

**TNReady**  
**Sample Items**  
**English language arts**

## ELA Sample Items

### Sample Passage #1

Grades 3-5

#### Online Learning

- 1 Learning new things is an exciting part of life. Learning can happen anywhere. There are kids who learn at a school, kids who learn at home and some kids who learn online. Students who learn this way use their computers and the Internet to connect to online classrooms. They use a camera connected to their home computer to let the teacher and other students see them. They can see their teacher and classmates on their screens because their classmates and teacher use a camera, too.
- 2 Before the Internet, children in remote places sometimes had classes over the radio or used the mail to get lessons and return them. For example, in the past, children who lived in distant parts of Australia were taught using the radio. Every day at a certain time, they tuned in to a special radio station. All the children could hear their teacher at the same time, but they were hundreds of miles apart. They got their lessons in the mail, did their homework, and mailed it back to the teacher.
- 3 Today, students who live far away from their teacher have classes on the Internet. In some online classrooms, a classroom full of kids can use a special computer program at the same time as the teacher. The students can live in one country, and the teacher can be located in a different country. Still, it's just like a classroom at your school. The teacher can teach the kids. The kids can ask questions. Everyone can see and hear everything that's being said as it happens.
- 4 It is also possible for students to live in different places and be a part of an online class together. Each person goes to a website for the class they are taking. Thousands of people can watch and listen to this class at the same time. When they want to speak, they can use a microphone to ask and answer questions. When the lesson is completed and all good-byes have been said, the students and teacher in the online class log out. The connection over the Internet is broken, and the online classroom disappears.
- 5 Online classes can be held whenever is best for the teacher and students. Sometimes, they don't have to have a class where everyone is together all at once. There are classes where all the materials are posted on the website and students can use them whenever they need to. They can write questions and turn in their assignments. They can check back later to see if the teacher has left answers or comments on their work. No one ever actually "meets" anyone face-to-face, even if it's just with a web-camera. Many college classes are taught this way.
- 6 Internet classes can fit thousands of people, or just one person. It is a powerful way to let students everywhere learn. A student in Alaska and a student in China can go to the same class. That class can be taught by a teacher in Russia. You don't need a building, desks, lights or enough chairs to fit everyone. Students who live far apart, students who can't leave home, students who want to take a class they can't take nearby—all they need is a computer and an Internet connection and they're good to go!

**Sample Item: Short Extended Response**

Grade 3-5 Reading Language and Listening Training Test #3

What is the main idea of paragraph 4?

Type your answer in the space provided.

**Sample Item: Evidence-based Selected Response**

Grade 3-5 Reading Language and Listening Training Test #9

***Part A***

How does the author support the idea that students who live far from each other can learn together?

- A) She tells about why students should learn online.
- B) She shares details about the way students learn online.
- C) She gives examples of how online learning helps students.
- D) She explains that the online classroom is only for a short time.

***Part B***

Select two sentences that support the answer in part A.

- 4            It is also possible for students to live in different places and be a part of an online class together. Each person goes to a website for the class they are taking. Thousands of people can watch and listen to this class at the same time. When they want to speak, they can use a microphone to ask and answer questions. When the lesson is completed and all good-byes have been said, the students and teacher in the online class log out. The connection over the Internet is broken, and the online classroom disappears.

**Sample Item: Hot Text**

Grade 3-5 Reading Language and Listening Training Test #4

Select two sentences that show how online classrooms and regular classrooms are alike.

- 3            Today, students who live far away from their teacher have classes on the Internet. In some online classrooms, a classroom full of kids can use a special computer program at the same time as the teacher. The students can live in one country, and the teacher can be located in a different country. Still, it's just like a classroom at your school. The teacher can teach the kids. The kids can ask questions. Everyone can see and hear everything that's being said as it happens.

**Sample Item: Hot Text**

Grade 3-5 Reading Language and Listening Training Test #8

Select a sentence that shows that students can ask their teacher for help or more information.

- 5            Online classes can be held whenever is best for the teacher and students. Sometimes, they don't have to have a class where everyone is together all at once. There are classes where all the materials are posted on the website and students can use them whenever they need to. They can write questions and turn in their assignments. They can check back later to see if the teacher has left answers or comments on their work. No one ever actually "meets" anyone face-to-face, even if it's just with a web-camera. Many college classes are taught this way.

## Sample Passage #3 (Set)

Grade 3-5

### Animal Senses

#### Passage 1: The Alligator's Super Sense

by Ana María Rodríguez

*Dr. Daphne Soares is a scientist who studies alligators. In this passage, she and her team are moving an alligator to a new home.*

1 The gator had moved into an area where a lot of people live. Dr. Soares and her co-workers had caught the gator and were taking it away. She noticed many small black bumps on the animal's face, especially along the jaws. "What are those little spots for?" she wondered.

#### The Alligator Hunts

2 The alligator is a master hunter. It lies just under the water with its eyes, nose, and mouth at the surface. When a bird, mammal, or fish passes by, the reptile turns and snaps its huge jaws. It has taken another meal.

3 Dr. Soares thought the black bumps might help the alligator sense its prey . . . but how?

4 To find out, she collected alligator eggs and took them to Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts. After the eggs hatched, she set up experiments to find out what type of sensors the black bumps were.

5 Humans and other animals have many kinds of sensors, such as the ones in the tongue for tasting, in the eye for seeing, and in the skin for feeling. When a sensor is activated, nerves carry electrical signals from the sensor to the brain. Dr. Soares wanted to watch the electrical activity of the sensors' nerves to see what triggered a signal.

6 She prepared the baby alligators one by one. First, she gave an alligator a drug to make it sleep. Second, she connected tiny **electrodes** to the sensor nerves. Third, she connected the electrodes to a computer that would show any nerve activity. Then she placed the sleeping gator into a water tank.

#### No Response!

7 Dr. Soares shone a light on the little black bumps. The computer showed no nerve activity. Next, she exposed the bumps to small electrical currents and then to smelly odors. None of these things activated the nerves.

8 Dr. Soares found the answer by chance. She accidentally created ripples in the water. At this moment, the computer buzzed, showing signals from the nerves. The sensors had detected the ripples!

9 At first, Dr. Soares didn't believe what she had discovered. But after many experiments, she was convinced that the bumps were pressure sensors that detected small changes in pressure as ripples hit them.

10 The modern alligator's little black bumps were once a mystery. Now we know that they tell the alligator and its relatives just where and when to chomp.

#### Glossary

electrodes: metal rods used to make electrical contact with a nonmetal object

## Passage 2: The Six-Foot-Long Nose

by Susan Zikoyanis

- 11 Like other mammals, elephants think, perform jobs, and call out alerts to others in their group. Unlike other mammals, however, elephants use their nose—their trunk—to perform these tasks. More than a nose, an elephant’s trunk is like a “fifth limb.” It is essential to an elephant’s survival.
- 12 This huge **appendage** has no bones. Instead, it contains muscles. The muscles allow the elephant to operate its trunk with great flexibility. The trunk is strong enough to lift a fallen tree yet gentle enough to stroke a baby elephant.
- 13 Tiny hairs cover the trunk, which make it very **sensitive**. This sensitivity helps the elephant tell the difference between foods and determine the quality of water.
- 14 Elephants also use their trunk to tell the temperature. The trunk helps them figure out the sharpness of surfaces, too. Elephants also can use their trunks as a **snorkel** when swimming in water.
- 15 At the tip of the trunk are two nostrils for breathing and smelling. An elephant tests different smells with its trunk by placing the tip inside its mouth after touching an object. But elephants also use them for drinking. An elephant can inhale up to two gallons of water in one breath. Does he need a shower? No problem, just a few squirts and an elephant is cleaned and cooled.
- 16 African elephants have two flexible “fingers” around the rim of the nostrils. These fingers are strong enough to strip leaves and tear bark from a tree. The fingers have enough **dexterity** to manipulate a twig to scratch the elephant’s own back.
- 17 Elephants also “talk” with their trunk. The sounds they make with their trunk can travel for miles. Even body gestures send messages. A raised trunk tells predators to stay away, for example.
- 18 The elephant’s survival depends on this unique fifth limb. Thankfully, the trunk is an efficient tool that allows elephants to maintain, protect, and defend themselves.

### Glossary

appendage: body part

sensitive: able to feel small changes or differences in things

snorkel: a tube used for breathing when swimming

dexterity: the ability to move easily

**Sample Item: Long Extended Response**

Writing Training Test Grades 3-5 #1

Write a 1–3 paragraph explanation of how animals use their bodies to sense the world around them. Your explanation must be based on ideas and information that can be found in the “Animal Senses” passage set.

Manage your time carefully so you can

- plan
- write
- revise
- edit

Type your answer in the space provided.



A rich text editor toolbar with the following icons from left to right: Bold (B), Italic (I), Underline (U), Strikethrough (I<sub>x</sub>), Bulleted List, Numbered List, Link, Unlink, Copy, Paste, Undo, Redo, Spell Check (ABC), and Insert Link (Ω).

### **Sample Item: Language Items with Choices in Text**

#### Grade 3-5 Reading Language and Listening Training Test #11-13

There are five highlights in the passage to show which word or phrase may be incorrect. For each highlight, click the word or phrase that is correct.

Koalas are animals that live in Australia. They **looked** a little bit like small bears, **but** they are not bears. They are brown or gray, with round, fluffy ears, and they have no tails. You have probably seen pictures of koalas. They are very popular because they are so cute.

Koalas are herbivores, which means they eat plants. They live in trees and love to climb. Koalas are **knowne** to sleep up to 20 **ours** a day.

Many people around the world visit zoos to see koalas. They can live 13 to 18 years in the wild, but the **older** zoo koala on record lived to be 23 years old.