

The Placement Test

The placement test has two parts. In part 1, each student reads a passage aloud as you count decoding errors. In part 2, students answer comprehension questions about the passage.

Instructions for Part 1

You should administer part 1 in a corner of the classroom so that other students will not overhear the testing. Use the following procedure.

1. (Give the student a copy of the placement test.)
2. (Point to the passage and say:) You're going to read the passage aloud. I want you to read it as well as you can. Don't try to read it so fast you make mistakes, but don't read it so slowly that it doesn't make any sense. You have two minutes to read the passage. Go.
3. (Time the student and make one tally mark for each error.)
4. (After two minutes, stop the student. Count every word not read as an error.)
5. (Total the student's errors.)

Use the following guidelines for counting decoding errors in part 1.

- If the student misreads a word, count one error.
- If the student omits a word ending, such as s or ed, count on error.
- If the student reads a word incorrectly and then correctly, count one error.
- If the student sounds out a word instead of reading it normally, count one error.
- If the student does not identify a word within three seconds, tell the student the word and count one error.
- If the student skips a word, count one error.

- If the student skips a line, point to the line and count one error.
- If the student does not finish the passage within the given time limit, count every word not read as an error. For example, if the student is eight words from the end of the passage at the end of the time limit, count eight errors.

Instructions for Part 2

After all the students have finished part 1, administer part 2 to the entire group. Use the following procedure.

1. (Assemble the student.)
2. (Give each student a copy of the placement test.)
3. (Say:) Here is the passage you read earlier. Read the passage again silently; then answer the questions in part 2. You have seven minutes. Go.
4. (Collect the test papers after seven minutes.)
5. (Total each student's errors, using the answer key below.)

Answer Key for Part 2

1. Idea: *the Bermuda Islands*
2. Idead: *to dive; to see the bottom of the ocean*
3. Response: *warm*
4. Response: *the guide*
5. Ideas: *partner; person*
6. Idea: *Signal the guide.*
7. Idea: *Go to the surface of the water.*
8. Idea: *The diver might get the bends.*
9. Response: *pressure*

Placement Guidelines

Place your students as follows:

- Students who made zero errors or one error should be given the placement test

for *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 5.

- Students who made zero to six errors on part 1 *and* zero to two errors on part 2 can be placed in *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 4.
- Students who made more than six errors on part 1 *or* more than two errors on part 2 should be given the placement test for *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 3.

Placement Test

PART 1

An Underwater World

The diving boat was anchored in a place where the water changed from light green to dark, dark blue. One by one, the divers went down the ladder on the side of the boat and entered the warm water. The boat was about 1,600 kilometers east of Florida. They were south of the Bermuda Islands. Darla was the last diver to go down the ladder and enter the warm water.

“Now stick together,” the guide said as he floated with his mask tilted back on his forehead. “You’ve got your partners. Stay with your partner. If you see something you want to look at, signal me. If one person stops, we all stop or somebody’s going to get lost.”

The guide continued, “If you get separated, go to the surface of the water. Don’t try to look for the rest of us. Just go to the surface. And remember, don’t go up too fast. Take at least two minutes to go up, or you may get the bends.”

The bends. Darla had read about the bends. She knew that a person gets them because of the great pressure of the water.

Name _____

PART 2

1. Near which islands does this story take place?

2. Why was the group in this place?

3. Was the water warm or cold?

4. Who led the group?

5. Each diver was supposed to stay with a

6. What was a diver supposed to do if the diver wanted to stop to examine something?

7. What was a diver supposed to do if the diver got separated from the group?

8. What problem would the diver have if the diver went up to the surface too fast?

9. This problem was caused by the great _____ of the water.