

YSKILLS LIST and SAMPLE ITEMS FOR

PRACTICE TEST, LANGUAGE ARTS, GRADE 8

(Test items developed for skills measured in TERRA NOVA [CTBS]*)

Skills

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|-----|--|-----|----------------------|
| 1.0 | Sentence Structure | 4.0 | Thinking Skills |
| 1.1 | Writing Conventions | 4.1 | Organize Information |
| 1.2 | Combining Sentences | 4.2 | Analyze Information |
| 2.0 | Writing Strategies | 4.3 | Evaluate Outcomes |
| 2.1 | Pre-writing Techniques | 4.4 | Synthesize Elements |
| 2.2 | Topic Sentences/Concluding Sentences/Connective and Transitional Words and Phrases, etc. | | |
| 3.0 | Editing Skills | | |
| 3.1 | Using Parts of Speech | | |
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Number of questions: 32

Number of pages: 12

Approximate testing time: 40 minutes

CTBS and CAT are parallel tests

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(over)

Terra Nova PRACTICE TEST IN LANGUAGE ARTS - GRADE 8

Directions: Read each question and choose the best answer.

3. Which sentence is written correctly?

- A. Running is more easier than walking.
 - B. Our class makes more better grades than the other classes.
 - C. The corn is the most tall of the plants.
 - D. The nicest person will have the most friends.
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4. Choose the answer that best combines the underlined sentence.

The young girl danced slowly across the room.
She had only one lesson.

- A. The young girl danced across the floor before she had a dancing lesson
 - B. Only having one dance lesson, the girl danced.
 - C. The young girl, who had only had once dance lesson, danced slowly across the room.
 - D. Across the room the young girl danced after having only one lesson.
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5. Choose the sentence that is complete and written correctly.

- A. The blue jeans look more better after they are ironed.
 - B. The blue jacket looks better than the green one.
 - C. The more smaller envelopes will go in this box.
 - D. That dog is the meaner dog I've ever seen
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6. Choose the sentence that best fills in the blank in the paragraph

In May of 1865, a strange cargo walked off a navy ship at Old Powder Horn, Texas. The cargo was thirty-three camels from Arabia. A man named Hadji Ali led the camels onto the dock. _____ . The unfriendly animals spit, kicked, and snorted. Hadji Ali's job was to teach U.S. soldiers how to manage them.

- A. They used some to carry cotton to Mexico.
- B. So the camels wandered along in the desert.
- C. The soldiers had finally learned what Hadji Ali had told them.
- D. At that time, few Americans had ever seen a camel.