

Reading assessment

This reading assessment is designed to help you determine whether you have the reading skills needed to take the Written exam.

There are seven short paragraphs below. After each paragraph, there are three questions. Each question has five choices. Only one answer is correct. Circle the correct response.

It was spring. The young girl breathed the warm air, threw off her shoes and began to run. Her arms swung. Her feet hit sharply and evenly against the ground. At last she felt free.

1. **What time of year was it?**
 - A. Summer
 - B. Fall
 - C. Spring
 - D. December
 - E. July
2. **What was the young girl doing?**
 - A. Running
 - B. Jumping
 - C. Going to sleep
 - D. Driving a car
 - E. Fighting
3. **How did she feel?**
 - A. Hot
 - B. Free
 - C. Angry
 - D. Cold
 - E. Unhappy

There were footsteps and a knock at the door. Everyone inside stood up quickly. The only sound was that of the pot boiling on the stove. There was another knock. No one moved. The footsteps on the other side of the door got quieter and quieter as the person walked away.

4. **The people inside the room**
 - A. hid behind the stove.
 - B. stood up quickly.
 - C. ran to the door.
 - D. laughed out loud.
 - E. began to cry.
5. **What was the only sound in the room?**
 - A. People talking
 - B. Birds singing
 - C. A pot boiling
 - D. A dog barking
 - E. A man shouting
6. **The person who knocked at the door finally**
 - A. walked into the room.
 - B. sat down outside the door.
 - C. shouted for help.
 - D. walked away.
 - E. broke down the door.

After you take this exam, a key is provided for you to score the exam. If you answered 13 or more questions correctly, you most likely have the reading skills required to take the Written exam. If you get 12 or fewer questions correct, you should consider taking the Oral exam.

Jesse could smell the fish market long before he could see it. As he came closer he could hear merchants calling out about fresh catches and buyers arguing about prices. Soon he could see the market itself, brightly lit and colorful. He could see fishing boats coming in. Their decks were covered with silver-gray fish.

7. **What kind of market did Jesse see?**
 - A. A vegetable market
 - B. A meat market
 - C. A fish market
 - D. A flower market
 - E. A fruit market
8. **What does he see coming in?**
 - A. Tug boats
 - B. Rowboats
 - C. Passenger boats
 - D. Fishing boats
 - E. Sailboats
9. **What covered the decks of the boats?**
 - A. Rope
 - B. People
 - C. Car
 - D. Boxes
 - E. Fish

Tiger is a large, yellow cat. At night she prowls outside and is very fierce. When she hears a noise, she lowers her head and walks with stiff legs. All the other cats are afraid to come into her yard.

10. **When does Tiger prowl?**
 - A. At dawn
 - B. At dinnertime
 - C. In the afternoon
 - D. In the morning
 - E. At night
11. **What does Tiger do when she hears a noise?**
 - A. She runs away
 - B. She walks with stiff legs
 - C. She hides under the bushes
 - D. She walks on tiptoe
 - E. She pretends she doesn't hear it
12. **Who is afraid to come into her yard?**
 - A. All the other cats
 - B. The dog next door
 - C. The people who live in the house
 - D. The mail carrier
 - E. Most of the birds

The model number of this radio is A-707. Weak sound may indicate weak batteries. Replace with fresh batteries. Failure of the radio to operate may indicate a loose connection. All connections should be checked. If the radio still does not work properly, bring it to our service department, 17-B West 17th Street.

13. What is the model number of the radio?
A. A-707
B. 17-B
C. W-17
D. B-17
E. AB-17
14. What should be done if the sound is weak?
A. Use weak batteries
B. Send the model number to the service department
C. Replace the batteries with fresh batteries
D. Replace the connections
15. What is the address of the service department?
A. 17-A West 17th Street
B. 17-B West 17th Street
C. 17-A West 7th Street
D. A-707 West 71st Street
E. 17-B West 71st Street

The cat brushed against the old woman. The woman did not move. She stood and stared into the window of the house. The party inside looked warm and friendly; no one noticed her. The old woman walked sadly on, followed by the cat.

16. What kind of animal was with the woman?
A. Mouse
B. Dog
C. Horse
D. Cat
E. Bird
17. What did the woman see inside the house?
A. A party
B. Some dogs
C. An old man
D. A meeting
E. A salesclerk
18. The woman is described as being?
A. Old
B. Young
C. Thin
D. Fat
E. Small

His pen dropped from his hand. His head began to nod. All at once he was asleep. Everyone in the room laughed, for he had come to work only five minutes ago.

19. What dropped from his hand?
A. A pen
B. A pencil
C. A piece of paper
D. A telephone
E. A book
20. What was he doing after his head began to nod?
A. Talking
B. Sleeping
C. Crying
D. Laughing
E. Leaving
21. When had he come to work?
A. Half an hour ago
B. Three hours ago
C. Yesterday
D. Five minutes ago
E. Forty minutes ago

Answer Key

| | | |
|-------|--------|--------|
| 1 - C | 8 - D | 15 - B |
| 2 - A | 9 - E | 16 - D |
| 3 - B | 10 - E | 17 - A |
| 4 - B | 11 - B | 18 - A |
| 5 - C | 12 - A | 19 - A |
| 6 - D | 13 - A | 20 - B |
| 7 - C | 14 - C | 21 - D |

Number Correct

13 to 21: You most likely have the reading skills to take the Written exam.

12 or less: You may prefer to take the oral version of the Written exam.