

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Seat Number \_\_\_\_\_

# MSU-CELC


Certificate of English Language Competency

## Practice Test #5 (Revised Format)

Based on previously unreleased content from actual  
CELC administrations.



**Michigan State University**  
English Language Center

 Do not turn the page until  
you are told to do so.

**Notes for Test of English Writing Ability**

You may use this space to write notes or an outline for the essay. However, you **must** write the essay on the separate, lined paper provided.

# Think about it, write about it!

## MSU-CELC Test of English Writing Ability

### Instructions


For this section of the test, a proctor has given you a special answer form.

Using a **Number 2 pencil only**, write as much as you can, as well as you can, in an original composition on one of the two topics below. You have 35 minutes to complete the composition.

1. There are different ways to be successful in school. For example, some students take very detailed notes, while others are good at memorizing important facts and details. Some students budget their time well, while others work best when they have a short deadline. Write about what skills you think are most important to succeed in school. Be sure to support your answer with examples, reasons, and explanations.

OR

2. Some parents decide what their children eat, while other parents let children choose their own food. Write about how much control, if any, parents should have over their children's diet. Be sure to support your answer with examples, reasons, and explanations.

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you are told to do so.

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# Listen to this!

## MSU-CELC Test of English Listening Ability

This section of the test is designed to evaluate your listening ability.

You should have three things in front of you:


- a test answer sheet
- a test booklet, and
- a Number 2 pencil

If you are missing any of these things, raise your hand now, and a test proctor will assist you.

### Instructions for the Listening Ability section

This section has three main parts. Part 1 has short conversations and Part 2 has longer conversations. Part 3 contains a speech and a long conversation.

- There are 30 questions on the listening test. For each question, choose the **one best** answer.
- For each question, find the letter on the answer sheet that corresponds to the answer you have chosen. Use your pencil to completely fill in the circle for your answer.
- If you are not sure of the answer, take your best guess. Unanswered items will be scored as incorrect.
- You **are** allowed to write in the test booklet.

 Do not turn the page until  
you are told to do so.

## Part 1—Short conversations

For each question in your test booklet, you will hear a short conversation. Each conversation has a short title to tell you what it is about, followed by a brief description of the situation that is also printed in the test booklet after the words, **“Here is the situation.”**

You will listen to the conversation and choose the letter of the choice that best answers the question that appears in your test booklet. You will not hear the question; you will see it and read it. You will read it quietly to yourself. Use your pencil to mark your answer on your answer sheet.

### Example X:

<p><b>A missing textbook</b></p> <p><b>Here is the situation:</b> You are visiting your friend Peter at his home in the evening. He is getting his things ready for school the next day and asks his mother about one of his school books.</p>	<p>When did Peter last have his math book?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. in the morning</li> <li>b. in the afternoon</li> <li>c. a few days ago</li> </ul>
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### 1. Lunch plans

**Here is the situation:** You are walking with your friends Bob and Julie to the school cafeteria before lunchtime. Bob and Julie are discussing what they will eat.

What does Julie suggest they do about today’s lunch?

- a. eat some of each other’s food
- b. exchange meals with each other
- c. avoid eating the sandwich bread

### 2. Asking about family

**Here is the situation:** You are visiting your friend, and you hear him ask his mother about his Uncle Eddie.

What did Uncle Eddie want to be when he was a child?

- a. an artist
- b. an athlete
- c. an engineer

### 3. School concert

**Here is the situation:** You are visiting your friend Paul at his house after school one day. Paul has just returned from a hospital where he and some of his classmates gave a small concert. Paul’s mother asks him how things went.

How did Paul feel about the concert?

- a. He was upset about being late.
- b. He thought the show helped people.
- c. He enjoyed seeing his grandparents.

### 4. Working at the bookstore

**Here is the situation:** You are shopping at a local bookstore to find a gift for a friend. You overhear the manager of the bookstore giving instructions to another employee on the sales floor.

Why is the man putting the books into a box?

- a. The books cannot be sold.
- b. The books need to be returned to the library.
- c. The books were damaged when they arrived.

### 5. Repairing a bike

**Here is the situation:** It is the middle of the afternoon, and you are with your friends Sam and Sarah at a local coffee shop.

What does Sarah need to do at the bike shop?

- a. buy a new tire
- b. get her brakes fixed
- c. fill her old tire with air

### 6. The last cookie

**Here is the situation:** It is the middle of the afternoon, and you and a classmate are visiting your friend Jessie at home in her family’s kitchen. Her father has come into the kitchen and is looking for a snack.

Why did Jessie and her mother eat the last two cookies?

- a. They were planning to make more later.
- b. They thought no one else wanted them.
- c. They were still hungry after having lunch.



## 7. Asking about a test

**Here is the situation:** You hear your classmate, Jeff, trying to get the attention of your teacher, Ms. Smith. Jeff asks her a question.

What does Ms. Smith tell Jeff about his test?

- a. He completed the whole test.
- b. He forgot to answer a question.
- c. His test score is a passing grade.

## Part 2—Longer conversations

In this section you will hear longer conversations. Each conversation has a short title to tell you what it is about, followed by a brief description of the situation that is also printed in the test booklet after the words, “**Here is the situation.**” Before listening to each conversation you will read 2 to 4 questions. Listen to each conversation and answer the questions that appear in your test booklet.

### 8-11. Old video games

**Here is the situation:** You and your friend Rachel are hanging out at your friend Mark’s house after school. The two of you are watching Mark play a video game.

- 8. What is Rachel’s complaint about the game Mark is playing?
  - a. The music is not appropriate.
  - b. The story is not interesting.
  - c. The visuals are not realistic.
- 9. What does Mark think about the game’s graphics?
  - a. They are outdated.
  - b. They are attractive.
  - c. They are sophisticated.
- 10. How does Rachel feel about video games?
  - a. She enjoys modern video games.
  - b. She does not personally play video games.
  - c. She wishes Mark would play a different game.
- 11. According to Mark, something is classic if \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. it has great graphics
  - b. it is fun to play repeatedly
  - c. it was created decades ago

### 12-15. After school visit

**Here is the situation:** Jenna and Clyde are two friends who are hanging out with you after school on a hot afternoon. You all ride bikes to Clyde’s house and are very thirsty when you arrive.

- 12. Why does Clyde tell Jenna to go inside without him?
  - a. He wants to store the bicycles safely.
  - b. He wants to surprise her with a drink.
  - c. He wants to cool off in the garage.
- 13. How does Clyde help Jenna feel comfortable going into his house?
  - a. by telling her that no one else is inside
  - b. by introducing her to his family’s pet cat
  - c. by reminding her that his family is friendly
- 14. What kind of drink does Clyde want?
  - a. the same drink he had earlier
  - b. the same drink Jenna will have
  - c. the same drink they had at school
- 15. Why does Jenna offer to chase the cat?
  - a. The cat is hunting a bird in the yard.
  - b. The cat is bored in the house all alone.
  - c. The cat escaped through the open door.

### Part 3—Extended discourse

In this section you will hear a speech and a long conversation. Before listening to each passage, you will have time to read the questions. Each passage has a short title to tell you what it is about, followed by a brief description of the situation that is also printed in the test booklet after the words, “**Here is the situation.**” You will listen to each passage twice, and then you will answer a series of questions that appear in your test booklet.

#### 16-22. Science museum excursion

**Here is the situation:** You are a member of a class at school that will be visiting a local science museum today. The teacher, Ms. Taylor, is reminding the class about important details about the trip. You are excited about the trip, so you pay close attention to what she says.

16. What has the teacher already told parents?
  - a. the safety rules students must follow
  - b. what students need to bring with them
  - c. which experiments the students will do
17. What is the teacher’s opinion of the gift shop?
  - a. The things the gift shop sells are too expensive.
  - b. The gift shop has something for everyone’s interest.
  - c. The gift shop is not as interesting as the rest of the museum.
18. What does the teacher find out about the students?
  - a. They go to the museum every year.
  - b. Some of them have never been to the museum.
  - c. Only half of them are excited to go to the museum.
19. What rule must everyone follow?
  - a. Stay with an adult at all times.
  - b. Always be on the same floor as everyone else.
  - c. Everyone will explore one room together at a time.
20. How does the teacher describe the three floors in the museum?
  - a. Each floor is about a different topic.
  - b. Each floor has a short movie to watch.
  - c. Each floor has something to do with space exploration.
21. What will happen later in the school year?
  - a. They will visit the museum as a class again.
  - b. They will perform a part of the movie they will see.
  - c. They will repeat experiments that are displayed at the museum.
22. What topic can students write about next week?
  - a. a similar experience they had before visiting this museum
  - b. how they felt about the museum’s displays
  - c. something they learned at the museum



### Part 3—Extended discourse, continued

#### 23-30. Eastside fitness center

**Here is the situation:** You are watching TV and see that a local fitness center is being featured on a local channel. A reporter is interviewing a personal fitness trainer about his work. You have been thinking about joining a gym so you decide to watch the program.

23. What else does Kevin do, besides being an athletic trainer?
  - a. He is a student.
  - b. He enjoys traveling.
  - c. He has an office job.
24. What role did Kevin's grandfather play in Kevin's studies?
  - a. He was an athletic trainer himself.
  - b. He encouraged Kevin to exercise.
  - c. He had physical difficulties.
25. What advice does Kevin give someone for staying healthy?
  - a. live happy
  - b. keep moving
  - c. stay balanced
26. What does the running club do?
  - a. finds opportunities to compete weekly
  - b. gets people back into exercising
  - c. takes a break from daily activities
27. How does running with high school students affect the older runners?
  - a. The old runners feel encouraged.
  - b. The old runners have trouble keeping up.
  - c. The old runners remember when they were younger.
28. What is personal training like with Kevin?
  - a. You work with Kevin to set your own goals.
  - b. Kevin recommends one of the most popular plans.
  - c. You and Kevin exercise together, based on your schedule.
29. How does Kevin take injuries into account?
  - a. He argues that although they are painful, they are a part of development.
  - b. He thinks that unfortunately, you cannot escape them.
  - c. He believes that they can be avoided through awareness.
30. What is one of Kevin's main goals in training?
  - a. to learn to play a new sport
  - b. to explore the mind-body connection
  - c. to focus on losing weight and building muscle

**You have now finished the listening test. Please wait for further instructions.**

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# Grammar you can use!

## MSU-CELC Test of English Grammar

### Instructions


- This grammar test has 30 questions.
- You have 20 minutes to answer all 30 questions. For each question, choose the **one best** answer.
- For each question, find the letter on the answer sheet that corresponds to the answer you have chosen. Use your pencil to completely fill in the circle for your answer.
- If you are not sure of the answer, take your best guess. Unanswered items will be scored as incorrect.
- You **are** allowed to write in the test booklet.

### Example

Bob is a good student. He \_\_\_\_\_ every day.

- a. to study
- b. is study
- c. studies
- d. studying

The correct answer is c. You would mark “c” on your answer sheet.

 Do not turn the page until  
you are told to do so.

31. The battery in the laptop was not working, so Mary \_\_\_\_\_ a power cord.  
a. needs borrowing  
b. needed to borrow  
c. need to borrow  
d. needed borrowing
32. Our family's plan for the summer \_\_\_\_\_ our grandparents' farm.  
a. is to visit  
b. is to be visited  
c. would visit  
d. has visited
33. The airline finally found their luggage and delivered \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. for it  
b. them it  
c. that  
d. it to them
34. Mike has had a lot of fun \_\_\_\_\_ how to sail a boat.  
a. learned  
b. learning  
c. to learn  
d. learn
35. For some reason the system would not let me log in, so I \_\_\_\_\_ re-register.  
a. had to  
b. can have to  
c. will not have to  
d. having to
36. The Press Secretary was trying to finish his statement, but reporters kept \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. interrupting  
b. interrupted  
c. on to interrupt  
d. an interruption
37. I don't remember doing it, but I \_\_\_\_\_ locked the door.  
a. must have  
b. had to  
c. might be  
d. may not
38. My aunt canceled the outdoor party because she was afraid it \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. might rain  
b. should rain  
c. does rain  
d. going to rain
39. \_\_\_\_\_ his friends, James is known as the smart one.  
a. Along  
b. Among  
c. By  
d. Of
40. Wild elephants are very alert and keep a close eye on their \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. surroundings  
b. surrounded  
c. surround  
d. surrounds
41. You need to read all the information on the website before \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. apply  
b. applying  
c. to apply  
d. applied
42. Maria still \_\_\_\_\_ here yet.  
a. wouldn't get  
b. hasn't gotten  
c. won't get  
d. doesn't get
43. The produce aisle is \_\_\_\_\_ you can find tomatoes, broccoli, and carrots.  
a. on which  
b. in which  
c. where  
d. when
44. Jill's parents taught her that she \_\_\_\_\_ always be kind to others.  
a. might  
b. may  
c. should  
d. will

45. Carol's red sweater is \_\_\_\_\_ than her other sweaters.  
a. least comfortable  
b. the least comfortable  
c. comfortable  
d. less comfortable
46. All of the events on the schedule \_\_\_\_\_ in chronological order.  
a. show them  
b. showing  
c. are shown  
d. was shown
47. I will see Bob when I \_\_\_\_\_ to the city.  
a. gone  
b. go  
c. will be going  
d. had gone
48. \_\_\_\_\_ you work harder, you will never finish your project on time!  
a. Nevertheless  
b. Despite  
c. If  
d. Unless
49. The runner ran \_\_\_\_\_ he could, but still finished last in the race.  
a. as fast  
b. as fast as  
c. faster than  
d. the faster that
50. The doctor knows that her patient \_\_\_\_\_ ill for months.  
a. can be  
b. has been  
c. would be  
d. should be
51. When do you think Carla \_\_\_\_\_ here? I am tired of waiting!  
a. would have been  
b. has been  
c. would be  
d. will be
52. The clue read, "The box \_\_\_\_\_ you will find a prize is shiny, red, and small in size."  
a. to which  
b. in which  
c. which  
d. that
53. This area gets a lot of rain, \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. most of the time  
b. the most time  
c. in the most time  
d. the most of time
54. The movie was so funny that Lisa \_\_\_\_\_ for 15 minutes after it ended.  
a. kept laughing  
b. keeps laughing  
c. keep laughing  
d. had kept laughing
55. Please check out with the receptionist at the front desk before you \_\_\_\_\_ the doctor's office.  
a. have left  
b. left  
c. leave  
d. leaving
56. I started looking into hotels in Paris, despite the fact that I am \_\_\_\_\_ going there for another year.  
a. not even  
b. not just  
c. not so  
d. not only
57. At Susan's previous school, she \_\_\_\_\_ study computer programming as well as a foreign language.  
a. must  
b. had to  
c. can  
d. also
58. Upon activation of your account, you log on to the website using the username and password you created \_\_\_\_\_ the registration process.  
a. while  
b. during  
c. at  
d. as

59. The AIDS virus, \_\_\_\_\_ infected an estimated 20 percent of Uganda's population a decade ago, seems to be under control.
- a. when
  - b. what
  - c. it
  - d. which
60. I am not sure if Jenny will want to join us for the movie. She \_\_\_\_\_ it already.
- a. would have seen
  - b. may have seen
  - c. should see
  - d. will be seeing

**You have now finished the grammar test. Please wait for further instructions.**


# Read about it!

## MSU-CELC Test of English Reading Ability

### Instructions

This reading test has four passages. Each passage is followed by a series of questions.

- You have 50 minutes to answer all 30 questions. For each question, choose the **one best** answer.
- For each question, find the letter on the answer sheet that corresponds to the answer you have chosen. Use your pencil to completely fill in the circle for your answer.
- If you are not sure of the answer, take your best guess. Unanswered items will be scored as incorrect.
- You **are** allowed to write in the test booklet.

 Do not turn the page until  
you are told to do so.

## Reading Activity 1

**Here is the situation:** Your friend Michael recently broke his foot while playing soccer and you would like to help him learn how to recover from his injury. Fortunately, you found the following blog post with advice about this type of injury, so you decide to share it with Michael. Read the article and answer the questions that follow.

# Tips for healing a broken foot



In many cases, the injury will become less painful fairly quickly. However, it is important that you do not put any weight on the injured foot for a few weeks. Once your doctor says it is okay, you can start taking small steps for short distances, such as moving around your house, without the use of crutches. Do not **push yourself too hard**, though, or you may re-injure yourself.

As time passes, you will gradually become more mobile. You will be able to walk for greater distances and longer periods of time. Try walking around the block, or making a short shopping trip. When your body has had enough, though, it will tell you, so be sure to listen to it and take a rest!

Injuries to toes and other foot bones are quite common. In fact, they represent about 10% of all broken bones. Perhaps you have had a bad fall while playing a sport, or an accident at home.

Whatever the cause, it is important to see a doctor right away if you believe you have a broken bone. Sometimes, a painful injury may only be a sprain (a stretched or torn muscle). Usually, the doctor will request an X-Ray to determine whether you have a broken bone or simply a sprain. If you do have a broken bone, you will probably receive a special boot to protect your foot while it heals. In the past, many people had to get a thick, heavy cast in situations like this, but today that is much less common. You can wear the boot all day long and take it off at night. Additionally, your doctor will probably advise you to use a pair of metal crutches to help you move around for at least the first few weeks.

After your injury, you will need to take it easy for a while. While resting, it is important to keep your foot **elevated** above the level of your heart. This prevents blood from clotting (getting stuck) around the injury.

In many cases, you will not require further medical treatment. Eating healthy foods and getting lots of rest can speed up your healing. After about 8-10 weeks, you can begin walking normally again. However, you must still take care of yourself and avoid potentially harmful activities involving running or jumping for several more months until your doctor tells you it is okay.



61. How common are broken bones in the feet?
- a. About 10% of people have broken a bone in their foot.
  - b. About 10% of all foot injuries are a broken bone.
  - c. About 10% of all broken bones are in the feet.
  - d. About 10% of all accidents involve the feet.
62. What kind of treatment for foot injuries is not used so often anymore?
- a. a cast
  - b. crutches
  - c. a boot
  - d. X-ray
63. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **elevated** in Paragraph 3?
- a. healed
  - b. injured
  - c. lifted
  - d. protected
64. When is it safe to begin walking without crutches?
- a. when your foot no longer hurts
  - b. when 8-10 weeks have passed
  - c. when your doctor approves of it
  - d. when you need to move around your house
65. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **push yourself too hard** in Paragraph 4?
- a. be too active
  - b. be critical of yourself
  - c. put too much weight on the foot
  - d. accidentally press your injury
66. According to the article, what should you do while walking in public?
- a. avoid dangerous areas
  - b. listen to advice from other people
  - c. notify people that you are injured
  - d. stop walking when you feel tired
67. What must you avoid for a much longer period of time?
- a. activities that could re-injure your foot
  - b. standing or walking for more than an hour
  - c. walking normally without crutches
  - d. eating too much junk food

## Reading Activity 2

**Here is the situation:** You and your friend, Maria, went to a park and were upset by how much trash you saw lying around. You asked Maria what you could do about it, and she said you should check out this great magazine article called “Celebrity street cleaner.” Read the article and answer the questions that follow.

### Celebrity street cleaner



We all know that litter is a big problem. What do you do when you see a piece of garbage lying on the ground? Do you pick it up and throw it in the garbage can, or do you walk away? Zhong Congrong of China picks it up, every time. In fact, he has become a local celebrity for what he does.

Four years ago, he took a vacation with his wife and children to the southern part of China. One of the people he met was a woman who was a retired university professor. He learned that she goes to a local beach every day to pick up garbage. Because he thought that was a fantastic idea, he was **inspired** to do the same thing when he returned home.

Zhong began collecting trash in his city daily, but surprisingly, people did not like it. He is a millionaire who owns a lot of land and car dealerships, and the media falsely reported that he was picking up litter to improve his reputation and advertise for his businesses, rather than because he cared about the environment. His wife was embarrassed by the negativity surrounding their family because of what Zhong was doing.

However, nothing could **deter** Zhong from his new passion. Over time, neighbors started to notice that their neighborhood was getting cleaner. Eventually, media coverage and people’s opinions changed. Zhong is now famously known as “the millionaire trash collector,” and people appreciate his hard work and dedication.

Zhong continues his trash habit every day. He has also started fining his employees for leaving garbage out. Once embarrassed, his wife now shares Zhong’s passion. She has been known to remind people in the neighborhood not to leave garbage on the sidewalk. Many good changes are taking place, but Zhong is quick to point out that while one or two people can make a small difference, real change will take more than that in a country of over a billion people. He dreams that because of his story, the people of China will begin to put more importance on taking care of our planet and encourage each other to throw away their garbage. Surely, the earth would benefit from that in every country on every continent.

68. Where did Zhong's family go on vacation?
- to the beach
  - to another country
  - to another part of their own country
  - to a service trip to clean up garbage
69. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **inspired** in Paragraph 2?
- satisfied
  - concerned
  - influenced
  - considered
70. When did Zhong start to pick up garbage?
- when he was a child
  - when he was on vacation
  - when his wife encouraged him to
  - when he came home from vacation
71. At first, what did people think about what Zhong did?
- They did not like his family.
  - They did not approve of his job.
  - They did not trust his motivation.
  - They did not like his businesses.
72. What did the media do?
- They spread misinformation about Zhong.
  - They advertised for Zhong's car dealerships.
  - They talked about Zhong's private information.
  - They interviewed Zhong's wife for news articles.
73. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **deter** in Paragraph 4?
- frustrate
  - reflect
  - persuade
  - discourage
74. What did Zhong's wife ultimately think about the situation?
- She was embarrassed by what Zhong did.
  - She was embarrassed by the media attention.
  - She supported Zhong and joined him early on.
  - She was happy about the good changes taking place.
75. What is the main idea of this article?
- A person became rich and famous by picking up litter.
  - A person is dedicated to cleaning up his neighborhood.
  - A person found a surprising new career as a garbage collector.
  - A person was a garbage collector and became a college professor.

### Reading Activity 3

**Here is the situation:** Your teacher has asked you to write a report about one or more famous women. You found the following article on the internet and decided it would be a good place to start. Read the article and answer the questions that follow.

## Helen Keller



Imagine living in a world where you cannot hear and cannot see at all. This was the life of Helen Keller. Born in 1880 in the US state of Alabama, she was just 19 months old when an illness took her vision and hearing. In those days, people with disabilities were usually **ushered** away to an institution, never to be heard from again. Helen's mother, however, was sure she could learn how to live at home.

As Helen grew older, she learned to recognize people when they walked in the room by the different vibrations their shoes would make on the floor. She used many invented signs to represent people she was close to, favorite foods, and dolls. Yet, she did not realize that every item had its own name, nor did she have a concept of things outside of her own limited existence.

When Helen was six years old, her parents hired Anne Sullivan as her private teacher. Anne's job was incredibly challenging, because Helen did not know language, letters, or manners. Anne used a manual sign language. She formed signs for letters with her hands, putting her hands in Helen's hands for Helen to feel. After a month, Helen finally caught on that this was not just a game. It happened one day after lunch when Anne pumped well water into her hands and signed "water." Once Helen realized this relationship, she became **hungry** for more—she learned 30 words that first day.

Amazingly, Helen caught on to this form of communication very quickly. With Anne's aid, she was soon attending a private school for the deaf. In 1904, she went on to be the first deaf-blind person to graduate from college, one year after she published her first book in 1903. She wrote a total of twelve books.

Helen Keller traveled all over the world as a public speaker, usually signing into Anne's hand while Anne translated for the audience. She used her platform to share messages that were controversial at the time—she fought for women's right to vote, workers' rights for a fair wage, and equal civil rights for every person. She was an advocate, writing and traveling the globe to teach the world that people with disabilities like blindness and deafness are still smart and can do great things. This was her greatest accomplishment.

76. How did Helen Keller become deaf and blind?
- a. She was sick as a baby.
  - b. She was born deaf and blind.
  - c. Nobody knows what caused it.
  - d. She was in an accident when she was young.
77. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **ushered** in Paragraph 1?
- a. followed
  - b. taught
  - c. helped
  - d. taken
78. How did Helen know who was in the room?
- a. Anne would always tell her.
  - b. Helen would feel each person's shoes.
  - c. Each person would spell their name in Helen's hand.
  - d. Helen would recognize the vibrations of people's steps.
79. How long did it take for Helen to first understand Anne's signs?
- a. one day
  - b. one week
  - c. one month
  - d. six years
80. Why did Anne pump water into Helen's hands?
- a. to play a new water game
  - b. to get ready to cook lunch
  - c. to teach her the word for water
  - d. to teach her how to use the water pump
81. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **hungry** in Paragraph 3?
- a. uncomfortable
  - b. eager
  - c. thankful
  - d. perplexed
82. What did Helen accomplish during college?
- a. She wrote 12 books.
  - b. She published her first book.
  - c. She traveled all over the world.
  - d. She started a private school for the deaf.
83. Which of the following best describes the main topic of the article?
- a. accomplishments of people who are deaf and blind
  - b. the story of how a little girl became deaf and blind
  - c. how a woman who was deaf and blind changed the world
  - d. how a woman who was deaf and blind learned to communicate

## Reading Activity 4

**Here is the situation:** You are interested in participating in a school spelling bee. You look for information about a spelling bee on the internet and find a website for the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Read the article and answer the questions that follow.

# Scripps National Spelling Bee



Have you ever participated in a school or community spelling bee? If you have, you know how exciting it is and how intense the competition can be. No one knows this better than the contestants in the annual Scripps National Spelling Bee. Every year, the best spellers come together to compete for the \$50,000 grand prize and the honor of winning such a **prestigious** competition.

The first event was held in 1925 and was sponsored by a Kentucky newspaper, the Louisville Courier-Journal. A national bee has been held every year since then, except for 1943, 1944, and 1945 because of World War II. There were only nine contestants that first year. Today the sponsors, mostly newspapers, hold competitions in their communities. The winners of these local spelling bees meet in Washington, D.C. for the national competition.

There are many rules and restrictions for the national bee. The contestants must be under 16 years of age and must not be in a grade higher than the eighth grade. To qualify, contestants must first pass a traditional written test. After that, there may be as many as six rounds. In each round, after a word is given to a contestant, he or she must respond orally, letter by letter, without backing up or changing their answer. Before spelling the word, the contestant may ask for the word's pronunciation, definition, origin, or ask to hear it in a sentence.

You might wonder how all of these pieces of information could help someone spell an unfamiliar word. The competitors spend many hours studying the spellings of specific words. But even more importantly, they learn strategies they can use when they do not know a word.

Imagine having to spell the word *clairvoyant*. This sounds like a difficult word, but the definition, a person who can accurately predict the future, contains several clues. If you know the French word *clair* means clear and the French word *voyant* means able to see, then spelling *clairvoyant* becomes much more **manageable**.

No matter how much studying the contestants do, there is no way for them to know what the word will be when it is their turn to approach the microphone. It takes more than a good memory to be a Scripps National Spelling Bee champion.



84. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **prestigious** in Paragraph 1?
- a. popular
  - b. respected
  - c. intense
  - d. competitive
85. How does the article describe the present day annual Scripps National Spelling Bee?
- a. It has been held every single year since 1925.
  - b. It is sponsored by a Kentucky newspaper.
  - c. There are nine finalists in the last round.
  - d. It takes place in Washington D.C.
86. Who would NOT be eligible for the spelling bee?
- a. someone who is 15 years old
  - b. someone who is 16 years old
  - c. someone who is in the eighth grade
  - d. someone who took a traditional test
87. How does each contestant indicate the spelling of the word?
- a. by typing the word on a keyboard
  - b. by writing the word with pen or pencil
  - c. by saying the letters of the word
  - d. by circling the correct option
88. According to the website, what is one technique contestants use to spell unfamiliar words?
- a. They find clues from origins of words.
  - b. They study the winning words from the past.
  - c. They try to predict what words will be given.
  - d. They memorize spelling in a written format.
89. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **manageable** in Paragraph 5?
- a. visual
  - b. accurate
  - c. easy
  - d. important
90. What is the main purpose of the text on this website?
- a. to present information about a famous event
  - b. to compare spelling bees in different languages
  - c. to emphasize the importance of correct spelling
  - d. to describe how spelling bee competitions are exciting

**This is the end of the test.  
Please wait for further  
instructions.**



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