

Hampton-Brown

edgeTM Reading,
Writing, &
Language

Placement Test

Powered by The Lexile Framework[®] for Reading



Fundamentals through Level C





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Placement Test

Placement

DIRECTIONS The test administrator will go over the sample item with you.

Sample

It is _____ at night.

- Ⓐ red
- Ⓑ big
- Ⓒ dark
- Ⓓ high

DIRECTIONS Answer questions 1–40. Mark your answers.

1 I read a good _____.

- Ⓐ horse
- Ⓑ water
- Ⓒ book
- Ⓓ yard

2 You will _____ lunch.

- Ⓐ help
- Ⓑ eat
- Ⓒ run
- Ⓓ sing

Placement, *continued*

Some days, clouds gather in the sky. The air feels wet. Winds begin to blow. Lightning might even be seen. Thunder might be heard. Water falls from the clouds.

3 Clouds can bring _____.

- Ⓐ birds
- Ⓑ dirt
- Ⓒ rain
- Ⓓ friends

A duck swims on the water. Sometimes it needs to go somewhere. It lifts its wings and flaps them. The duck goes faster. It lifts out of the water. It rises into the air.

4 The duck can _____.

- Ⓐ hide
- Ⓑ fly
- Ⓒ talk
- Ⓓ sleep

Placement, *continued*

Grandma needs to buy food. She will go to the store. So she finds a piece of paper. She gets a pencil out of her desk. She is out of sugar and needs more. She writes that down. She also needs more milk and some bread. She writes those things down, too.

5 Grandma is making a _____.

- (A) list
- (B) sound
- (C) meal
- (D) hat

Frances thought she saw something run across the floor. She got out of bed to look. She saw a mouse! It had giant front teeth. The mouse and Frances stared at each other for a long time. Suddenly, the mouse sprang forward and ran into a hole in the wall! Frances screamed.

6 The mouse tried to _____.

- (A) sleep
- (B) swim
- (C) hide
- (D) hunt

Karla walked out onto her porch. It was a calm, dark night. She gazed up at the sky above her. She couldn't see any clouds at all. Tiny dots of light filled the sky. Karla knew the bright spots were much bigger than they seemed. They were just very far away.

7 Karla looked at the _____.

- (A) storms
- (B) books
- (C) dancers
- (D) stars

Placement, *continued*

Joe looked around the corner. He didn't see any of the other kids. The hall was dark and all the classroom doors were closed. He leaned against the wall, sighed deeply, and shrugged. He wished that school didn't have to end for the summer. Joe began walking down the hall.

- 8** Joe was ____.
- (A) hungry
 - (B) sad
 - (C) playful
 - (D) busy

Tina likes to play. Her favorite game is to pretend she is an animal. She likes to walk on her hands and knees. She also likes to rub against her mom's legs. Tina's mom likes to play with Tina. She scratches behind Tina's ears. Tina purrs loudly.

- 9** Tina pretends she is a ____.
- (A) cat
 - (B) tree
 - (C) baby
 - (D) farmer

Ben was a boy who loved to sing. When his friends came over to play he would sing as loud as he could. His friends would always laugh and clap. Ben would bow and grin. Every night, Ben would dream about singing on a stage. He wanted to sing for the whole world.

- 10** Ben was ____ of his singing.
- (A) careful
 - (B) afraid
 - (C) unsure
 - (D) proud

Placement, *continued*

Lillian liked her project. She had spent hours reading about China. She had gone to the Asian market and bought chopsticks. She had cut beautiful pictures out of magazines. Her information was ready to be presented. But her stomach ached, and she wished her mother had let her stay home. As Mr. Murphy called her name, she took a deep breath. She walked to the front of the class. It was now time to face her fear of speaking in front of people.

11 Lillian needed to be _____.

- (A) careful
- (B) brave
- (C) quiet
- (D) different

A mimosa is a shrub. It is native to tropical America. It has fern-like leaflets. When threatened, the leaves of the mimosa close up on themselves. The greater the threat seems, the faster they will close. A light touch might spark a slow response. A hard flick might make an entire plant's leaves close quickly. An electrical signal moves down the stem. The distance along the plant that the response spreads also depends upon the stimulus. At the base of each leaflet, the signal tells the leaflet to close. It works the same way nerve cells work.

12 The mimosa _____.

- (A) ripens
- (B) fades
- (C) explodes
- (D) reacts

There are different types of ants. One type is called the leafcutter ant. Leafcutter ants are farmers. They cut pieces off leaves. They carry the pieces down to their nest. There, workers chew up and spit out the leaves. Then an ant will take fungal growth from an old garden and plant it on the new leaf bits. This way, they grow more fungus, which feeds the ants. Between three and eight million ants live in each colony. Each ant has a job to do, such as cutting leaves, preparing leaves, or planting the gardens.

13 The ants have a _____.

- (A) release
- (B) system
- (C) mixture
- (D) language

Placement, *continued*

Alpacas are llama-like animals with long, woolly hair. They have been domesticated for thousands of years and are kept mostly for their hair. When most people think of alpacas, they probably think of a spitting alpaca. But in truth, most alpacas rarely spit. Some go their entire lives without spitting. They only spit when threatened and generally only do so at other alpacas, not humans. Sometimes humans happen to get in the way. Alpaca spit is known for its extremely foul odor. The smell is caused by stomach acid. Their spit is comprised of mostly stomach acid, not saliva.

14 Alpaca spit is used for ____.

- (A) defense
- (B) nutrition
- (C) appearance
- (D) entertainment

The Australian Cattle Dog is a herding dog. This fearless breed was developed just for herding cattle. They nip the heels of cows to get them to move, which is where they get their nickname “Heelers.” Heelers are known for their energy and intelligence. Many Heelers are used by farmers and ranchers to control cattle. The dogs seem to thrive when they have jobs and are busy. Those that are kept as pets do best when they are given plenty of attention and exercise.

15 Heelers like to be ____.

- (A) alone
- (B) obeyed
- (C) active
- (D) creative

Did you know that the letter “E” is the most commonly used letter in the English language? Ernest Vincent Wright wrote a novel without using the letter “E.” To prevent himself from using the letter, he tied down the “E” type-bar on his typewriter. *Gadsby*, Wright’s novel, is over 50,000 words long. In its writing he had to avoid words such as “he,” “she,” and past tense verbs ending in “-ed.” People said it was impossible to write this way. However, Ernest Vincent Wright proved them wrong.

16 Wright’s novel was an ____ task.

- (A) emotional
- (B) unnoticed
- (C) intrusive
- (D) ambitious

Placement, *continued*

Most documents created during the Middle Ages were not written on paper. Instead they were written on vellum. Vellum is a kind of parchment created from calfskin. Other animal hides were also used as paper. But calfskin was preferred because it is thin, smooth, and resilient. Vellum is far more long-lasting than paper. Even when paper became cheaper and more widely available in the late Middle Ages, many important documents were still written on vellum. Many medieval documents are still in excellent condition today because they were produced on vellum.

17 Vellum is _____.

- (A) durable
- (B) fragrant
- (C) stylish
- (D) lengthy

The story of “The Star-Spangled Banner” is well-known. During the War of 1812, British ships were bombarding Fort McHenry near Baltimore. A man named Francis Scott Key was inspired by the flag that waved over the fort the morning after they were attacked. Reportedly, the flag was of legendary dimensions. At 30 by 42 feet, the flag’s original size would have covered a quarter of a modern basketball court. It was 90 feet above the ground and could be seen from miles away. Francis Scott Key was, in fact, eight miles downriver when the flag inspired him to write the poem that would become our national anthem.

18 The flag had great _____.

- (A) handiwork
- (B) illustrators
- (C) visibility
- (D) competition

The rain pounded the windows, and Fredrick couldn’t shake the gloom that descended on him as they drove past the baseball field. He was supposed to have a baseball game, and the coach was going to put Fredrick in as the pitcher, but it was cancelled because of rain. Instead, Fredrick pulled out his baseball cards, hoping the familiar faces of the famous players would cheer him. First, Fredrick sorted the cards by team, then by the year the card was printed. He examined each one before carefully putting it back into its plastic cover and filing it away. When he finished, the rain had stopped, and he realized that he felt better.

19 Fredrick _____ organized his cards.

- (A) methodically
- (B) alphabetically
- (C) relentlessly
- (D) incorrectly

Placement, *continued*

Paul rolled along the sidewalk, crossing the cracks rhythmically until he reached the ramp, where he let his momentum carry him halfway up. He pushed against the wheels as he approached the corner, slowly. This doorway was his least favorite in the entire school. It was difficult to turn the 90-degree corner and then open the door into the same three feet of space that he and his wheelchair occupied. But after three years, he'd found that if he didn't turn the corner completely, he could grab the door and open it without hitting his chair and without having to back up.

- 20** Paul was ____.
- Ⓐ compulsive
 - Ⓑ antisocial
 - Ⓒ persistent
 - Ⓓ lighthearted

Placement, *continued*

DIRECTIONS Read the following passage about Paule Marshall and complete the statements.

Paule Marshall is an American author. She was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1929. Her parents were from Barbados. Barbados is a Caribbean island near South America. Marshall knew that she wanted to be a writer at a young age. She went to Brooklyn College. She wanted to learn more so she went to Hunter College next. She loved learning, and she loved writing. She enjoyed _____²¹.

At first Marshall wrote poems. Her poems were about growing up in Brooklyn. She wrote about having immigrant parents. Writing about America was another favorite subject. She wrote about her _____²². Later on, she started writing stories. She wrote short stories and long stories. The long stories became novels. She started selling her novels. People liked reading them. They liked how she described things. Her books made people laugh, cry, and think. Marshall kept writing. Her writing became more _____²³.

Marshall still lives in New York City. She is still writing. Writing is not all she does though. She likes to travel to new places and to meet new people. She also likes teaching. Marshall has taught at many colleges. She has taught all around the country. She loves to _____²⁴ places. Teaching people how to become better writers and readers inspires her. Marshall encourages people to write about their own lives. She helps people learn how to read an author's words carefully. The power of the written word is important to her.

Paule Marshall has written many books of stories and poems over the years. She has also won prizes and awards. People around the world read her stories and think about them. She is a respected author. She is a(n) _____²⁵ writer.

- 21 (A) parks
(B) school
(C) friendship
(D) meetings

- 22 (A) sadness
(B) music
(C) lists
(D) life

- 23 (A) forgotten
(B) missed
(C) known
(D) removed

- 24 (A) visit
(B) clean
(C) paint
(D) watch

- 25 (A) young
(B) great
(C) quick
(D) unusual

Placement, *continued*

DIRECTIONS Read the following passage about Naomi’s experience and complete the statements.

One of Naomi’s favorite things was going to the dim sum restaurant with her dad on Sunday mornings. They had been doing it since she was little. At first she was too young to fully appreciate the flavors of the tiny Chinese foods. But as she grew older, she came to love the variety of little foods she was able to choose at the restaurant. She also enjoyed the special time with her dad. She was _____²⁶ to it.

Naomi’s dad had explained to her that one translation of “dim sum” meant “touch the heart.” Naomi didn’t understand why a food would be called “touch the heart.” Her dad explained that dim sum was a way to have many things that your heart desired by having such little things. From so many choices, they could select whichever little thing their hearts desired. They had _____²⁷ options.

None of Naomi’s ninth-grade friends knew what it was like to eat dim sum every Sunday morning for years. She tried to explain it. Her friends just shook their heads and said they had pancakes on Sunday morning. They had different _____²⁸. It wasn’t just the food that she loved. It was that Naomi got to be with her dad. She talked about school, her friends, and anything that was on her mind. Naomi had come to equate dim sum with a time she could be alone with her dad to enjoy little foods that touched the heart.

- 26 (A) accustomed
(B) dedicated
(C) tied
(D) resigned

- 27 (A) contrary
(B) important
(C) dismal
(D) numerous

- 28 (A) assignments
(B) routines
(C) instincts
(D) complaints

Placement, *continued*

DIRECTIONS Read the following passage about radar and complete the statements.

Radar is a system that measures the position and movement of objects from a distance. Radar systems use radio waves. Something as solid as an airplane or automobile or something as insubstantial as a cloud can be observed using radar. _____²⁹ substances can be measured.

The radar system is composed of a transmitter and receiver. The transmitter sends out pulses of radio waves. These pulses bounce back when they hit an object. The receiver measures these reflected pulses. These reflections show the position and motion of the object. Usually the transmitter rotates or scans back and forth to find all objects in a certain area. By using radio waves instead of visible light, objects can be detected at great distances. A radar device can be small enough to be held by hand, or it can be a giant radar antenna used to track objects in space.

Many different people use radar. Police use it to find speeding drivers. Airports use it to control where planes fly. Most commercial airplanes have their own radar on board that warns of possible collisions with nearby aircraft. Radar can be used to track storms. Astronomers use it to study objects in the solar system. Different _____³⁰ use radar.

Radar originally stood for “Radio Detection and Ranging.” No one person invented radar. During the early 20th century, different scientists contributed to its development. It was originally designed to detect airplanes and ships for military purposes. Radar was first used for practical purposes in World War II. Both sides raced to improve their radar capabilities. After the war, radar was used for other purposes. In 1946, radar beams were bounced off of the moon. Many people _____³¹ radar technologies.

Stealth technology attempts to make objects invisible to radar. The United States has developed stealth fighter and bomber planes. They use special coatings and shapes to make it harder for radio waves to bounce off of them. They are trying to _____³² the reflection of radar waves.

- 29 (A) Several
(B) Limited
(C) Unfamiliar
(D) Normal

- 30 (A) campaigns
(B) countries
(C) broadcasts
(D) professions

- 31 (A) challenged
(B) advanced
(C) avoided
(D) exposed

- 32 (A) organize
(B) record
(C) prevent
(D) increase

Placement, *continued*

DIRECTIONS Read the following passage about graphic designers and complete the statements.

Have you ever been in the store and noticed that the appearance of a package had changed? Maybe the label on the green beans was different from the last time you saw it. If you pay attention to details like these, you might just be on your way to becoming a graphic designer. Graphic designers are artists who are responsible for creating the look and identity for a product, idea, or marketing program. That might mean a food package, a catalog, a Web site, a magazine, or even a CD cover. Almost every product you see looks the way it does because of a graphic designer.

This profession has changed very much over the past twenty years. Designers used to “paste up” their ideas to show them to clients. Now designers can use a computer to create layouts, show images, and print color proofs for clients to review. Computers have _____³³ changed graphic design. There are many computer programs that help designers with page layout, photo retouching, and illustration. Instead of using paper and pencil, most designers use a mouse or stylus to draw directly on the computer screen. Designers use _____³⁴ technology.

Graphic designers work in many types of environments. Newspapers and magazines need designers to arrange articles and create advertisements. Corporations hire graphic designers to produce documents and sales tools for clients and products. Many designers are able to freelance and work with many clients directly from their home offices. Graphic designers are often part of a creative team. This team can include marketing professionals, copywriters, media buyers, and photographers. They also work closely with printers and Web developers. Graphic designers have _____³⁵ professional experiences.

The field of graphic design is constantly changing as technology changes. There is a bright future for students who choose to study design. College courses often include typography, photography, layout, and design. Art school can be a great place to learn how to express creative ideas. Design work is _____³⁶ by education.

- 33 (A) significantly
(B) effortlessly
(C) temporarily
(D) reportedly

- 34 (A) questionable
(B) digital
(C) disabled
(D) undeveloped

- 35 (A) unjust
(B) competitive
(C) fleeting
(D) varied

- 36 (A) obstructed
(B) renounced
(C) enriched
(D) acknowledged

Placement, *continued*

DIRECTIONS Read the following passage about the Dust Bowl and complete the statements.

In the 1930s, the prairies of the United States and Canada experienced a great ecological disaster known as the Dust Bowl. During a decade-long period, a series of huge dust storms swept over the land. Winds blowing across the prairies picked up dry topsoil from drought-stricken farmlands and carried it eastward in great black clouds. At times the dust was so thick it blocked out the sun and turned day into night. Dust from prairie farms blew eastward as far as Chicago, where the dirt from the prairies fell like snow. The wind _____³⁷ the soil.

The dust storms forced farmers to become migrants. With the rich topsoil gone, they could no longer raise crops. Unable to make a living on their land, farmers across Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Arkansas, and the rest of the Great Plains lost their farms, homes, and way of life. Many of the displaced farmers moved to California, hoping to find jobs there.

The Dust Bowl taught farmers important lessons about agricultural practices that are still followed today. In the years leading up to the Dust Bowl, farmers had begun cultivating land that wasn't really suitable for agriculture. Plowing vast expanses of grass-covered prairie, farmers upset the natural ecological balance and exposed the land to the forces of erosion. Their farming methods were _____³⁸.

Under conditions of normal rainfall, the farmers were successful. But after several years of drought, it became clear that they were facing a problem they couldn't fix. With no cover left, the bare prairie topsoil turned to dust and rose high into the sky when the winds came. Once the nutrient-rich topsoil was gone, the land could no longer support agriculture. The land was _____³⁹.

Although the Dust Bowl years were very hard on thousands of farmers, the experience did result in some positive effects. Today farmers have a much better understanding of the importance of using agricultural practices that are suited to the environment. Farmers have gained _____⁴⁰ information.

- 37 (A) dislodged
(B) integrated
(C) nourished
(D) corrupted

- 38 (A) revolutionary
(B) destructive
(C) precise
(D) intricate

- 39 (A) prosperous
(B) protected
(C) viable
(D) valueless

- 40 (A) traditional
(B) communicative
(C) advantageous
(D) misleading




Phonics and Decoding Test (Optional)

Phonics and Decoding

DIRECTIONS Say the name of the picture. Look at the dark letters. Which letter spells the first sound? Mark your answer.

Sample



g **p** **m** **v**
(A) (B) (C) (D)

1



w **o** **h** **k**
(A) (B) (C) (D)

2



u **v** **qu** **y**
(A) (B) (C) (D)

3



j **i** **r** **f**
(A) (B) (C) (D)

4



s **c** **e** **a**
(A) (B) (C) (D)

Phonics and Decoding, *continued*

DIRECTIONS Say the name of the picture. Look at the dark letters. Which letter spells the last sound? Mark your answer.

Sample



k

(A)

m

(B)

n

(C)

t

(D)

5



l

(A)

p

(B)

n

(C)

g

(D)

6



m

(A)

z

(B)

t

(C)

d

(D)

7



m

(A)

g

(B)

s

(C)

n

(D)

8



d

(A)

p

(B)

l

(C)

x

(D)

Phonics and Decoding, *continued*

DIRECTIONS Which word names the picture?
Mark your answer.

Sample



- (A) cap
- (B) cot
- (C) cat
- (D) cup

9



- (A) hit
- (B) hat
- (C) hot
- (D) hut

10



- (A) pen
- (B) pin
- (C) pick
- (D) pack

11



- (A) big
- (B) bag
- (C) bug
- (D) beg

12



- (A) not
- (B) nut
- (C) net
- (D) nest

13



- (A) pot
- (B) pat
- (C) pit
- (D) pet

14



- (A) bed
- (B) bell
- (C) belt
- (D) bench

15



- (A) class
- (B) brush
- (C) block
- (D) trunk

16



- (A) sea
- (B) seal
- (C) seed
- (D) sail

17



- (A) team
- (B) tree
- (C) truck
- (D) train

Phonics and Decoding, *continued*

18



- (A) bat
- (B) bank
- (C) boat
- (D) beach

19



- (A) tip
- (B) tie
- (C) tray
- (D) tea


20



- (A) fast
- (B) first
- (C) fruit
- (D) fright


DIRECTIONS Read each question.
Say the name of the little picture to yourself.
Find the answer. Mark your answer.

Sample

Which word has the long *o* sound you hear in  ?


- (A) no
- (B) not
- (C) mop
- (D) song

21

Which word has the long *e* sound you hear in  ?


- (A) she
- (B) let
- (C) end
- (D) bell

22

Which word has the long *a* sound you hear in  ?


- (A) mad
- (B) land
- (C) tape
- (D) catch

23

Which word has the long *i* sound you hear in  ?

- (A) fin
- (B) drip
- (C) time
- (D) stick

24

Which word has the long *o* sound you hear in  ?

- (A) on
- (B) chop
- (C) rock
- (D) rope

Phonics and Decoding, *continued*

DIRECTIONS Read each item. Choose the answer that goes in the sentence.
Mark your answer.

Sample



The dancers are ____.

- (A) jump
- (B) jumping
- (C) jumped
- (D) jump

25



The girls are ____.

- (A) smile
- (B) smiled
- (C) smiles
- (D) smiling

26



Sari is ____.

- (A) jog
- (B) jogs
- (C) jogging
- (D) jogged

Phonics and Decoding, *continued*

DIRECTIONS Which word names the picture?
Mark your answer.

27



- (A) fern
- (B) fear
- (C) form
- (D) farm

28



- (A) cub
- (B) curl
- (C) car
- (D) clue

29



- (A) pear
- (B) park
- (C) prize
- (D) porch

30



- (A) dirt
- (B) deep
- (C) deer
- (D) dress

31



- (A) can
- (B) coin
- (C) cone
- (D) cane

32



- (A) clock
- (B) cloud
- (C) clean
- (D) clown

33



- (A) man
- (B) mine
- (C) mean
- (D) moon

34



- (A) box
- (B) back
- (C) bike
- (D) book

Phonics and Decoding, *continued*

35



- (A) say
- (B) saw
- (C) see
- (D) six

36



- (A) boil
- (B) bell
- (C) bull
- (D) ball

37



- (A) kite
- (B) night
- (C) knife
- (D) write


DIRECTIONS Read each question. Say the name of the little picture to yourself. Find the answers. Mark your answer.

38

Which word has the sound for *g* that you hear at the end of  ?

- (A) gum
- (B) got
- (C) gem
- (D) game

39

Which word has the sound for *c* that you hear in  ?

- (A) cut
- (B) city
- (C) place
- (D) center

Phonics and Decoding, *continued*

DIRECTIONS Read the sentence. Look at the underlined word. Choose the correct way to divide the word into syllables. Mark your answer.

Sample

I am in the contest.

- (A) cont est
- (B) co ntest
- (C) con test

40 They planted one hundred trees.

- (A) hun dred
- (B) hund red
- (C) hu ndred

41 I ate an apple.

- (A) app le
- (B) ap ple
- (C) a pple

42 She likes music.

- (A) mu sic
- (B) mus ic
- (C) m usic

43 Read it carefully.

- (A) car efully
- (B) care fu lly
- (C) care ful ly
- (D) car eful ly

DIRECTIONS What does each sentence mean? Mark your answer.

Sample

The beach is sandy.

- (A) The beach has no sand.
- (B) The beach is full of sand.
- (C) The beach is close to the sand.
- (D) The beach has just a little bit of sand.

44 The cake is uncut.

- (A) The cake is not cut.
- (B) The cake is cut again.
- (C) The cake has many cuts.
- (D) The cake is cut in a messy way.

45 The horse ran quickly across the field.

- (A) The horse was not very quick.
- (B) The horse ran across the field again.
- (C) The horse did not run across the field.
- (D) The horse ran across the field in a quick way.



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