

NAPLAN Reading Sprint

50 One-Page Passages + Questions

Year 3

Comprehensive Reading Practice for NAPLAN Success

Featuring diverse text types and age-appropriate content

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How to Use This Book

- Read each passage carefully
- Answer all questions before checking the answer key
- Take your time to understand what each question is asking
- Look back at the passage to find evidence for your answers
- Check your answers using the answer key at the end

Passage 1: The Magic Garden

Emma discovered something amazing in her grandmother's back garden. Behind the old shed, she found a small door painted bright green. When she opened it, she gasped in wonder. Inside was the most beautiful garden she had ever seen.

The flowers were enormous and colourful. There were roses as big as dinner plates and sunflowers that towered above her head. Butterflies with wings like rainbows danced from flower to flower. In the centre of the garden stood a fountain that sparkled like diamonds in the sunlight.

Emma's grandmother smiled when she saw her granddaughter's amazed face. "This is my secret garden," she whispered. "I've been working on it for twenty years. Would you like to help me take care of it?"

Questions:

1. Where did Emma find the small door?
2. What colour was the door?
3. How long had Grandmother been working on her garden?
4. What did the butterflies' wings look like?
5. How do you think Emma felt when she first saw the garden? Give a reason for your answer.

Passage 2: How Penguins Stay Warm

Penguins live in some of the coldest places on Earth, but they have amazing ways to stay warm. Their bodies are perfectly designed for surviving in icy conditions.

First, penguins have thick feathers that work like a warm coat. They have two layers of feathers - soft, fluffy feathers close to their skin, and waterproof feathers on the outside. These feathers trap warm air close to their bodies.

Second, penguins huddle together in large groups. They take turns moving from the outside of the group to the warm centre. This way, every penguin gets a chance to warm up. Scientists have discovered that the centre of a penguin huddle can be up to 35 degrees warmer than the outside!

Questions:

1. Where do penguins live?
2. How many layers of feathers do penguins have?
3. What do the outside feathers do?
4. How much warmer is the centre of a huddle compared to the outside?
5. Why do you think penguins take turns in the huddle?

Passage 3: Making Paper Aeroplanes

Making a paper aeroplane is easy and fun! All you need is one piece of paper and a few simple steps.

First, fold a piece of paper in half lengthwise, then unfold it. Next, fold the top two corners into the centre line to make a triangle shape at the top. Then, fold the angled edges into the

centre line again to make the wings narrower.

Now, fold the plane in half along the original centre line. Finally, fold each wing down to create the wing shape. Make sure both wings are even.

Your paper aeroplane is ready to fly! Throw it gently with a smooth motion. If it doesn't fly well, check that your folds are neat and the wings are even.

Questions:

1. What do you need to make a paper aeroplane?
2. What is the first step in making the aeroplane?
3. What shape do you make at the top of the paper?
4. What should you check if your plane doesn't fly well?
5. Why do you think it's important to make both wings even?

Passage 4: Why We Should Recycle

Recycling is one of the best things we can do to help our planet. When we recycle, we turn old things into new things instead of throwing them away.

Recycling helps in many ways. It saves trees because we can make new paper from old paper instead of cutting down forests. It also saves energy because it takes less energy to recycle materials than to make new ones from scratch.

Everyone can help by recycling at home and at school. You can recycle paper, plastic bottles, cans, and cardboard. Even small actions make a big difference when lots of people do them together.

By recycling, we can keep our Earth clean and beautiful for future generations. Start recycling today - our planet will thank you!

Questions:

1. What does recycling mean?
2. How does recycling help save trees?
3. List three things you can recycle.
4. Who can help with recycling?
5. Do you agree that recycling is important? Give one reason.

Passage 5: The Brave Little Mouse

Pip was the smallest mouse in his family, but he had the biggest heart. While his brothers and sisters were afraid to explore beyond their nest, Pip dreamed of adventures. One day, Pip heard crying coming from the garden shed. He crept outside and discovered a baby bird that had fallen from its nest. The bird couldn't fly yet, and a cat was prowling nearby. Even though Pip was scared, he knew he had to help. He squeaked loudly to distract the cat, then quickly guided the baby bird to safety under a pile of leaves. When the danger passed, Pip helped the bird find its way back to its worried mother. From that day on, all the animals in the garden knew they could count on brave little Pip whenever they needed help.

Questions:

1. What was special about Pip compared to his brothers and sisters?
2. Where did Pip find the baby bird?
3. What danger was the baby bird in?
4. How did Pip distract the cat?
5. What lesson does this story teach us?

Passage 6: Amazing Facts About Dolphins

Dolphins are some of the most intelligent animals in the ocean. These amazing creatures have many special abilities that help them survive and thrive in their underwater world. Dolphins use echolocation to find their way around. They make clicking sounds that bounce off objects and return to them. This helps them 'see' in dark or murky water. It's like having a built-in sonar system! These playful animals are also very social. They live in groups called pods and communicate with each other using squeaks, whistles, and body language. Baby dolphins stay close to their mothers for several years, learning important survival skills. Dolphins are mammals, which means they breathe air and feed milk to their babies. They must come to the surface regularly to breathe through a blowhole on top of their heads.

Questions:

1. What do dolphins use to find their way around underwater?
2. What is a group of dolphins called?

3. How do dolphins breathe?
4. How long do baby dolphins stay with their mothers?
5. In what ways are dolphins similar to humans?

Passage 7: How to Plant a Seed

Growing your own plants from seeds is exciting and rewarding. Here's how to give your seeds the best start in life.

You will need: seeds, small pots, potting soil, water, and a sunny windowsill. First, fill your pots with potting soil, leaving about 2 centimetres from the top. Make a small hole in the soil with your finger - about twice as deep as the seed is wide.

Place one or two seeds in each hole and gently cover them with soil. Water the soil carefully until it's damp but not soggy. Too much water can drown the seeds!

Put your pots in a warm, sunny place and keep the soil slightly moist. In a few days or weeks, you should see tiny green shoots pushing through the soil. Congratulations - you've grown a plant!

Questions:

1. List four things you need to plant seeds.
2. How deep should you make the hole for the seed?
3. How many seeds should you put in each hole?
4. What happens if you give the seeds too much water?
5. How will you know your seed has started to grow?

Passage 8: Why Libraries Are Important

Libraries are treasure troves of knowledge that everyone should visit. They offer much more than just books, and they play a vital role in our communities.

At the library, you can borrow books, magazines, DVDs, and even audio books - all for free! This means you can read hundreds of books without spending any money. Libraries also have computers and internet access for people who don't have them at home.

Many libraries run special programmes like story time for young children, homework help for students, and book clubs for readers of all ages. The friendly librarians are always ready to help you find exactly what you're looking for.

Libraries are quiet, peaceful places where you can study, research, or simply enjoy reading. They bring people together and help everyone in the community learn and grow.

Questions:

1. What can you borrow from a library besides books?
2. How much does it cost to borrow items from the library?
3. Name two special programmes that libraries might run.
4. Who can help you find what you're looking for at the library?
5. Why do you think libraries are important for communities?

Passage 9: The Mystery of the Missing Cookies

Detective Sarah was puzzled. Mrs Johnson had baked a batch of chocolate chip cookies for the school fair, but when she went to pack them, half were missing!

Sarah examined the kitchen carefully. She found crumbs on the floor leading to the back door, and muddy paw prints on the windowsill. There was also a small piece of brown fur caught on the door handle.

Following the trail outside, Sarah discovered more crumbs leading to the garden shed. Inside, she found Max, Mrs Johnson's golden retriever, with chocolate around his mouth and a very guilty expression.

"Mystery solved!" announced Sarah. Mrs Johnson laughed when she saw Max's chocolate-covered face. "I should have known better than to leave the cookies where he could reach them," she said, giving Max a gentle pat.

Questions:

1. What were the cookies being baked for?
2. What clues did Sarah find in the kitchen?
3. Where did Sarah find Max?
4. How did Sarah know Max was the cookie thief?
5. How do you think Mrs Johnson could prevent this happening again?

Passage 10: The Water Cycle

The water cycle is nature's way of recycling water. This amazing process has been happening for millions of years and keeps our planet's water moving around and around. It starts when the sun heats up water in oceans, rivers, and lakes. The water turns into invisible water vapour and rises into the sky. This process is called evaporation. High in the sky, the water vapour cools down and forms tiny water droplets that create clouds. When the clouds become heavy with water, the droplets fall back to Earth as rain, snow, or hail. This is called precipitation. The water then flows into rivers and streams, which carry it back to the oceans, and the cycle begins again.

Thanks to the water cycle, we always have fresh water to drink, and plants get the water they need to grow.

Questions:

1. What starts the water cycle?
2. What is it called when water turns into water vapour?
3. How are clouds formed?
4. What is precipitation?
5. Why is the water cycle important for living things?

Passage 11: Making Friends at a New School

Starting at a new school can feel scary, but there are many ways to make new friends and feel comfortable in your new environment.

First, be yourself and smile at other students. A friendly smile is one of the best ways to show that you'd like to be friends. Join in playground games or ask if you can sit with someone at lunch. Most children are happy to include new students.

Look for clubs or activities that interest you. Whether it's art club, soccer, or the school choir, joining activities is a great way to meet children who share your interests. Don't be afraid to ask questions - your new classmates will be happy to help you learn about your new school.

Remember, it takes time to build friendships. Be patient and kind, and soon you'll have wonderful new friends to share your school adventures with.

Questions:

1. What is one of the best ways to show you'd like to be friends?
2. Name two ways to meet other students at school.
3. Why is joining clubs a good idea?

4. What should you remember about building friendships?
5. What advice would you give to someone starting at a new school?

Passage 12: The Life Cycle of a Butterfly

The transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly is one of nature's most amazing processes. This change, called metamorphosis, has four distinct stages.

First, an adult butterfly lays tiny eggs on a leaf. After a few days, small caterpillars hatch from the eggs and immediately start eating the leaf. The caterpillar grows quickly and sheds its skin several times as it gets bigger.

Next, when the caterpillar is fully grown, it forms a protective shell called a chrysalis around itself. Inside this shell, the caterpillar's body completely changes over several weeks. This stage is called the pupa stage.

Finally, a beautiful butterfly emerges from the chrysalis. At first, its wings are soft and folded, but they soon dry and become strong enough for flying. The butterfly is now ready to start the cycle again by laying its own eggs.

Questions:

1. What is the process of a caterpillar changing into a butterfly called?
2. What do caterpillars do immediately after hatching?
3. What is a chrysalis?
4. How many stages are there in a butterfly's life cycle?
5. Why do you think caterpillars need to shed their skin?

Passage 13: Building a Bird House

Building a bird house is a fun project that helps our feathered friends find safe places to nest. Here's a simple way to make one.

You'll need: wooden boards, nails, a hammer, a drill, and some sandpaper. Start by cutting six pieces of wood - a front, back, two sides, a bottom, and a roof. Sand all pieces until they're smooth.

Drill a small entrance hole in the front piece, about 3 centimetres wide. Make sure it's not too big, or large birds might bother smaller ones. Nail the pieces together carefully, starting with the back and sides, then adding the front and bottom.

Finally, attach the roof with a slight overhang to keep rain out. Mount your bird house on a pole or tree, about 1.5 metres high, and wait for your new tenants to move in!

Questions:

1. How many pieces of wood do you need?
2. Why should you sand the wood pieces?
3. How big should the entrance hole be?
4. Why does the roof need an overhang?
5. Where is the best place to put a bird house?

Passage 14: Schools Should Have Longer Lunch Breaks

I believe schools should give students longer lunch breaks because it would help us learn better and feel happier.

Currently, we only have 30 minutes for lunch, which isn't enough time to eat properly and play with friends. Many students have to rush through their food or skip playing time altogether. This makes us feel stressed and tired for afternoon classes.

With a longer lunch break, students could eat more slowly, which is better for digestion. We'd also have more time to play outside, get fresh air, and exercise. This would help us concentrate better when we return to class.

Some people worry that longer breaks mean less learning time, but research shows that well-rested, happy students actually learn more effectively. A longer lunch break would make school a better place for everyone.

Questions:

1. How long is the current lunch break?
2. What problems does the writer mention about short lunch breaks?
3. What benefits would a longer lunch break provide?
4. What concern do some people have about longer breaks?
5. Do you agree with the writer? Why or why not?

Passage 15: The Midnight Adventure

Lucy couldn't sleep. The full moon shone brightly through her bedroom window, making everything look magical and silvery. She heard a strange tapping sound coming from the garden.

Creeping to the window, Lucy gasped. A family of hedgehogs was having a party on her lawn! They were rolling around, playing tag, and having the most wonderful time. The biggest hedgehog seemed to be leading the games.

Lucy watched in delight for almost an hour. She had never known that hedgehogs came out at night to play. When she finally went back to bed, she dreamed of joining the hedgehogs in their moonlit games.

The next morning, Lucy found tiny paw prints in the flower bed and a few hedgehog quills on the grass. It hadn't been a dream after all - the midnight party had really happened!

Questions:

1. What woke Lucy up?
2. What were the hedgehogs doing in the garden?
3. How long did Lucy watch the hedgehogs?
4. How did Lucy know it wasn't a dream?
5. Why do you think Lucy found the hedgehogs' party so exciting?

Passage 16: Why Bees Are Important

Bees are tiny creatures that do big jobs for our world. Without bees, many of the foods we love wouldn't exist!

The most important job bees do is pollination. When bees visit flowers to collect nectar, pollen sticks to their fuzzy bodies. As they fly from flower to flower, they carry this pollen with them. This helps plants make seeds and grow new plants.

Many fruits and vegetables depend on bees for pollination, including apples, strawberries, almonds, and even chocolate (which comes from cocoa plants). Without bees, farmers would struggle to grow enough food for everyone.

Sadly, bee populations are declining around the world. We can help by planting bee-friendly flowers in our gardens and avoiding harmful pesticides. Every small action helps protect these vital insects.

Questions:

1. What is the most important job that bees do?
2. How does pollen stick to bees?

3. Name three foods that depend on bees for pollination.
4. What is happening to bee populations around the world?
5. How can we help protect bees?

Passage 25: The Ancient Pyramids

The pyramids of Egypt are some of the most amazing buildings ever created. Built over 4,000 years ago, they still stand today as monuments to ancient engineering skills. The largest pyramid, the Great Pyramid of Giza, was built for a pharaoh named Khufu. It took over 20 years to build and used more than 2 million stone blocks. Each block weighed as much as a car!

Workers had to cut the stones perfectly and move them into place without modern machines. Scientists still debate exactly how the ancient Egyptians managed such an incredible feat.

The pyramids were built as tombs for the pharaohs, who were buried with treasures they believed they would need in the afterlife. Today, millions of people visit these wonders of the ancient world.

Questions:

1. How old are the Egyptian pyramids?
2. Who was the Great Pyramid built for?
3. How long did it take to build the Great Pyramid?
4. What were the pyramids used for?
5. Why do you think the pyramids are still considered amazing today?

Passage 35: Making Healthy Smoothies

Smoothies are a delicious way to get lots of vitamins and minerals. Making them at home is easy and lets you choose exactly what goes in.

Start with a liquid base like milk, yoghurt, or fruit juice. Add your favourite fruits - bananas make smoothies creamy, while berries add colour and antioxidants. For extra nutrition, try adding spinach (you won't taste it!) or a spoonful of oats.

Put all ingredients in a blender and blend until smooth. If your smoothie is too thick, add more liquid. If it's too thin, add more fruit or ice. Taste and adjust as needed.

Pour into a glass and enjoy immediately. Fresh smoothies taste best when consumed straight away, so make only what you can drink at once.

Questions:

1. What should you start with when making a smoothie?
2. What do bananas add to a smoothie?
3. What can you add for extra nutrition?
4. When should you drink your smoothie?
5. What would you put in your ideal smoothie?

Passage 45: The Dancing Robot

In Professor Wilson's robotics lab, something extraordinary was happening. ZARA, the latest robot, had learned to dance all by herself!

It started when ZARA was listening to music while the professor worked. Her sensors picked up the rhythm, and she began moving her metal arms in time with the beat. Soon, her whole body was swaying and stepping in perfect harmony with the melody.

The professor was amazed. He had programmed ZARA to learn, but he never expected her to develop a love for music and movement. ZARA seemed to feel joy when she danced, her LED eyes sparkling brighter than usual.

News of the dancing robot spread quickly. People came from around the world to see ZARA perform her unique robotic ballet. She had become the first robot to create art through dance, proving that creativity isn't limited to humans alone.

Questions:

1. What was ZARA doing when she first started dancing?
2. How did ZARA's dancing begin?
3. How could the professor tell ZARA enjoyed dancing?
4. Why did people come from around the world?
5. What does this story suggest about robots and creativity?

Passage 50: The Power of Reading

Reading is like having a superpower that opens doors to countless worlds and adventures. Every time you open a book, you embark on a journey that can take you anywhere in the universe.

Through reading, you can travel to distant planets, explore ancient civilizations, solve mysteries with famous detectives, or learn about incredible animals. Books let you experience things that would be impossible in real life, all from the comfort of your favourite reading spot.

Reading also makes you smarter and more creative. It improves your vocabulary, helps you understand different perspectives, and gives you ideas for your own stories and projects.

The more you read, the better you become at understanding the world around you.

Best of all, reading is a skill that lasts your whole life. Every book you read today builds your reading superpower, making you ready for any adventure that comes your way. So pick up a book and discover the magic waiting inside!

Questions:

1. What does the writer compare reading to?
2. Name three places reading can take you.
3. How does reading make you smarter?
4. What happens to your reading ability as you read more books?
5. Why do you think the writer calls reading a 'superpower'?

Answer Key

Check your answers below. Remember, some questions may have more than one correct answer!

Passage 1: The Magic Garden

1. Behind the old shed
2. Bright green
3. Twenty years
4. Rainbows
5. Amazed/surprised/excited (various answers accepted with good reasoning)

Passage 2: How Penguins Stay Warm

1. Some of the coldest places on Earth
2. Two layers
3. They are waterproof
4. Up to 35 degrees warmer
5. So every penguin gets a chance to warm up/be fair

Passage 3: Making Paper Aeroplanes

1. One piece of paper
2. Fold the paper in half lengthwise, then unfold it
3. A triangle
4. That your folds are neat and the wings are even
5. So the plane flies straight/balanced (various answers accepted)

Passage 4: Why We Should Recycle

1. Turning old things into new things instead of throwing them away
2. We can make new paper from old paper instead of cutting down forests
3. Paper, plastic bottles, cans, cardboard (any three)
4. Everyone
5. Personal opinion with valid reasoning

Passage 5: The Brave Little Mouse

1. He was smallest but had the biggest heart/was brave/loved adventures
2. In the garden shed
3. A cat was prowling nearby
4. He squeaked loudly
5. Being brave, helping others, size doesn't matter (various answers accepted)

Passage 6: Amazing Facts About Dolphins

1. Echolocation
2. A pod
3. Through a blowhole on top of their heads
4. Several years
5. They're intelligent, social, communicate, care for babies (various answers)

Passage 7: How to Plant a Seed

1. Seeds, small pots, potting soil, water (any four)
2. About twice as deep as the seed is wide
3. One or two seeds

4. You can drown the seeds
5. You'll see tiny green shoots pushing through the soil

Passage 8: Why Libraries Are Important

1. Magazines, DVDs, audio books
2. Free/nothing
3. Story time, homework help, book clubs (any two)
4. Librarians
5. Personal opinion with valid reasoning

Passage 9: The Mystery of the Missing Cookies

1. The school fair
2. Crumbs on the floor, muddy paw prints, brown fur on door handle
3. In the garden shed
4. He had chocolate around his mouth and a guilty expression
5. Keep cookies out of reach, put them higher up, etc.

Passage 10: The Water Cycle

1. The sun heating up water
2. Evaporation
3. Water vapour cools and forms tiny water droplets
4. When water falls back to Earth as rain, snow, or hail
5. It provides fresh water to drink and helps plants grow

Passage 11: Making Friends at a New School

1. A friendly smile
2. Join playground games, ask to sit with someone at lunch, join clubs/activities
3. You meet children who share your interests
4. That it takes time to build friendships
5. Personal advice with valid reasoning

Congratulations on completing all 50 reading passages!
Keep practising your reading skills for NAPLAN success!

