



Nebraska State Accountability

**Grade 3
Reading
Practice Test**

Name:

Directions:

On the following pages are passages and multiple-choice questions for Grade 3 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.

The Family Picnic

My mom has four brothers and three sisters. It's a pretty large family. Each of them lives in a different city. They don't get to see each other very often. They keep in touch by phone and e-mail. I know that my mom really enjoys hearing from each of them. To make sure they actually get to see each other, they have a family picnic every two years.

Uncle Jeff and Aunt Rose hosted the last picnic in their town. This year was my mom's turn. It's a big job getting so many people together in one place. My dad, two sisters, and I told her that we would do all we could to help out.

We started planning about six months ago. The first thing we needed was a place for everyone to stay. Mom went to the inn. She booked twelve rooms for everyone. There are only fourteen rooms at the inn. Our family would almost fill the place!

We also needed somewhere to have the picnic. Dad went to city hall to reserve Miller Park on the picnic date. He thought that Miller Park would be the best place to have the picnic. It has lots of tables outdoors and a covered patio. It also has an indoor area where people could go if it rained. "We've got to be prepared for the worst," Dad said.

My parents decided to rent a ten-person van. This would help get people around on their visit. We made many trips to the airport with it once people started arriving. We also used it to bring people and food to the park for the picnic.

Family members started arriving on Thursday. After getting settled at the inn, they came to our house. Everyone was so excited to see each other. This was the start of some great family fun.

Everyone talked about the picnic all evening. People shared their favorite family recipes. I knew right then that there would be plenty of delicious food to enjoy. Jan, Ellen, and I had already planned the games and races for the picnic. We helped Mom get prizes for both the adult and children's games earlier in the week.

All day Friday was spent grocery shopping and preparing the food. If anyone had stopped by, they might have thought we were starting a restaurant. Our kitchen was as busy as a beehive. It was great to see everyone helping out to make the picnic a success.

By Saturday, everything was ready for the picnic. The food was terrific. It rained the whole time, but Dad's planning saved the day. We had to be indoors, but we still had a lot of fun. I hated to see it end.

On Sunday, everyone started heading home. Mom had tears in her eyes as she said goodbye to each family member. "I wish we didn't live far apart from each other," she told each of them. "I will miss you."

After everyone had left, I hugged my mom. I reminded her, "At least we've got a picnic to look forward to in two years."

She hugged me back. She replied, "You're right, Amy. I can always **count** on you to look at the bright side of things."

1. Which word is NOT a compound word?
 - A. somewhere
 - B. beehive
 - C. airport
 - D. picnic

2. Why does this family only have a picnic once every two years?
 - A. Mom's brothers and sisters do not live near each other.
 - B. It takes a lot of work to plan the picnic.
 - C. Mom's brothers and sisters are too busy to come.
 - D. It is too hard to find hotel rooms.

3. How long does it take the family to get ready for the picnic?
 - A. two years
 - B. six months
 - C. four days
 - D. one week

4. What does the family do first to prepare for the picnic?
 - A. find a place for everyone to stay
 - B. rent a ten-person van
 - C. prepare the food for the picnic
 - D. reserve the park area

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5. “Our kitchen was as busy as a beehive” is an example of what type of writing?
- A. rhyme
 - B. simile
 - C. alliteration
 - D. onomatopoeia
6. In the passage, Mom says, “I can always **count** on you to look at the bright side of things.” In which sentence is the word **count** used the same way?
- A. If the team needs a player, they can count on me.
 - B. I start to count the stars in the night sky.
 - C. If the project gets started, count me in.
 - D. I count myself lucky to have known him.
7. What makes the story realistic fiction?
- A. The story has a lesson to be learned.
 - B. The story has many facts supported by details.
 - C. The story has more than one character.
 - D. The story has events that could happen.

Where Do Animals Sleep?

When night falls, most of us sleep snugly in our beds. But where do animals sleep?

Many birds sleep in nests up in trees. A cactus **wren** makes its nest on a prickly cactus. Some baby penguins sleep in nests made of rocks. A baby swan often sleeps snuggled in the feathers on a parent's back. Some birds sleep sitting on branches. Their claws hold on tightly so they won't fall off. Bobwhites sleep in a big circle on the ground with other bobwhites. All of them face out. That way, they can watch for danger. A flamingo sleeps standing on one leg!

Other animals sleep in nests, too. Many chimpanzees build nests out of branches and vines in the trees. Some kinds of squirrels also sleep in trees, in nests made of leaves.

Young elephants sleep on the ground out in the open. First, an elephant **gathers** leaves and grass for a pillow. Then it lies down on its side, curls up its trunk, and puts the tip of the trunk inside its mouth. This keeps the insects out. When elephants get older, they sleep standing up.

Some animals sleep upside down. Sloths hold on by their toes and hang upside down from branches. Bats hang upside down inside caves, trees, or even barns or attics.

Some animals appear to sleep by staying very still. Butterflies sleep in the grass or on flowers with their wings pressed together to stay warm. Some bees sleep inside flowers or under leaves.

Fish sleep with their eyes open because they have no eyelids. Some rest on the lake or sea bottom, and some bury themselves in the sand or mud.

Dolphins sleep underwater or on the surface of the water, but they cannot sleep for long because they must come up for air. Sharks do not sleep at all. They rest by floating in one place until they are ready to move on.

Bears sleep all winter long. They fatten up during the summer and prepare places to sleep under fallen trees or in caves. When a bear goes to sleep for the winter, the sleep is called "hibernation." Other animals, such as rattlesnakes and frogs, also hibernate. Rattlesnakes sleep curled up with many other rattlesnakes in holes in rocks or in caves. Some frogs sleep buried in the mud at the bottom of ponds.

Fish and mammals, insects and birds—each creature on the planet has its own special place and special way to sleep. Sweet dreams!

How Much Sleep Do Animals Need?	
Animal	Number of hours animal sleeps (average)
brown bat	20
lion	14
cat	12
dog	11
horse	3
giraffe	2

8. What is a **wren**?
- A. a bat
 - B. a bird
 - C. a fly
 - D. a butterfly
9. Which two words make up the contraction **won't**?
- A. why not
 - B. will not
 - C. was not
 - D. what not
10. What is another word for **gathers**?
- A. grows
 - B. makes
 - C. builds
 - D. collects

11. “Young **elephants** sleep on the ground out in the open.” What part of speech is the word **elephants**?

- A. pronoun
- B. adjective
- C. verb
- D. noun

12. Read the steps about how an elephant goes to sleep.

1. curls up its trunk
2. lies down
3. puts the tip of the trunk inside its mouth
4. gathers leaves and grass

What is the correct order of the steps a young elephant goes through before it sleeps?

- A. 4, 1, 2, 3
- B. 3, 1, 2, 4
- C. 4, 2, 1, 3
- D. 2, 4, 3, 1

13. According to the chart, which animal sleeps 12 hours?

- A. horse
- B. cat
- C. giraffe
- D. dog

14. How does the title help the reader to understand the passage?

- A. It tells the reader who wrote the story.
- B. It gives the reader details about the story.
- C. It lets the reader know what the story is about.
- D. It lets the reader know how the story is organized.

15. What is the main idea of *Where Do Animals Sleep?*

- A. Some animals hibernate.
- B. Some animals sleep at night.
- C. Birds sleep in nests in trees.
- D. Animals sleep in different places.

**Grade 3
Reading Practice Test
Answer Key**

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