



# **Nebraska State Accountability**

**Grade 6  
Reading  
Practice Test**

Name:

**Directions:**

On the following pages are passages and multiple-choice questions for Grade 6 Reading Practice Test, a practice opportunity for the *Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA)*.

Each question will ask you to select an answer from among four choices.

For all questions:

- Read each passage. Then answer each question carefully by choosing the best answer.
- Mark your answers for ALL of the questions.

Only one of the choices provided is the correct answer.

## A Myna Bird and a New TV

At eight o'clock on Saturday morning, Amy crept out of bed and dressed in her pedal pushers and saddle shoes. She ran down the stairs, grabbed a banana from the kitchen table, and slammed the back door as she left for Sally's house.

Amy and Sally had been best friends since Amy had moved to the suburbs. They had immediately become friends at Sally's backyard barbecue. They both loved to dance and listen to rock-and-roll music on their record players. Every Saturday, they convened at one or the other's home to sing and dance.

This morning was different, though. Sally's family was the first on the block to own a television set, and the girls planned to watch a show about myna birds. Amy was perplexed and aggravated about her pet myna bird, Eddie, and his inability to imitate language.

"The books I read said he should be talking by now because all I've done is repeat phrases over and over," complained Amy.

"Maybe this show will give us some clues or tricks to try with Eddie," suggested Sally.

"They recommend that your bird be content, so let's check his cage for toys. He also needs water because he loves to bathe. Make sure he gets out of his cage to exercise," read Sally from her notes.

"I've done it all, and Eddie is as silent as a snake," sulked Amy.

"Do you cover his cage so he gets enough rest at night?" Sally tried.

Amy nodded her head, and the girls thought for a moment about other things that might help them solve this mystery.

"Amy! Look what Dad bought for the family!" Amy's brother Neil came running into Sally's house. He pointed out the window to where their dad was unloading an enormous box from the back of the family station wagon.

"You're getting a television set, Amy—just like our family! Now we can watch it together at your house or at my house!" beamed Sally.

Amy, Neil, and Sally raced outside to assist Dad and excitedly talked about all the shows they couldn't wait to watch. Later, when the set was plugged in and ready to go, the entire family was glued to the screen while watching *I Love Lucy*. After that they watched a western and then a game show. Amy forgot all about Eddie.

- 13 The next morning at breakfast, the family was still buzzing about their new entertainment options. They made plans to sit down together and watch a comedy and a variety show later that night. Amy couldn't wait to see the singers and dancers so that she could imitate them with Sally. She quickly fed Eddie his breakfast and raced out the door to school with her ponytail dancing.

Dinner was a blur of plates, utensils, and food, eaten in just enough time so that everyone could meet in front of the television set at seven o'clock. No one wanted to be tardy for the beginning of the variety show. Halfway through the show, Amy got up and began whirling a hoop around her body just like the young woman on the variety show. Her family looked at her for a minute but quickly looked back at the show.

Amy heard a peculiar sound coming from another room. "Good evening, folks! How are you tonight?" She stopped and listened again. The voice came from the kitchen. Amy walked quietly toward the voice while her family sat like stones staring at the television.

Eddie was sitting on his perch, "Good evening, folks! I'd like to welcome our next guest, our next guest," said the shiny, black bird.

"Mom, Dad, and Neil, come here and listen to Eddie! He's imitating the man on television!" shouted Amy.

The whole family entered the kitchen and laughed at Eddie. Amy said, "Eddie, you're the greatest! I'm so thrilled you're talking! How would you like to join us?" She carried his cage into the next room with the rest of the family.

After all, the best show was on television. Even Eddie knew it.

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1. Which analogy is correct?
    - A. Sulked is to pouted as love is to hate.
    - B. Sulked is to pouted as lied is to fibbed.
    - C. Sulked is to pouted as tadpole is to frog.
    - D. Sulked is to pouted as coffee is to beverage.
  
  2. How does adding the suffix **-ment** to the word **entertain** change its part of speech?
    - A. It makes the word an adjective.
    - B. It makes the word an adverb.
    - C. It makes the word a noun.
    - D. It makes the word a verb.
  
  3. In paragraph 13, which literary device does the author use in the last sentence?
    - A. alliteration
    - B. metaphor
    - C. personification
    - D. simile
  
  4. How does Amy imitate the young woman on television?
    - A. performs a dance
    - B. whirls a hoop
    - C. sings a song
    - D. tells a joke

5. How is a television set important to the story?
- A. It provides the plot.
  - B. It provides the theme.
  - C. It provides the setting.
  - D. It provides the point of view.
6. What is the main conflict in the story?
- A. Eddie won't talk to Amy.
  - B. Eddie doesn't sleep at night.
  - C. Amy watches too much television.
  - D. Amy is jealous that Sally has a television.
7. Why did the author write the story?
- A. to inform the reader about myna birds
  - B. to persuade the reader to buy a myna bird
  - C. to entertain with a story about myna birds
  - D. to describe how to teach a myna bird to talk

## Dragonflies

Dragonflies have been around for millions of years, yet we don't know much about them. Scientists are asking questions and gathering information to build their knowledge of these captivating and stunning insects.

There are more than five thousand different species of dragonflies in the world. Dragonflies are found in tropical rainforests and in some backyards. A young dragonfly is brown or green. It has six thin legs and two large eyes. Its body is only a bit longer than it is wide. Adult dragonflies are commonly red, green, yellow, or blue. They have two gigantic eyes and long, thin bodies. Their two pairs of lace-like wings lay flat and outstretched from the sides of their bodies. The smallest dragonfly is the size of a thumbnail. The largest dragonfly would conceal your face.

Dragonflies are similar to mini helicopters. They cannot use their legs for walking. They must use their wings to move around. They fly quickly and can change directions instantly. They linger in one place and dash on to another. Dragonflies are difficult to catch due to their speed. They have been known to fly about thirty miles per hour.

Both young and mature dragonflies live near water. The young ones prefer freshwater, such as small streams and ponds that don't have fish. Older dragonflies leave their watery habitat to hunt in open areas.

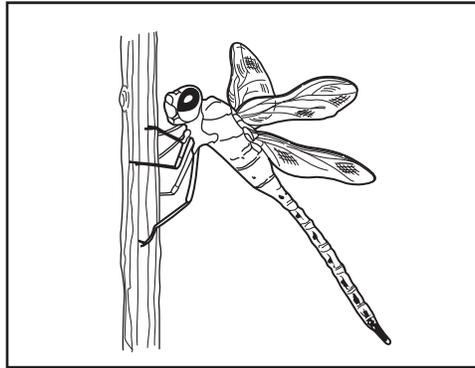
The life span of a dragonfly is brief. A dragonfly lives first underwater when it hatches from an egg. A young dragonfly is called a larva and lives in the water from several months up to a year. It feasts on other aquatic creatures and sheds its skin several times. It emerges from the water when it is big enough to be an adult and develop its beautiful wings. This is the time when it stops growing. Some adult dragonflies live for several weeks and others only for a few months.

Dragonflies are helpful to all of us because they feast on other insects, especially mosquitoes, flies, and aphids. Their two compound eyes are each made up of thirty thousand smaller eyes. These eyes make them skilled seekers of mosquitoes and other insects. However, there are many creatures that enjoy eating dragonflies. These colorful insects use their quick flying skills to stay safe from predators like frogs, fish, large spiders, and insect-eating birds.

Sunny, warm weather is what dragonflies need for flying. On cold, wet days they stay near plants to hide out and wait for the sunny skies to return. Dragonflies form territories near the edges of streams and fight other males to keep their spots.

- 8 Scientists have discovered that some dragonflies migrate to warmer climates when the seasons change. An experiment was done to **verify** whether these dragonflies actually migrate. Scientists attached tiny radio transmitters to many dragonflies. These transmitters weighed about one-third of a dragonfly's weight, yet these insects were still able to fly. Scientists flew planes to follow the path of the insects with transmitters. Some dragonflies flew several hundred miles to reach their warm habitats. Research has found that dragonflies can fly even farther and have been sighted on ships hundreds of miles out at sea. How can these tiny insects fly many miles per day? Evidence shows that they may have found an easy way to fly by gliding with the wind. Since adult dragonflies only live for a few months, a dragonfly that migrates in the winter won't return, but its offspring probably will.

The dragonfly is a small, but impressive, insect. It helps humans by controlling the populations of mosquitoes and flies. It is a beautiful and delicate creature.



8. Why are scientists studying dragonflies?
- A. Dragonflies wear transmitters.
  - B. Dragonflies are not well understood.
  - C. Dragonflies have a short life span.
  - D. Dragonflies have not existed for a long time.
9. The author states the dragonfly has “lace-like wings.” What does this mean?
- A. The wings have rainbow colors.
  - B. The wings have delicate patterns.
  - C. The wings allow them to hover.
  - D. The wings enable them to fly many miles.
10. Using the words from the passage, which is the correct analogy?
- A. Linger is to dash as quickly is to instantly.
  - B. Linger is to dash as move is to migrate.
  - C. Linger is to dash as insect is to dragonfly.
  - D. Linger is to dash as larva is to adult.

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11. Which accurately describes a dragonfly found in an open area away from water?
- A. young dragonfly
  - B. male dragonfly
  - C. older dragonfly
  - D. sick dragonfly
12. In paragraph 8, what is the meaning of the word **verify**?
- A. to follow or watch
  - B. to move or travel
  - C. to prove or confirm
  - D. to attach or connect
13. What is the main idea of paragraph 8?
- A. the life span of dragonflies
  - B. the migration of dragonflies
  - C. the evidence that dragonflies glide
  - D. the use of transmitters on dragonflies
14. Based on information found in the passage, the dragonfly in the picture is at which stage of life?
- A. larva
  - B. adult
  - C. egg
  - D. young

15. How does the reader know the passage is nonfiction text?
- A. The text explains radio transmitters.
  - B. The text describes real insects.
  - C. The text supports statements with factual information.
  - D. The text contains a picture of a dragonfly.

**Grade 6  
Reading Practice Test  
Answer Key**

<b>1</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>C</b>