Language Arts Core Testing

To assure required skills are in place, an entrance exam has been developed. If the parent & student wishes to enroll in 7th grade core they will take this test in April of their 6th grade year. If a passing score is achieved they may enroll in 7th grade core. If a student doesn't reach the achievement level, then the student and parent will work together to develop the deficient skills and test again in June. Again, if the student is not successful, they can test again in August before core classes begin.

Our goal is to provide many options to meet the desired skill proficiency level. However, if after 3 unsuccessful attempts, the parent and student will need to continue to build skill proficiency during the semester and try the test process again at the end of the semester.

This list is intended to provide sample material so the student is familiar with the entrance test. This is not an all encompassing English skills list, but a sample of skills necessary to find success in the HomeConnection core program.

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Part 1 Proofreading Practice

Identify the mistakes in this document

with the invention of the personal computer and the Internet, a new age in communications begins. now people could communicate fastest and more easily than ever before. Writing, editing, and storing information became quick and easy. It was no longest necessary to write draft after draft when changes could be made so easily using a word Processor program. Messages, could now be sent in no time to anywhere in the world, without addressing envelopes or licking stamps.

Century most early, around the year 1450 a similar revolution in communications had occurred in Germany. This happened when Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press. Gutenberg was not the first person to use printing to copy a peace of writing. printing was already being invented in China, where they used clay to print oriental characters. Small items, such as posters and flyers, were already being printed in Europe too, using the woodblock method of printing. Books and other largest works, however, were still being copied by hand. At this time, books were usually produced only in latin, and only the most educated people read them. Gutenbergs' printing press was about to change all of this.
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Part 2 Grammar

Rewrite the sentences using correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

1. I was desperate to have this film finished.

2. My gradfather commanded an entire battalion during the war.

3. It's a truism but 19th-century English prose is almost all good.

Choose the answer that is a complete and correctly written sentence.

   B. When talking about your family, it are wise to be discreet.
   C. Earlier he spent 12 years in prison, much of it in solitary confinement.
   D. For Janice, revenge were sweetly.

5. A. The mammoth was larger than an elephant.
   B. When you do you're homework, omit questions 11, 15 and 19.
   C. My dad had to get a permit from the City of Dallas to builds a shed in our backyard.
   D. It was very interested listening to the elderly man recount his experiences during the war.

Circle the word that best completes each sentence.

6. Although you have disrupted the class in the (passed, past), I will give you another chance.

7. The rustlers were camped over the (raise, rise).

8. Andy was not certain who (passed, past) the football, but he guessed it to be Frank.

9. The sailor used the sheave to (raise, rise) the cargo.

10. In times (passed, past) many young men ran away from home by going to sea on whaling ships or freighters.
Circle the word that best completes each sentence.

11. On a condor's neck, a ring of black plumes creates the (affect, effect) of an elegant boa.

12. A cheetah can run faster (than, then) any other animal.

13. Alex's reading skills are well above average (among, between) students of his age.

14. Since he was obtuse, it was hard to try to (learn, teach) him new things.

15. Microbiology is studied to see how organisms (affect, effect) humans.

Choose the answer that is a complete and correctly written sentence.

16. A. Heavy fog will soon envelop our village.
   B. Satellites, such as Earth's moon, are visible because they reflecting sunlight.
   C. The president opposes the Kyoto packed to cut wealthy nations' emissions of heat-trapping gases.
   D. As population increases, so does the demand for freshly water.

17. A. She has refused to negotiated with the guerrillas, calling they a gang of bandits.
   B. "The concept is interesting and well-formed, but in order to earn better than a 'C', the idea must be feasible," a Yale University management professor stated in response to student Fred Smith's paper proposing reliable overnight delivery service. Smith went on to found Federal Express Corporation.
   C. The Sahara Desert are a hugely expanse of dry, hot sand.
   D. The referee had to eject the coach from the game because he was yelling too loud.

Circle the word that best completes each sentence.

18. The second question on the survey is applicable only to people with a license to (learn, teach).

19. Small children sometimes waddle when they first (learn, teach) to walk.

20. It's strange indeed how memories can (lie, lay) dormant in a man's mind for so many years.

21. Aaron thought he could make an excuse for not wanting to (learn, teach).

22. Billy is very trusting. He knows she friends won't (lie, lay) to him.

Write a sentence showing the correct usage of each word.

23. your
   you're
Rewrite the sentences using correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

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2. **My grandfather** commanded an entire battalion during the war.

3. It's a truism but 19th-century English **prose** is almost all good.

Choose the answer that is a complete and correctly written sentence.

4.  
   - A. Destiny and Kaitlyn takes ballet lessons on Wednesday.
   - B. When talking about your family, it are wise to be discreet.
   - C. Earlier he spent 12 years in prison, much of it in solitary confinement.
   - D. For Janice, revenge were sweetly.

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Part 3 Writing Assessment

Student Name ___________________ Today’s Date ______________

Prompt: PE Requirement

Write a multi paragraph essay that answers the prompt. Use the box to plan your paper, and then write your essay on the lines below

Persuasive Prompt:

Some people are concerned that students are not as healthy as they should be. They think that regular exercise and information about good health habits are essential parts of an education. Therefore, some people want to require a daily physical education and health class for all students.

Write a persuasive essay stating whether or not you agree that all students should be required to take a daily physical education and health class. Provide examples and arguments that will convince your teacher that your position is correct.

Use this space to plan your essay

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions.

Noise and Old Ears
by Jack Myers

1 Although it is not exactly news, I want to report something I learned about ears.

2 I have old ears they don’t hear very well. That’s no big surprise because I am an older person. The surprise is that young people can have old ears, too. The idea is that too much noise can give you ears that are older than your number of birthdays.

3 Your ear is a very sensitive gadget for hearing sounds. The outer ear is the only part you can see. It opens into a tube, the ear canal, which leads inside and ends in a thin membrane, the eardrum. On the other side of the eardrum is an air-filled space called the middle ear. Small bones of the middle ear carry vibrations of the eardrum across to another small membrane of the inner ear. That’s a very sensitive place, a little cavity protected by a bony case.

4 Sound waves in the air cause vibrations of the eardrum. Then those vibrations pass through to the inner ear. That’s where the action is. There is a lineup of some very special cells, called hair cells because each one has many tiny bristles that look like hairs even though they are much smaller. Connecting to them are the endings of nerve cells, which have nerve fibers leading to the brain. Even a little motion of hair sets off a hair cell so that it zaps its nearest nerve ending. That sets up a nerve message.

5 Of course, there will be nerve messages from many hair cells. When your brain puts together all the nerve messages, you hear the sound.

6 Even though lots of things can go wrong, our ears usually work right all our lives. However, our ears have their own way of growing old. We were born with about 15,000 of those special hair cells in each inner ear. As we go through life, there are many times when all of us are exposed to loud noises. A loud noise, particularly one that continues, may destroy some of those hair cells. And once destroyed, they can never work again. It’s just that simple: the age of your ears is measured by how many hair cells you have lost. You can see that, with enough noise, your ears can grow old faster than you do.
The intensity of loudness of sound is measured on a scale of decibels (dB). The faintest sound heard by the human ear is put at zero (0 dB). The loudest sound a human is likely to hear is close to a rocket launching, about 180 dB. In the table 'Noises and Their Danger to Your Ears', you will see estimates for some different kinds of sounds or noise and how long it takes for them to be dangerous. You will see that until they get to be loud, noises never cause any ear damage. For louder noises, the longer you hear them the worse they are.

The table is only a rough guide, but it will give you an idea of noises loud enough to be dangerous. You will understand, of course, that any noise gets weaker the farther you get from its source. Even a thunderclap sounds weak if you are far enough away.

What should you do if you can't get away from dangerous noise? Try earplugs made of rubber, foam, or plastic. Many sporting goods stores have them. (Plugs of cotton aren't much help.)

How can you tell if a noise is loud enough to be dangerous? Because people differ, there is no very exact way to tell. But there is a rather simple rule: If someone has to shout to make you hear over a background noise, then that noise may be dangerous.

What about earphone radios? That's what started me thinking about ears. I noticed that many people seem to like their music loud. I guess you can see that their ears may not be as happy with loudness as they are. Again there is that simple rule: If someone has to shout to get your attention, you have your music turned up too loud.

Now that you know about it, don’t let your ears get older than you are.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>Danger Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weakest sound heard by human ear</td>
<td>No danger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiet library, soft whisper</td>
<td>No danger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close-by refrigerator</td>
<td>No danger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subway</td>
<td>After 8 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating a lawn mower</td>
<td>Before 8 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In front of speakers at a rock band concert</td>
<td>Within minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocket launching</td>
<td>Any time at all</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. What is the meaning of the word *decibel* in paragraph 7 of the selection?
   - A. The loudest sound heard by human ears
   - B. An estimate of pitch on a scale
   - C. A unit of sound measurement
   - D. A hair follicle in the inner ear

2. What would be the best advice for someone who attends rock concerts?
   - A. Wear earplugs made of cotton.
   - B. Sit far away from the speakers.
   - C. Try not to shout over the music.
   - D. Stay no longer than an hour.

3. According to the selection, what is the most sensitive area of the ear?
   - A. The eardrum
   - B. The inner ear
   - C. The middle ear
   - D. The ear canal
4  What is suggested by the expression “old ears” in paragraph 2 of the selection?
   ○ A. Age has little to do with hearing ability.
   ○ B. Ear disorders are quite common.
   ○ C. The development of ears is being discussed.
   ○ D. The story of deafness is an old one.

5  According to the selection, what causes nerve messages?
   ○ A. Vibrations of hair cells
   ○ B. Disorders of the middle ear
   ○ C. Air passing through the outer ear
   ○ D. The brain’s interpretation of sound

6  What are two ways people could protect their hearing? Include information from the selection in your answer.

________________________________________

________________________________________
7  According to the selection, what might someone do to test if the noise level is dangerous?
   ○ A. Notice if he or she has to shout
   ○ B. Use a decibel recorder
   ○ C. Ask other people if their ears hurt
   ○ D. Check for sound vibrations

8  Based on the information in the selection and the table, which of these is the most dangerous sound heard for one minute?
   ○ A. A rock concert
   ○ B. A subway train
   ○ C. Shouting in someone’s ear
   ○ D. A rocket launching

9  Which of these problems might be caused by earphone radios?
   ○ A. An infection in the middle ear
   ○ B. Growth of hair cells in the inner ear
   ○ C. Hearing loss
   ○ D. A sore throat
Another Kind of Water Safety

Suppose you’re hiking with friends on a hot summer day, and you come to a sparkling stream of clear, cool water. The water in the stream looks so inviting, and you suddenly realize that you’re thirsty. Should you take a drink from the stream?

The answer is as clear as the stream water: don’t drink it! Most freshwater isn’t safe to drink, even if it looks pure. Most mountain and forest water contains microorganisms—tiny living things—that you can’t see but that can make you sick.

Your safety is optimized if you take your own water with you on outdoor adventures. If you can’t carry all the purified water you’ll need, though, you have some viable alternatives. You can boil freshwater to make it safe to drink. Boiling kills the harmful microorganisms, but it may not remove all toxins or dangerous chemicals from the water. It also requires that you carry heavy equipment such as a pot, a stove, and fuel.

You can also take along chemicals that kill germs in water. These chemicals make the water safe to drink, but they often give it a bad taste. Another method for purifying freshwater is to use filters, but experts caution people to choose carefully since not all filters make water absolutely safe to drink.

If you find yourself running out of water, you can conserve your “inner water” by staying out of direct sunlight, by covering your skin so that you don’t lose as much water through perspiration, and by wearing a hat. Don’t eat salty snacks, because these will increase your thirst.

In an emergency, if you have to drink untreated water, avoid water that is near shores. Drink from an upstream source of
water, if one is available, and beware of shallow water or water that has a bad odor. If you develop a stomachache a few days or weeks after drinking untreated water, visit a doctor to find out if you caught a disease from drinking contaminated water.

HomeConnection Reading Fluency Standards
(correct words per min)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Fall WPM 50-60th percentile</th>
<th>Spring WPM 50-60th percentile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>20-25</td>
<td>40-50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>50-70</td>
<td>80-90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>70-90</td>
<td>100-110</td>
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<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>100-110</td>
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