Reading Placement Inventory

Developed by—
DSI, Inc.
Richmond, VA
in conjunction with MetaMetrics, Inc.

Developed for—
K12
8000 Westpark Drive, Suite 500
McLean, VA 22102
www.k12.com

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The Reading Placement Inventory has been developed to assist parents/guardians in making educational placement decisions for their child when enrolling her or him in the K12 curriculum. This is a short assessment that measures a child’s ability to read and understand text. While this inventory is not an exact measure of your child’s level of reading comprehension, the results can be used to help guide you in making the decision as to which course/grade to enroll your child.

The Reading Placement Inventory, like any other test, is just one source of evidence about a reader’s level of comprehension. Decisions about reading placement are best made by using multiple sources of information. To decide on the right program, you should consider information from other tests your child has taken, reports from teachers, reading group placement, lists of books your child has read successfully, and, more importantly, your judgment.

Use the information on page 10 of this booklet when making a course/grade placement decision for your child.

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**Test Administration Directions**

1. Before administering the Reading Placement Inventory, please familiarize yourself with this manual and the test.

   Take a moment to read and answer the test questions.

   You should test your child when he or she is well rested and has adequate time to complete the test in a relaxed manner. The test should be administered in a well-lighted area that is comfortable for the child (e.g., dinning room or kitchen table). The location should also be free of distractions and interruptions.

2. Talk with your child about the Reading Placement Inventory.

   The purpose of this test is to learn more about your child’s reading skills. The test measures reading comprehension skills by asking the child to read an incomplete sentence and select the word that best completes the sentence. Your child will select the best word by circling the letter next to the word.

   This test is un-timed. You can plan on about 20 to 30 minutes to complete the test.
Test Administration Directions (continued)

3. Have your child complete the sample questions on page 4. You can read the sentences to the child to help him or her understand the directions.

Read to your child: Read each sentence and the four words beside it. Choose the word that best completes the sentence. Circle the letter next to your answer choice. Remember, only circle one correct answer for each question.

Read the first sentence below “Sample Question 1.” Choose the best word to fill in the blank. Circle the letter next to the word. [pause]

Now, read the sentence below “Sample Question 2.” Choose the best word to fill in the blank. Circle the letter next to the word.

Talk with your child about the correct answers and make sure that your child understands how to indicate his or her answer. The correct answer for Sample Question 1 is “A” and the correct answer for Sample Question 2 is “C.”

4. Now go to the actual test that begins on page 5.

Read to your child: Read each sentence and the four words beside it. Choose the word that best completes the sentence. Circle the letter next to your answer choice. Answer as many questions as you can. Remember, only circle one correct answer for each question.

Remember, you should let your child answer the questions on their own, without assistance. This test is designed to measure your child’s level of reading comprehension.

5. After your child has completed the Reading Placement Inventory, go to page 9 for information about scoring the test and using the results.
Sample Questions

Sample Question 1

We eat our _____.

A. food  
B. fool  
C. flood  
D. foot

Sample Question 2

They _____ the fish tank with water.

A. watch  
B. crack  
C. fill  
D. repair
Reading Placement Inventory
English A

1. As I lay there on my back, my hands under my head, I could hear the sea relentlessly _____ against the sand.
   A. windowsill
   B. china
   C. furniture
   D. pounding

2. In October, which is early spring in the Antarctic, penguins _____ the water and walk over sea ice to their breeding grounds.
   A. toxic
   B. table
   C. nest
   D. leave

3. My sister waded through the _____ while her friend read, but they both stopped to listen when two thrushes called to each other.
   A. forgotten
   B. perpetual
   C. brook
   D. deliberate

4. Monte has taken up rock-climbing with Bill Ramsey who squeezes in biology teaching when he isn’t climbing _____.
   A. temper
   B. mountains
   C. diner
   D. performer

5. The first thing she saw was this charming girl in the _____, in her black hat trimmed with gold daisies, and a long black velvet ribbon.
   A. improvised
   B. upstream
   C. mirror
   D. warmth

6. Emily Dickinson loved nature and took long walks with her dog, especially in the fall when the hills, as she said, “put on their _____ shawls.”
   A. defective
   B. surround
   C. comparison
   D. paisley
7. The Great Barrier Reef, which curves around the Australian shore for 150 miles, is the most extensive _____ ever developed by man or animal.

A. watchdog  B. structure  C. overdo  D. squid

8. Mr. Ota was a landscape gardener who had built up a very good _____ for being reliable and the possessor of an excellent green thumb.

A. reputation  B. exclamation  C. appointed  D. ceremony

9. When the stationmaster stepped out of the little brick station with its pointed chalet roof, a sudden gust of wind _____ the legs of his uniform.

A. perfumed  B. whipped  C. daisies  D. sensation

10. Before the ballet _____ began, Dora worried about what her state of mind should be, and whether panic would crowd out the well-practiced steps and her emotions as she danced.

A. exultant  B. competition  C. aspire  D. enhanced

11. Having been assured that I would indeed find life congenial, practical and entertaining _____ under the sea, I eventually took the plunge and moved down.

A. canister  B. postscript  C. regrets  D. living

12. Explorer 14, a tiny satellite _____ above the Earth, had picked up signals coming from an object in our galaxy billions of miles away.

A. pardon  B. sentence  C. orbiting  D. colorful

13. All snakes possess the trait of _____ their skins at more or less regular intervals by turning the skin inside out in the act of discarding it.

A. persecute  B. shedding  C. salted  D. leisure
14. Some people believe there is nothing one person can do against the world’s ills, yet many of the world’s great movements, thoughts and actions have flowed from the work of a _____ person.

A. overpower  
B. eventual  
C. recovery  
D. single

15. Geology, which is the study of the Earth’s composition, was given its name in 1830 by Sir Charles Lyell whose ______ and observations contributed greatly to the field.

A. vagabond  
B. surfacing  
C. solitary  
D. discoveries

16. Here I was minding my own business, being Mr. Polite, when Cannonball comes into the room and _____ out in a loud voice, “Have you seen my brother, the guy with the two heads?”

A. resemblance  
B. clichés  
C. blurts  
D. failure

17. For forty years the elderly Madame Vandor has kept a three-story boarding _____ in Paris, with a little garden guarded by the statue of Venus in the front yard and chickens and pigs in the back.

A. house  
B. entryway  
C. hallmark  
D. discard

18. The establishment of national parks and reserves within the natural habitats of gorillas must be large enough to _____ different troops of apes which need their own territory.

A. subway  
B. amnesia  
C. support  
D. ridicule

19. Greenland, the world’s largest island, has _____ from kayaks, dogsleds and igloos to diesel powered snow trains on skis and a city inside the icecap.

A. changed  
B. replenish  
C. compile  
D. scornful

20. Did you ever consider what other people in the world were eating when you helped yourself to baked chicken or fish, or an equally _____ juicy hamburger or a second slice of cheesecake?

A. collateral  
B. numerical  
C. tempting  
D. adversity
21. The water seeped through every crack of seemingly barren rock in tiny, fingerlike trickles, which turned into giant _____ as they overran riverbanks and flowed toward the sea.
   A. locate  B. arms  C. forgotten  D. delegate

22. Knights had rules of behavior called the code of chivalry that included treating a captive as an honored guest, even if he has been a bitter _____ , and never attacking another knight without warning.
   A. performance  B. enemy  C. temper  D. safeguard

23. _____ can improve the quality of food such as silicate added to salt or flour to prevent caking, or monoglycerides mixed with peanut butter to prevent the separation of oil and nuts.
   A. Overalls  B. Sentiments  C. Leftovers  D. Additives

24. Edison’s phonograph was a remarkably simple _____ of a metal needle attached to a thin vibrating sheet, which transformed sound waves into patterns on tinfoil wrapped around a grooved cylinder.
   A. invention  B. blemish  C. deteriorate  D. forefront

25. If properly managed, one acre of a crop of oysters, shrimp, mussels or fish raised by shallow-water farming can _____ at least ten times more protein a year than an acre of pastureland.
   A. implication  B. climate  C. produce  D. exquisite
Scoring the Reading Placement Inventory

Use the answer key below to score the test. Count the number of questions that your child answered correctly. Refer to the chart at the bottom of the page for suggested grade placement within the K12 curriculum.

Answer Key—English B, Form A

<table>
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<th>Question Number</th>
<th>Correct Answer</th>
<th>Question Number</th>
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Recommended Course/Grade Placement

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<th># of Correct Responses</th>
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<th>English B</th>
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<td>0 to 18</td>
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<td>19 to 25</td>
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Using the Results from the Reading Placement Inventory

To determine your child’s course/grade placement, consider all of the following:

- The course/grade my child would be in if he or she were to attend public school this year.

- The suggested course/grade placement for my child from the Reading Placement Inventory.

- How my child reads aloud from a book that he or she has read before.
  - Is he able to read the text and explain what is happening in the story?
  - Can she pronounce at least 80% of the words correctly without prompting?

- How my child reads aloud from a book that he or she has not read before.
  - Can she pronounce at least 50% of the words correctly without prompting?
  - Can he explain what is happening in the story?