

# Nelson Denny Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

- 1. What does it mean to be "apprized"?**
  - A. To disregard or neglect**
  - B. To appreciate or be aware of**
  - C. To misjudge or underestimate**
  - D. To hide from sight**
- 2. What is the goal of critical reading?**
  - A. To evaluate and question the information presented in the text.**
  - B. To memorize the text for future tests.**
  - C. To read as quickly as possible.**
  - D. To simplify the language of the text.**
- 3. How might a critic describe a garish piece of artwork?**
  - A. Subtle and emotive**
  - B. Conventional and safe**
  - C. Bright and overly decorated**
  - D. Classic and timeless**
- 4. How can making predictions about the content of a passage help?**
  - A. It engages the reader and sets expectations for what will be discussed.**
  - B. It allows readers to skip sections they find unimportant.**
  - C. It helps readers memorize the text faster.**
  - D. It determines the author's intended audience.**
- 5. What is a common strategy for improving reading comprehension skills?**
  - A. Reading more complex texts**
  - B. Practicing summarization techniques**
  - C. Focusing only on vocabulary development**
  - D. Listening to audiobooks**

- 6. What type of question requires the evaluation of the effectiveness of an argument?**
- A. Descriptive questions regarding the text**
  - B. Evaluative or judgment questions regarding the strength of the text's claims**
  - C. Fact-based questions on the text's content**
  - D. Reflective questions about personal opinions**
- 7. What type of question examines similarities and differences in the text?**
- A. Descriptive questions**
  - B. Comparative questions**
  - C. Inferential questions**
  - D. Explanatory questions**
- 8. In the Vocabulary section, what type of questions can typically be found?**
- A. Questions that require memorizing definitions of words**
  - B. Questions that require identifying the meaning of words based on context**
  - C. Questions based solely on synonyms and antonyms**
  - D. Questions related to specific literary devices**
- 9. What does the term "exigent" refer to in context?**
- A. Urgent; requiring immediate action**
  - B. Commonplace; of little importance**
  - C. Relaxed; not demanding**
  - D. Simple; easy to understand**
- 10. How might one prepare for summarizing practice?**
- A. By memorizing entire books**
  - B. By reading articles and writing concise summaries of the main points**
  - C. By discussing lengthy narratives**
  - D. By focusing on detailed analysis**

## **Answers**

SAMPLE

- 1. B**
- 2. A**
- 3. C**
- 4. A**
- 5. B**
- 6. B**
- 7. B**
- 8. B**
- 9. A**
- 10. B**

SAMPLE

## **Explanations**



## 1. What does it mean to be "apprized"?

- A. To disregard or neglect
- B. To appreciate or be aware of**
- C. To misjudge or underestimate
- D. To hide from sight

To be "apprized" means to be made aware of something or to be informed about a particular matter. This term comes from the root word "apprise," which indicates the act of informing or notifying someone of important information. When someone is apprized of something, they gain knowledge or understanding that they may not have had before, embodying the idea of appreciation or awareness of facts or circumstances. In the context of the choices given, being apprized aligns closely with the notion of being aware. The other options involve actions that do not relate to gaining knowledge or understanding. Disregarding or neglecting something involves ignoring it, misjudging or underestimating entails failing to grasp its true value, and hiding from sight implies removing it from visibility altogether—all of which contrast with the idea of being informed or aware.

## 2. What is the goal of critical reading?

- A. To evaluate and question the information presented in the text.**
- B. To memorize the text for future tests.
- C. To read as quickly as possible.
- D. To simplify the language of the text.

The goal of critical reading is to evaluate and question the information presented in the text. This process involves analyzing the arguments, assessing the credibility of the sources, and considering the evidence provided. Critical reading encourages readers to think deeply about what they are reading rather than simply accepting the text at face value. By engaging with the content on a critical level, readers can better understand the underlying messages, identify biases, and formulate their own opinions. In contrast, memorizing the text limits engagement and understanding, as it focuses solely on recall rather than comprehension and analysis. Reading quickly may not allow for the necessary depth of understanding since it can lead to overlooking key arguments or nuances. Simplifying the language, while potentially helpful in some contexts, detracts from the richness of the original text and may overlook the author's intended meaning or complexity. Therefore, the primary aim of critical reading is to foster a more thoughtful and engaged approach to understanding texts.

### 3. How might a critic describe a garish piece of artwork?

- A. Subtle and emotive
- B. Conventional and safe
- C. Bright and overly decorated**
- D. Classic and timeless

A critic might describe a garish piece of artwork as bright and overly decorated because the term "garish" conveys a sense of excessive brightness, vivid colors, or elaborate ornamentation that can be overwhelming or tasteless. This description highlights the characteristics of the artwork that stand out in a negative way, indicating that it lacks restraint and sophistication. A garish piece is typically associated with being loud and flashy to the point of drawing too much attention, which aligns perfectly with the idea of being both bright and overly decorated. In contrast, the other options suggest qualities that are more subdued, traditional, or sophisticated, which do not align with the connotation of "garish."

### 4. How can making predictions about the content of a passage help?

- A. It engages the reader and sets expectations for what will be discussed.**
- B. It allows readers to skip sections they find unimportant.
- C. It helps readers memorize the text faster.
- D. It determines the author's intended audience.

Making predictions about the content of a passage engages the reader and sets expectations for what will be discussed. When a reader anticipates what information or themes may be present in the text, it creates a mental framework that enhances comprehension and retention of the material. This active engagement can lead to a deeper understanding, as readers are more likely to pay attention to details that align with their predictions. Establishing these expectations can also help the reader connect new information with prior knowledge, facilitating a more meaningful reading experience. In contrast, other choices do not accurately convey the primary benefits of making predictions. For instance, skipping sections undermines comprehensive understanding of the text, while memorization and determining the intended audience do not directly relate to the predictive reading strategy. Therefore, engaging readers through prediction is pivotal for effective reading comprehension.

**5. What is a common strategy for improving reading comprehension skills?**

- A. Reading more complex texts**
- B. Practicing summarization techniques**
- C. Focusing only on vocabulary development**
- D. Listening to audiobooks**

Practicing summarization techniques is a highly effective strategy for improving reading comprehension skills. This approach encourages active engagement with the material, requiring the reader to identify key concepts, main ideas, and supporting details. By summarizing, readers distill the information into their own words, which strengthens their understanding and retention of the content. This process also helps in recognizing the structure of the text and making connections between ideas, which are crucial components of comprehension. Engaging in summarization allows readers to reflect on what they have read and assess their grasp of the material, thereby promoting a deeper understanding. It can also help highlight areas where additional focus might be needed, whether in understanding specific terms or recognizing underlying themes. Overall, this technique enhances critical thinking skills, contributing significantly to improved reading comprehension. In contrast, while reading more complex texts may challenge a reader, without the accompanying strategies such as summarization, it does not guarantee enhanced comprehension. Focusing solely on vocabulary development is important but doesn't encompass the full scope of understanding a text. Similarly, listening to audiobooks offers benefits, but it lacks the active engagement component that written summarization provides, which is essential for comprehending and retaining information effectively.

**6. What type of question requires the evaluation of the effectiveness of an argument?**

- A. Descriptive questions regarding the text**
- B. Evaluative or judgment questions regarding the strength of the text's claims**
- C. Fact-based questions on the text's content**
- D. Reflective questions about personal opinions**

The chosen response refers to questions that ask for an assessment of an argument's quality or validity based on its reasoning, evidence, and coherence. Evaluative or judgment questions delve deeper than mere comprehension; they require the reader to analyze how effectively the author supports their claims. This can involve identifying logical fallacies, assessing the use of evidence, or determining whether the conclusions drawn are justified based on the information presented. Descriptive questions typically focus on summarizing the text or identifying specific elements without requiring critical analysis. Fact-based inquiries aim to seek straightforward answers found within the text, concentrating on details rather than evaluating their importance. Reflective questions invite personal interpretation or response, which might imply subjective judgment but do not necessarily require an analysis of the argument's effectiveness. Therefore, the most aligned type of question for evaluating argument effectiveness is indeed the evaluative or judgment questions.

**7. What type of question examines similarities and differences in the text?**

- A. Descriptive questions**
- B. Comparative questions**
- C. Inferential questions**
- D. Explanatory questions**

The correct choice focuses on the nature of the question that seeks to analyze how two or more elements in a text relate to each other in terms of similarities and differences. Comparative questions specifically ask the reader to recognize and articulate these relationships, prompting a deeper understanding of the text by examining various aspects side by side. This type of question encourages critical thinking as it requires the reader to not only identify the features of each element but also to synthesize that information to understand how they are interrelated. On the other hand, descriptive questions aim to identify or summarize details about a single element without necessarily relating it to others. Inferential questions delve into meanings that are not explicitly stated in the text and do not focus on direct comparisons. Explanatory questions are designed to clarify concepts or ideas but do not emphasize the contrasts or comparisons between different elements. Therefore, the nature of comparative questions aligns perfectly with the objective of examining similarities and differences in the text.

**8. In the Vocabulary section, what type of questions can typically be found?**

- A. Questions that require memorizing definitions of words**
- B. Questions that require identifying the meaning of words based on context**
- C. Questions based solely on synonyms and antonyms**
- D. Questions related to specific literary devices**

The focus of the Vocabulary section is on identifying the meaning of words based on context. This approach emphasizes the ability to derive meaning from the surrounding text, allowing individuals to understand how words function within sentences and larger passages. Such skills are vital for reading comprehension as they integrate vocabulary knowledge with contextual clues provided by the text. In real-life reading situations, the meanings of words are often conveyed not solely through definitions but through how they are used in various contexts. This method enhances comprehension and allows for a deeper understanding of the material, as it fosters the ability to interpret unfamiliar words using the information already available in the sentence or paragraph.

**9. What does the term "exigent" refer to in context?**

**A. Urgent; requiring immediate action**

**B. Commonplace; of little importance**

**C. Relaxed; not demanding**

**D. Simple; easy to understand**

The term "exigent" means urgent and requiring immediate action. This definition captures the sense of something that demands prompt attention or a quick response due to its critical nature. In various contexts, "exigent" can describe situations where time is of the essence, such as emergencies or pressing deadlines. Understanding this term is important as it highlights scenarios where inaction might lead to adverse consequences, thereby emphasizing the need for swift intervention.

**10. How might one prepare for summarizing practice?**

**A. By memorizing entire books**

**B. By reading articles and writing concise summaries of the main points**

**C. By discussing lengthy narratives**

**D. By focusing on detailed analysis**

Preparing for summarizing practice involves engaging in activities that enhance one's ability to distill information into concise formats, capturing essential ideas and main points. Engaging with articles and then writing brief summaries is a particularly effective method. This approach fosters skills in identifying the core arguments and significant details, allowing for a clear and succinct representation of the material. This practice not only reinforces comprehension but also aids in the development of precision in writing. It allows the individual to focus on extracting the essence of the text without getting bogged down in excessive details. The process of summarization also enhances critical thinking as one learns to prioritize information and synthesize ideas effectively.