



Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills 8th Edition

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 <u>bus</u> to go to school. 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. (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 <u>afternoon</u>, 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 <u>3 minutes</u>, 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
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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 inches. Pete **got** a dog. Millie's dad found a **new** 7
job and bought a new car. **They** both began writing to pen pals 8
in foreign countries. 9
Now seemed like a **good** time to dig up the time 10
capsule. They wanted to compare how they **were** at eleven 12

Keep going ►

to how they used **to** be when they were nine. Then **they** 14

would sit down together and write **letters** to their new foreign 15

friends, 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

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 closet. She and Pete each took **a** plastic shovel and 30
went out into Millie's **back** yard. Pete walked to the base **of** 32
the magnolia tree. Millie walked to **the** weeping willow about 33
thirty feet 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 location 37
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 willow. 41

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

Keep going ►

the magnolia. **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

yard.



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Practice Passage

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Grandpa's Snakes

When my grandpa was a kid, he lived in California. He lived
with his parents and **his** little sister. Back then the land **was** 2
not so settled. There were few **buildings** . But there were miles 3
of fields **and** orchards. You could see cows, horses, **and** 5
chickens. Grandpa and his sister used **to** go looking for small 6
lizards. But Grandpa's **favorite** thing to do was hunt snakes. 7
After school, he'd change into blue jeans, **grab** a peanut 9
butter and jelly sandwich **and** his snake gear, and head for **the** 11
hills. His snake gear was a **pillow** case, a forked stick, and a 12
pair of his mother's old gardening gloves. 13

Keep going ►

To catch a snake, first you've got **to** find it. Grandpa 15
was a good **finder** of snakes. He knew where they **liked** to 17
sleep during the hot days. **He** knew snakes 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, **snakes** could 22
best be found underneath rocks, **in** hollow trees, or at the roots 23
of thick bushes. 24

Once he'd found the **snake'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
with gloved hands **and** put it in the pillow case. **Most** of the 31

Keep going ►

time Grandpa caught garter **snakes** and striped racers. 32

Once, he caught **a** gopher snake. He carried it home 33

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

that the **cold** would not hurt it but would **just** send it into 37

hibernation. When it **was** asleep, he'd be able to study **it**. 39

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

The next time **his** mother opened the refrigerator door, 41

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

said, that she scared the **horses** in the field next door. The **snake** 45

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

she made a rule: if grandpa put a snake in the refrigerator, he had

Keep going ►

to tape a warning on the outside.



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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 favorite players. **Last** year I won a 27

Keep going ►

blue ribbon **for** my magnetic skateboarding. The President 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 39
for them. Because I am the best **at** climbing trees, I was 41
asked to **help**. I climbed the tallest tree on **the** steepest 43

Keep going ►

hill and found them huddled **together** around a small campfire 44

under a **canopy** of willows. 45

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

if I **would** accept a great honor: 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 colorful. 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
 colors 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
 colors of **things** inside the jars. He liked to **look** at all the 21
 colorful jars. A **label** was stuck to the lid of **each** of these jars. 23
 On each label **was** the name of what was inside **the** jar and the 25
 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,” 51

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

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

to 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 wagon train.

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 wagons **when** they were done 14

Keep going



eating. This made **the** horses slip and fall, often with **their** 16

riders 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 19

stuck 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** brook. Second, a little girl with **long** 40

braids 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 **braids**. 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 neighbors' house for
dinner. When they arrived, the neighbors 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 neighbors' 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 **mom** said. 9
"But, oh no! We forgot **the** dressing!" They had left the salad 10
dressing on the counter at home! 11

Keep going



Nancy's **mom** sent Nancy back home to get **the** 13
 salad dressing. She crossed the street **outside** the neighbors' 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 **garbage** 23
 can a few yards away had **tipped** over on its side. There was 24
a sound of scrabbling and thumping from **inside** the can, 26
 and it rolled from **side** to side on the pavement. Then **an** 28

Keep going ►

animal backed out of the can **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

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

Keep going ►

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 neighbors' **house** . 49
 When Nancy came into the house **panting** and holding 50
 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 3
other what **they** could do for fun. 4
The way **they** repeated the same words over and **over** 6
sounded almost like a tune, so **their** dad strummed a few chords 7
on **his** guitar and sang, “What can we **do** ? I’m so bored.” 9
Jax and Sadie **frowned** at him. It wasn’t funny. Boredom 10
is a serious problem. 11
Their dad suggested **that** the two of them make an 12

Keep going



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

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

Keep going



“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
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

Keep going ►

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

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

Keep going ►

off. It began to rain. Jax lay **on** the sofa. Sadie looked 56
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 spring break, Mrs. Pearl gave Bobby's class
an essay for homework. It was the first time that **she** had asked 1
them to write an essay, **and** Bobby and his classmates were 2
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
class asked **when** the essay was due. 9

Keep going ►

Mrs. Pearl **said**, “I’d like to see your papers **on** 11
 my 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
 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

Keep going ►

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."

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

Keep going ►

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
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

Keep going ►

essay about the library.



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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 one hundred **pounds**. 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

He was born on **a** farm. The family that owns the **farm** 13

Keep going ►

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
 a **wolf** for any nervous Nellies who come **to** visit," he jokes. 28
 Atlas is so **sweet**, I don't see how anyone could **mistake** him 30

Keep going ►

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
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 feet higher, was 44

Keep going ►

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 **lumber** about ten feet long. He leaned 50
it against the branch. The board was **only** about eight inches 52
wide, but Atlas **managed** to walk down it. Grandpa says he's 53
pretty sure Atlas thinks twice before chasing cats now.

