

## Reading Placement Nelson Denny

Your reading placement will be based on how you score on the Nelson-Denny Reading Test. This test is designed to measure reading, vocabulary, reading comprehension and reading rate. The test is divided into two sections and each section is timed separately.

- Vocabulary Section – 15 minutes: The vocabulary section of the test contains 80 questions and you will have 15 minutes to complete this portion of the test.
- The comprehension section of the test contains seven reading passages and a total of 38 questions, each with five answer choices. The time limit for this section is 20 minutes. The first minute is used to determine your reading rate. The passages were chosen from Humanities, Science, and Social Science texts. The questions test both your literal and inferential comprehension.



### Vocabulary Sample Questions:

1. An implausible agreement would be:
  - (a) possible
  - (b) hard to believe
  - (c) imaginary
  - (d) historical
  - (e) funny
2. A calamity is a:
  - (a) storm
  - (b) party
  - (c) conference
  - (d) disaster
  - (e) failure
3. Dependable means:
  - (a) friendly
  - (b) changeable
  - (c) serious
  - (d) reliable
  - (e) dull
4. A rigorous teacher is:
  - (a) hard to believe
  - (b) righteous
  - (c) direct
  - (d) strict
  - (e) satisfying
5. Tactics are:
  - (a) hopes
  - (b) A request
  - (c) battles
  - (d) reactions
  - (e) methods
6. Absorption means:
  - (a) regret
  - (b) interest
  - (c) haste
  - (d) relaxation
  - (e) pain

### Comprehension Sample Questions:

In the sixteenth century, an age of great marine and terrestrial exploration, Ferdinand Magellan led the first expedition to sail around the world. As a young Portuguese noble, he served the king of Portugal, but he became involved in the quagmire of political intrigue at court and lost the king's favor. After he was dismissed from service to the king of Portugal, he offered to serve the future Emperor Charles V of Spain.

A papal decree of 1493 had assigned all land in the New World west of 50 degrees W longitude to Spain and all the land east of that line to Portugal. Magellan offered to prove that the East Indies fell under Spanish authority. On September 20, 1519, Magellan set sail from Spain with five ships. More than a year later, one of these ships was exploring the topography of South America in search of a water route across the continent. This ship sank, but the remaining four ships searched along the southern peninsula of South America. Finally they found the passage they sought near a latitude of 50 degrees S. Magellan named this passage the Strait of all Saints, but today we know it as the Strait of Magellan.

One ship deserted while in this passage and returned to Spain, so fewer sailors were privileged to gaze at that first panorama of the

Pacific Ocean. Those who remained crossed the meridian we now call the International Date Line in the early spring of 1521 after ninety-eight days on the Pacific Ocean. During those long days at sea, many of Magellan's men died of starvation and disease. Later Magellan became involved in an insular conflict in the Philippines and was killed in a tribal battle.

Only one ship and seventeen sailors under the command of the Basque navigator Elcano survived to complete the westward journey to Spain and thus prove once and for all that the world is round, with no precipice at the edge.

1. Magellan lost the favor of the king of Portugal when he became involved in a political :
  - (a) entanglement
  - (b) discussion
  - (c) negotiation
  - (d) problems
  - (e) none of the above
2. Four of the ships sought passage along a southern:
  - (a) coast
  - (b) inland
  - (c) body of land with water on three sides
  - (d) border
  - (e) none of the above
3. The passage found near 50 degrees S was named the Strait of:
  - (a) Greenwich
  - (b) South America
  - (c) Spain
  - (d) Magellan
  - (e) Madrid
4. One of Magellan's ships explored the \_\_\_\_\_ of South America for a passage across the continent.
  - (a) coastline
  - (b) mountain range
  - (c) physical features
  - (d) islands
  - (e) none of the above
5. The sixteenth century was an age of great \_\_\_\_\_ exploration.
  - (a) cosmic
  - (b) land
  - (c) mental
  - (d) common man
  - (e) none of the above

## English Composition Placement Sentence Skills

Your English composition placement will be based upon your ACCUPLACER® Sentence Skills test score. In an ACCUPLACER® placement test, there are Sentence Skills questions of two types.

- The first type is sentence correction questions that require an understanding of sentence structure. These questions ask you to choose the most appropriate word or phrase for the underlined portion of the sentence.
- The second type is construction shift questions. These questions ask that a sentence be rewritten according to the criteria shown while maintaining essentially the same meaning as the original sentence.

Within these two primary categories, the questions are also classified according to the skills being tested. Some questions deal with the logic of the sentence, others with whether or not the answer is a complete sentence, and still others with the relationship between coordination and subordination. You will be given 35 minutes to answer 35 questions.



### Sentence Skills Sample Questions

#### Directions for questions 1–5

Select the best version of the underlined part of the sentence. The first choice is the same as the original sentence. If you think the original sentence is best, choose the first answer.

1. Stamp collecting being a hobby that is sometimes used in the schools to teach economics and social studies.  
A. being a hobby that is  
B. is a hobby because it is  
C. which is a hobby  
D. is a hobby
2. Knocked sideways, the statue looked as if it would fall.  
A. Knocked sideways, the statue looked  
B. The statue was knocked sideways, looked  
C. The statue looked knocked sideways  
D. The statue, looking knocked sideways,
3. To walk, biking, and driving are Pat's favorite ways of getting around.  
A. To walk, biking, and driving  
B. Walking, biking, and driving  
C. To walk, biking, and to drive  
D. To walk, to bike, and also driving
4. When you cross the street in the middle of the block, this is an example of jaywalking.  
A. When you cross the street in the middle of the block, this  
B. You cross the street in the middle of the block, this  
C. Crossing the street in the middle of the block  
D. The fact that you cross the street in the middle of the block
5. Walking by the corner the other day, a child, I noticed, was watching for the light to change.  
A. a child, I noticed, was watching  
B. I noticed a child watching  
C. a child was watching, I noticed,  
D. there was, I noticed, a child watching

#### Directions for questions 6–10

Rewrite the sentence in your head following the directions given below. Keep in mind that your new sentence should be well written and should have essentially the same meaning as the original sentence.

6. It is easy to carry solid objects without spilling them, but the same cannot be said of liquids.

Rewrite, beginning with

Unlike liquids,

- The next words will be
- A. it is easy to
  - B. we can easily
  - C. solid objects can easily be
  - D. solid objects are easy to be

7. Although the sandpiper is easily frightened by noise and light, it will bravely resist any force that threatens its nest.

Rewrite, beginning with

The sandpiper is easily frightened by noise and light,

- The next words will be
- A. but it will bravely resist
  - B. nevertheless bravely resisting
  - C. and it will bravely resist
  - D. even if bravely resisting

8. If he had enough strength, Todd would move the boulder.

Rewrite, beginning with

Todd cannot move the boulder

- The next words will be
- A. when lacking
  - B. because he
  - C. although there
  - D. without enough

9. The band began to play, and then the real party started.

Rewrite, beginning with

The real party started

- The next words will be
- A. after the band began
  - B. and the band began
  - C. although the band began
  - D. the band beginning

10. Chris heard no unusual noises when he listened in the park.

Rewrite, beginning with

Listening in the park,

- The next words will be
- A. no unusual noises could be heard
  - B. then Chris heard no unusual noises
  - C. and hearing no unusual noises
  - D. Chris heard no unusual noises