some **of** the new people spat out their **chewing** 18  
gum into the bushes at the **side** of the trail. Then the gum **stuck** 20  
to the paws of wild animals. **This** changed the animals' 21  
footprints and made **them** hard to track. 22

Making friends would **be** tricky. Rosa worried about 23  
this a **lot** . She also worried about whether Quirk **would** like 25

his new home. In Connecticut, **the** duck had a pen full of 26  
**grass** , a little house, and his own **small** pond. She didn't know 28  
what kind **of** space he would have in the West. **She** worried 30

**Keep going** ►

he would get lost in **the** evergreen forest. She worried she 31

would **wander** into the tunnels of a silver **mine** to look for him. 33

Rosa was **silent** for most of the trip because **she** was 35

so scared. But when they **finally** arrived in the West, she found 36

three **surprises** waiting for her. 37

First, her father **had** built a small house and a **pen** for her 39

duck, right next to **a** creek. Second, a little girl with **long** 41

plaits sat on the stoop. Her **name** was Annie. She wanted to be 42

Rosa's **friend**. Third, Annie winked and offered Rosa **a** 44

banana and a stick of gum.

Rosa **laughed**. She took the stick of gum, **put** it into her 46

**Keep going** ►

mouth, and happily **chewed** it. She held out her hand **and** said, 48

“Thanks, Annie. I like your **plaits**. I’m sure we’ll be great 49

friends **out** here in the West. You can **teach** me how to track 51

wild animals **through** the evergreen forest and how to **avoid** 53

old silver mines with lots of **dark** tunnels in them. And now I’d 54

like to introduce you to my duck, Quirk.”





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## The Dinner Party

Nancy went with her family to the neighbours' house for  
dinner. When they arrived, the neighbours served **iced** tea to 1  
the grown-ups and children. **There** were also pickles, olives, 2  
cheeses, and **crackers** laid out on the table. 3

The **father** of the neighbours' family said they **had** 5  
baked pasta for the main dish. **It** would come out of the oven 6  
**soon**. He asked, "Did you bring the **salad**?" 8

"Yes, we brought a beautiful salad," Nancy's **mum** said. 9

"But, oh no! We forgot **the** dressing!" They had left the salad 10

Keep going ►

**dressing** on the counter at home!

11

Nancy's **mum** sent Nancy back home to get

**the**

13

salad dressing. She crossed the street **outside** the neighbours'

14

house. On the other

**side**,

she opened the gate to the

**tiny**

16

playground that sat between two buildings

**there**.

She went

17

through the playground and

**opened**

the gate on the other side,

18

**which**

opened on an alley. In the

**alley**,

she made her way

20

toward the

**back**

steps of her own house.

21

Suddenly,

**there**

was a loud crash! A metal

**rubbish**

23

Keep going ►

bin a few metres away had **tipped** over on its side. There was 24

**a** sound of scrabbling and thumping from **inside** the bin, 26

and it rolled from **side** to side on the footpath. Then **an** 28

animal backed out of the bin **backside** first. For a moment, 29

Nancy thought **it** was a long-haired black cat. But **it** 31

didn't move like a cat. Could **it** be a raccoon? 32

No, it had **a** white stripe that ran along its **back**. And 34

now it was lifting its **tail**. It was a skunk! 35

Nancy tiptoed **quickly** away from the skunk, trying not 36

Keep going ►

**to** disturb the skunk more than it **already** was. She 38

crossed the alley and **moved** toward the steps to her house, 39

**but** she was still not very far **from** the skunk! She went up 41

the **steps** and let herself into the house **as** quickly as she 43

could. At last, **she** closed the door behind her. 44

She **grabbed** the jar of salad dressing off **the** kitchen 46

counter. When she left, she **used** the front door instead and ran 47

**the** long way around to the neighbours' **house**. 49

When Nancy came into the house **panting** and holding 50

Keep going ►

the jar, her mother **exclaimed**, “Wow, that was fast!” Then, 51

Nancy **entertained** everyone with the story of her **near** miss 53

with the skunk. They all agreed she had been very brave and  
clever.



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## The Record

It had been a long and rainy week. Jax and Sadie had been stuck **inside** their apartment with their dad the **whole** time. 2

They were incredibly bored. Sadie **and** Jax kept asking each other what **they** could do for fun. 3

The way **they** repeated the same words over and **over** sounded almost like a tune, so **their** dad strummed a few chords on **his** guitar and sang, “What can we **do** ? I’m so bored.” 4

Jax and Sadie **frowned** at him. It wasn’t funny. Boredom **is** a serious problem. 6

7

9

10

11

Keep going ►

Their dad suggested **that** the two of them make an 12

**album** together. 13

“It’s too hard,” Jax complained.

“**That’s** your solution to everything,” Sadie said. 14

Dad **said**, “What if you write one song **every** day for 16

a month? Then at **the** end, we’ll choose the best ones **and** 18

record them together.”

Jax asked what **they** would write songs about. 19

**Keep going** ►

Their dad **said** they could write about whatever they 20

**liked**. They could write about what was **going** on, whatever 22

they were thinking about **and** feeling. That way they'd have a 23

**record** of a special time in their **lives**. 25

“Oh, Dad!” Sadie said.

But they **decided** to try. Every day after lunch, **the** 27

kids got together with a pencil **and** a piece of paper. After 28

coming **up** with an idea, they worked out **lyrics** and a tune. 30

It was hard **work**. 31

**Keep going** ►

In the end, they wrote twenty-eight **songs** together. Then, 32

their dad helped them **choose** the best twelve. They recorded 33

them **together** on their dad's equipment. Their dad **played** 35

guitar, Sadie was on keyboard, Jax **played** bongos, and they all 36

three sang. **Their** dad did the editing. Jax and Sadie **drew** 38

the album art and wrote down **the** titles of the tracks. Their dad 39

**suggested** they call the record "Makin' the Most of It." 40

**The** songs were about all sorts of **different** things. One 42

was about seeing a **scary** dog out in the yard. Another **was** 44

about how much Jax and Sadie **hated** getting their hair washed. 45

Keep going ►

Another was **about** eating the best burrito in the **world**. That 47

one was Sadie's idea. Jax **came** up with a song about what 48

**would** happen if clouds were made of **ice** cream. There 50

were other songs about **having** nightmares, hating homework, 51

learning to do **a** cartwheel in the living room, and Dad's 52

**best** bedtime stories. 53

They listened to the **album** a few times and shut it 54

**off**. It began to rain. Jax lay **on** the sofa. Sadie looked 56

**Keep going** ►

out at **the** falling rain and said: “What can **we** do now? I’m **58**

so bored.”





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## The Essay

The day before school holidays, Mrs. Pearl gave Bobby's class an essay for homework. It was the first time that **she** had 1  
asked them to write an essay, **and** Bobby and his classmates 2  
were nervous.

“**I'll** make this fairly simple,” she said. “**Choose** 4  
any topic you like and write **a** two-page report on that 5  
subject.”

It **sounded** easy enough. Bobby didn't know what **he** 7  
would write about, but he wasn't **too** worried. Someone in the 8

**Keep going** ►

class asked **when** the essay was due.

9

Mrs. Pearl **said**, “I’d like to see your essay **on** my

11

desk the Monday we return.”

Bobby **quickly** counted that they had nine days, **which**

13

seemed like plenty of time. Of **course**, he wouldn’t be able to

14

start **right** away. Plans for this weekend had **been** made.

16

After school, he was going **straight** to his grandma’s

17

house. She lived **only** two blocks from the school. He’d **spend**

19

the weekend there, having fun, and **helping** with yard work. The

20

**Keep going** ►

essay would **have** to wait until he returned home **on** 22

Monday. That still left him a **full** week to write the essay, if 23

**only** he could come up with an **idea**. 25

When he arrived at his grandma's **house**, she welcomed 26

him with a hug **and** a snack. While he was eating, **she** looked 28

into his eyes and asked **what** was on his mind. He shrugged 29

**and** shifted in his chair. 30

She said, "**You** know I can always tell when **you're** 32

worried about something."

**Keep going** ►

He told her **about** the assignment, and she said it 33

**sounded** like a fun project. She asked **what** he wanted to 35

write about. He **made** a sour face. Then he admitted **he** had 37

absolutely no idea what to **write** about. 38

The next day, after breakfast, **his** grandma walked him 39

over to their **local** library. She said the library was **a** great 41

place to learn new things **and** get ideas. When they got there, 42

**she** asked the librarian to give Bobby **a** tour. 44

He had been to the **library** many times, but he always 45

**Keep going** ►

learned **new** things he hadn't known. He knew **there** are lots **47**

of comfy chairs where **a** person can sit and read and **not** be **49**

disturbed. He learned that there **are** large tables and small desks **50**

where **one** can study or write notes. He **also** learned that all **52**

the people who **work** there are very nice. They are **happy** to **54**

help you find whatever you're **looking** for, even when you **55**

aren't sure **what** you're looking for. In the end, Bobby wrote his **56**

essay about the library.



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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Atlas

Atlas is my Grandpa's dog. He looks enough like a wolf

**that** people always look twice when they **first** meet him. His 2  
fur is a **mix** of dark and light greys. He **is** two years old 4  
and weighs almost forty six **kilograms**. That's more than I 5  
weigh!

Atlas **is** a Husky, and Grandpa has trained **him** very 7  
well. Atlas has a loud **bark** that can be scary, but in **truth** he is 9  
gentle and friendly. He **is** sweetest with kids like me, but 10  
**he** likes everyone. 11

Keep going ►

He was born on **a** farm. The family that owns the **farm** 13  
breeds dogs. Every time a new **litter** is born, the family selects 14  
one **or** two puppies to keep for the **farm** and sell the rest. 16  
Atlas' parents **are** both Huskies, and their parents were Huskies, 17  
**too**. The same is true for all **of** his ancestors. That makes 19  
Atlas what's **known** as a full-blooded dog. 20  
Grandpa has **the** papers that prove Atlas is full-blooded. 21  
**One** of the papers even looks sort **of** like my own birth 23  
certificate. Grandpa **says** that many people make the mistake 24  
**of** thinking Atlas is a wolf. "It's **nice** to have proof he's not 26

**Keep going** ►

a **wolf** for any nervous people who come **to** visit,” he jokes. 28

Atlas is so **sweet**, I don’t see how anyone could **mistake** him 30

for a wolf.

Atlas may **be** a very smart dog, but once **he** did the 32

silliest thing. Grandpa let **him** off his leash to run loose **in** 34

the backyard, which is fenced in **on** all sides. It was a sunny 35

**day**, and glare hurts my grandpa’s eyes, **so** he went back 37

inside to get **his** sunglasses. 38

A minute later, when he **came** out, Atlas was nowhere in 39

**Keep going** ►

sight. Grandpa **whistled**. Atlas barked. Grandpa whistled 40

again, and Atlas **barked** again. Then Grandpa looked up. He 41

**couldn't** believe his eyes. There, balanced on **the** branch of 43

a tree, was Atlas. **On** another branch, several metres higher, was 44

**a** cat. Somehow Atlas had climbed halfway **up** a tree chasing 46

a cat. Now **he** was scared and stuck there. 47

Grandpa **pulled** an old board from beneath the **deck**. It 49

was a leftover piece of **timber** about three metres long. He 50

leaned **it** against the branch. The board was **only** about 20 52

centimetres wide, but Atlas **managed** to walk down it. Grandpa 53

**Keep going** ►

says he's pretty sure Atlas thinks twice before chasing cats now.

