



## ACCUPLACER ESL PLACEMENT TEST INFORMATION BULLETIN

2014

### **Purpose of the Test**

The ACCUPLACER ESL Placement Test indicates your proficiency in the English language. The test scores will be used with other information you provide to place you in the correct ESL courses. The test is not timed; however, we recommend that you plan to allow yourself at least 1 hour for testing. There are two (2) multiple choice sections: reading skills and language use.

### **Who Must Take the Test**

Mercer County Community College requires that all students complete an application online or through our Admissions Office before testing. This test is for all students enrolling in ESL courses who have met with our Admissions Office counselors for students with English as the second language or international students.

Mathematics courses also require placement testing. If you plan to take math and ESL courses, you may take the math placement test with the ESL test.

Practice tests are available with this bulletin and on our website [www.mccc.edu](http://www.mccc.edu) under "prospective students", then "placement testing". For the online sample questions, click the link **College Board Sample Tests** to practice the ESL and mathematics placement tests.

### **Where and When the Test is Given**

The computerized ESL placement test is given by appointment and available most times by walk-in at West Windsor Campus (WWC) or by appointment only at the James Kerney Campus (JKC). You may call for an appointment at (609) 570-3295(WWC) or (609)570-3151(JKC).

#### **WHAT TO TAKE WITH YOU ON THE TEST DAY:**

1. A PHOTO ID
2. Test request form from Admissions
3. STUDENT ID NUMBER

Pencil and paper testing is available upon request for those who are not comfortable testing on computer. Visit our website at [www.mccc.edu](http://www.mccc.edu) for more information.

### **Testing Regulations**

No electronic devices, food, drink, books, dictionaries, calculators, or papers of any kind are allowed in the test room. Anyone who gives or receives help during the test, uses notes, books, a calculator, a cell phone or removes test materials from the room will not be permitted to continue the test. A retest is required for a fee if cheating is evident.

### **Test Scores**

Test scores are used for placement in ESL and/or English courses. If additional testing is required for placement, this will be determined and authorized by the Admissions Advisement Office. A retest requires a fee.

**Please note:** Your test data will only be used for placement and research purposes, and your identity will be kept confidential.

# ACCUPLACER ESL Reading Skills Test

The ESL Reading Skills test measures your ability to read English. Specifically, it assesses your comprehension of short passages. It contains brief passages of 50 words or less and moderate length passages of 50 to 90 words. Half of this test contains straightforward comprehension items (paraphrase, locating information, vocabulary on a phrase level, and pronoun reference). The other half assesses inference skills (main idea, fact versus opinion, cause/effect logic, identifying irrelevant information, author's point of view and applying the author's logic to another situation).

## Sample Questions

1. Television has been introduced to almost every country in the world, reaching a large number of viewers on every continent. About 600 million people saw the first person walk on the moon, and a billion people watched the twentieth Olympic Games. Television has in many ways promoted understanding and cooperation among people. It does this by showing educational and cultural programs.

From this passage, a reader can conclude that the author believes that

- A. people spend too much time watching television
  - B. not every country needs to have television
  - C. television can unify people from around the world
  - D. television is as important as schools
2. Janet's parents bought her a new sports car as a birthday present. It was blue. Janet sold her 7-year-old blue pickup truck to a high school student. The truck could not go very fast, but the student was happy with it.

From the passage, which of these statements can the reader assume?

- A. Janet prefers trucks to cars.
- B. Janet likes the color blue.
- C. Janet owns more than one vehicle.
- D. Janet drives her car every day.

3. Some of Edward Weston's black-and-white photographs of American nature scenes are considered superb examples of visual art. Indeed, some of his photographs have commanded top prices at art galleries.

Which of the following best characterizes Weston's photographs?

- A. They belong to famous collectors.
  - B. They have been sold in art galleries for large sums of money.
  - C. They introduced many Americans to visual art.
  - D. They contrast American cities with natural settings.
4. Speaking to a group of people can be a frightening experience. Some speakers cope by looking above the heads of the audience. Others try to imagine that they are talking to a friend. A few try picturing the audience in some non-threatening way, such as in their pajamas.

The author of the passage assumes that speakers should

- A. feel comfortable when addressing an audience.
  - B. scare the audience.
  - C. encourage people to talk during the speech.
  - D. speak only to familiar people.
5. People have different ways of learning. Some are better at making mental pictures of new ideas. Others are more comfortable with writing lists of things to memorize. Certain people can learn best when listening to music, while others need silence to concentrate.

Which of the following is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Mental pictures help many to learn.
  - B. Some people prefer lists to making mental pictures.
  - C. To learn well you need to be comfortable.
  - D. Different individuals have different ways of acquiring information.
6. Before giving first aid to an accident victim, you should obtain his or her consent. Asking for consent takes a simple question. Say to the victim, "I know first aid, and I can help you until an ambulance arrives. Is that okay?"

"Asking for consent" means asking for

- A. permission to help the victim.
  - B. thanks from the victim.
  - C. help from onlookers.
  - D. information about the victim's injuries.
7. Jane and Paul are busy for 15 hours a day, 5 days a week going to college and working in a restaurant. They go to sleep at 11 p.m. every day, but on Sunday they take part in dance lessons.

According to the passage, Jane and Paul spend most of their time

- A. at home.
- B. going to college and working.
- C. taking part in dance lessons.
- D. sleeping.

8. If you hold a piece of copper wire over the flame of a match, heat will be conducted by the copper wire to your fingers, and you will be forced to drop the wire. You will, however, still be able to hold the match because the match is a poor conductor of heat. Anyone, child or adult, can try this simple experiment.

Which of the following is implied in the passage above?

- A. Copper is a good conductor of heat.
  - B. A match and copper conduct heat equally.
  - C. A match is an excellent conductor of heat.
  - D. Matches should be kept out of the reach of small children.
9. Many people own different pets. Dogs, cats, birds, and fish are common household pets. Others pets are considered to be exotic animals. These include snakes, lizards, and hedgehogs.

Snakes are

- A. uncommon pets.
  - B. likely to be found in a household with dogs.
  - C. found only in zoos.
  - D. not allowed in people's homes.
10. Cesar Chavez was an influential leader for farmworkers. He fought for their rights and better working conditions. Chavez led many strikes that angered farm owners. Eventually he succeeded in getting increased wages and improved living situations for farmworkers.

Chavez changed lives because he

- A. helped the farmers get more workers.
  - B. worked for the farmers.
  - C. helped work on the farms every day.
  - D. changed the conditions for the farmworkers.
11. When cartoonist Charles M. Schulz was a boy in elementary school, other boys teased him for being small and not very good at sports, and his art teacher told him he had no talent for drawing. He had few friends, and was too shy to talk to a red-haired girl he admired. Later in life, Schulz used his childhood experiences in his comic strip "Peanuts," using the strip's main character, the sad and lonely Charlie Brown, to represent himself as a little boy. "Peanuts" was unique at the time because it contained no adult characters. Readers fell in love with Charlie Brown, and "Peanuts" eventually became one of the most popular comic strips of all time.

What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. "Peanuts" was the world's most widely read comic strip.
- B. Charles M. Schulz was a very famous cartoonist.
- C. Schulz turned the pain of his youth into fame as an adult.
- D. The "Peanuts" comic strip featured children as its only characters.

12. Money has existed for thousands of years in nearly every culture as a means of exchange. However, today, the use of cash is becoming less and less common in modern societies all over the world. Every year, a higher percentage of purchases is made online, and even in stores customers are now using credit cards more often than cash. Many people today do all of their banking on the Internet rather than going to the bank in person.

The author of the passage probably assumes that

- A. cash will become virtually obsolete in the near future
  - B. using cash will become popular again
  - C. paying with credit cards all the time is dangerous
  - D. societies that do business online will prosper
13. Insomnia — the inability to fall asleep or to stay asleep — is a condition that plagues many people at one time or another in their lives. It can be uncomfortable, but is usually not harmful, and most people who believe they have been awake all night have actually slept more than they think. While some people rely on prescription medication to help them sleep, insomnia can be controlled by changing behavior. Insomnia is often caused by stress or anxiety, but it can also be made worse by eating too heavily too late; consuming a lot of caffeine; or watching television, using computers or exercising right before bedtime. If you can't sleep, the best thing to do is to get out of bed and do something calming for a while, such as read, until you feel sleepy. Some people find that herbal tea such as chamomile helps them feel drowsy.

The author believes that people can best combat insomnia by

- A. trying to sleep
  - B. taking medication
  - C. accepting their condition
  - D. changing their habits
14. Before giving first aid to an accident victim, you should obtain his or her consent. Asking for consent takes a simple question. Say to the victim, "I know first aid, and I can help until an ambulance arrives. Is that okay?"

According to the passage, it is wrong to

- A. use first aid on an accident victim without medical training
  - B. attempt to help an accident victim without permission
  - C. help a victim before an ambulance arrives
  - D. call for an ambulance instead of helping the victim
15. Dr. Ellen Ochoa is an inventor and is also the first female Hispanic astronaut. Her inventions include technology to help robots to inspect equipment in space to maintain safety and quality control on spacecraft. Before retiring, she logged more than 1,000 hours in space across several space missions.

Dr. Ochoa is

- A. the first Hispanic person to travel into space
- B. the first inventor to travel into space
- C. the first woman to travel into space
- D. the first Hispanic woman to travel into space

16. Dogs and cats make very different types of pets. Before deciding whether to buy or adopt a dog or a cat, prospective owners need to carefully consider their own lifestyles and personalities. Dogs may make more affectionate companions, but they require more care and attention. They must be taken out several times a day and should not be left alone for more than a few hours. Larger dogs require significant exercise to remain fit and healthy. Cats are usually more independent in nature and interact less with their owners. Also, a cat can be left on its own all day, or even for several days, as long as it has food and clean water to drink.

From this passage a reader can conclude that

- A. owning a cat requires less work than owning a dog
  - B. people who travel a lot should not own a cat
  - C. people who like to play with their pets should own a cat
  - D. owning a cat is more responsibility than owning a dog
17. People's moods are largely a matter of focus. It is a natural tendency of many people to focus on what is wrong in their lives, or on the day-to-day events that make them angry or irritated. However, anyone can change this by directing the mind. When feeling down or upset, a person can change his or her state of mind by recalling happy memories, by paying attention to the things for which he or she is grateful, or by directing the attention to something uplifting or beautiful, such as artwork, nature or music. By directing the mind in this way, a person can transform his or her mood in an instant, even if none of the outward circumstances have changed.

Which of the following is implied by the passage above?

- A. People's moods are determined by the conditions around them.
- B. People can take responsibility for controlling their own moods.
- C. A person's mood depends on what happens to him or her that day.
- D. People are usually in a good mood unless something happens to change it.

## ACCUPLACER ESL Sentence Meaning Test

The ESL Sentence Meaning test measures how well you understand the meaning of sentences in English. It assesses the understanding of word meanings in one- or two-sentence contexts. The sentences are drawn from the subject areas of natural science, history/social studies, arts/humanities, psychology/human relations, and practical situations. There are four content areas measured: (a) Particle, Phrasal Verbs, Prepositions of Direction; (b) Adverbs, Adjectives, Connectives Sequence; (c) Basic Nouns and Verbs; and (d) Basic and Important Idioms.

## Sample Questions

*The sentence below has a blank space. Choose the word or phrase that makes the sentence meaningful and correct.*

1. Shikibu Murasaki, who wrote almost a thousand years ago, was one of the world's \_\_\_\_\_ novelists.
  - A. most early
  - B. too early
  - C. more early
  - D. earliest
2. The Chang children \_\_\_\_\_ their parents by making sandwiches for the whole family.
  - A. helped out
  - B. helped with
  - C. helps for
  - D. helps to
3. As demonstrated by his last album, which was released after his death, Ibrahim Ferrer \_\_\_\_\_ one of the most beautiful voices in Latin music.
  - A. had
  - B. have
  - C. have had
  - D. having
4. After we saw the play, we had different opinions \_\_\_\_\_ Jane's performance.
  - A. about
  - B. at
  - C. for
  - D. towards

5. Having recorded many of the most beloved songs of the 1940s, jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald \_\_\_\_\_ one of the most prominent musical performers of her time.
- A. had been
  - B. has been
  - C. was
  - D. will be
6. As we drove through the darkness, we saw another car coming \_\_\_\_\_ the bend in the road.
- A. through
  - B. under
  - C. over
  - D. around
7. Sonia is so determined and stubborn, she never \_\_\_\_\_ until she gets exactly what she wants.
- A. gives up
  - B. gives out
  - C. gave in
  - D. gave away
8. At only 43, John F. Kennedy was the \_\_\_\_\_ American president ever to be elected.
- A. most young
  - B. more young
  - C. youngest
  - D. younger

*Each problem contains one or two sentences followed by a question. Choose the correct answer to the question.*

9. Elena found a tomato that was much bigger than all the others in the garden.
- How did the tomato compare to the others in the garden?
- A. It was the smallest.
  - B. It was not very large.
  - C. It was larger than some.
  - D. It was the largest.
10. When the popular entertainer canceled her appearance, the Latin American festival was postponed indefinitely.
- When will the festival likely take place?
- A. Tonight
  - B. Tomorrow
  - C. Next week
  - D. Many weeks later
11. Janet is never late to meet her friends, and sometimes arrives early.
- Which best describes Janet?
- A. Lonely
  - B. Punctual
  - C. Talkative
  - D. Tardy

12. Bram Stoker is best known for his classic horror novel *Dracula*, which was published in 1897.

What did Bram Stoker do?

- A. He was a doctor.
  - B. He was a merchant.
  - C. He was a writer.
  - D. He was an engineer.
13. Exhausted from her transatlantic flight, Judy could not stay up past 9 p.m.
- What did Judy do at 9 p.m.?
- A. Leave work
  - B. Come home from the airport
  - C. Lose her enthusiasm
  - D. Go to bed
14. This semester many students are enrolled in a new course, African Dance, which is being taught by a first-time instructor, Sheila Duncan.
- How long has the university offered the African dance class?
- A. For a short time
  - B. For many years
  - C. For an entire school year
  - D. On and off for a while
15. Samantha sleeps late whenever she can, leaves work early, and never does anything unless she absolutely has to.

Which best describes Samantha?

- A. boring
  - B. lazy
  - C. selfish
  - D. tired
16. Gustave Eiffel was immortalized by his Eiffel Tower in Paris, a structure that was originally meant to be temporary.
- Gustave Eiffel was
- A. a painter
  - B. a politician
  - C. an architect
  - D. a construction worker
17. We heard on the radio that because of damage to the school caused by the storm, classes are cancelled until further notice.
- When will classes resume?
- A. later today
  - B. tomorrow
  - C. several weeks from now
  - D. when the storm is over

18. Early for her dentist appointment, Beth killed time by looking in all the store windows on the block.

What was Beth doing?

- A. exercising
  - B. shopping
  - C. hunting
  - D. waiting
19. Even though Maria's puppy Sparky was the runt of the litter when she picked him out, he grew up to be the biggest dog in the neighborhood.

When Maria first got Sparky,

- A. he was larger than the other puppies
  - B. he was the smallest of all the puppies
  - C. he was larger than some of the other puppies
  - D. he was not very small
20. When Miguel ran for class president, he won by a mile.

How many votes did Miguel get compared to the other candidate?

- A. He got just enough votes to win.
  - B. He got about the same number of votes.
  - C. He got significantly more votes.
  - D. He got a few more votes.
21. Juanita rushed to her dance class and burst through the door in the nick of time.

When Juanita got to her dance class, she was

- A. very early
- B. very late
- C. nearly late
- D. a little late

## ACCUPLACER ESL Language Use Test

The ESL Language Use test measures your proficiency in using correct grammar in English sentences. There are five content areas measured on this test: (a) Nouns, Pronouns, Pronoun Case Structure; (b) Subject-Verb Agreement; (c) Comparatives, Adverbs, Adjectives; (d) Verbs; and (e) Subordination/Coordination.

### Sample Questions

*The sentence below has a blank space. Choose the word or phrase that makes a grammatically correct sentence.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ washing her sweater, Mary hung it up to dry.
  - A. After
  - B. Before
  - C. By
  - D. Until
2. Some day men and women \_\_\_\_\_ to Mars.
  - A. will travel
  - B. will travels
  - C. will traveling
  - D. will traveled
3. Water \_\_\_\_\_ at a temperature of zero degrees Celsius.
  - A. having frozen
  - B. freezing
  - C. freeze
  - D. freezes
4. \_\_\_\_\_ get a new haircut?
  - A. Have you
  - B. Does you
  - C. Are you
  - D. Did you
5. Jacques Cousteau will be remembered for his inventions and for \_\_\_\_\_ to marine science.
  - A. dedication
  - B. his dedication
  - C. being dedicated
  - D. his being dedicated
6. Since my parents always insist that I get a good night's sleep, they were \_\_\_\_\_ when I stayed out last night past my curfew.
  - A. very happy
  - B. very relieved
  - C. very tired
  - D. very angry

7. \_\_\_\_\_ children learn to read, whole new worlds and experiences open up to them.
- Before
  - Since
  - Until
  - After
8. When \_\_\_\_\_ get to the hotel?
- have we
  - will we
  - did we
  - are we
9. Galileo is most famous \_\_\_\_\_ that the Earth revolves around the sun, rather than the other way around.
- for having discovered
  - for discovery
  - his discovery
  - in discovering
10. Men and women sometimes have difficulty understanding each other because \_\_\_\_\_ differently.
- they communicate
  - they communicated
  - they have communicated
  - they communicates
11. Because she had practiced so hard for the gymnastics competition, Stacey was \_\_\_\_\_ when she achieved a nearly perfect score.
- disappointed
  - tired
  - victorious
  - thrilled
12. \_\_\_\_\_ can speak more than one language, you have the opportunity to make more new friends.
- So you
  - As you
  - When you
  - Though you
13. Light \_\_\_\_\_ than sound, which is why you see lightening before you hear the thunder.
- travelling faster
  - travels faster
  - having travelled faster
  - will travel faster

*Read the two sentences below and choose the best way of combining them.*

14. Her puppy ran out into the street chasing a cat. The owner quickly went to retrieve it.
- The owner quickly went to retrieve it after a cat was chased into the street by her puppy.
  - The owner quickly retrieved it after her puppy chased a cat into the street.
  - When her puppy ran into the street after a cat, the owner quickly went to retrieve the puppy.
  - Quickly retrieving it, the owner went quickly after her puppy that ran out into the street after a cat.
15. Lisa plays the piano. Her sister Kelly plays the piano, too.
- Lisa and her sister Kelly plays the piano.
  - Both Lisa and her sister Kelly play the piano.
  - Lisa plays the piano and Kelly plays the piano.
  - Lisa and Kelly too play the piano.
16. The road was slippery. We put chains on the tires.
- Although the road was slippery, we put chains on the tires.
  - The road became slippery when we put chains on the tires.
  - We put chains on the tires because the road was slippery.
  - Putting chains on the tires, the road we were on was slippery.
17. Kazuko took her dog for a walk. They went to the park.
- Kazuko, going to the park, took her dog for a walk.
  - Kazuko took her dog for a walk in the park.
  - Kazuko took her dog for a walk because they went to the park.
  - Kazuko and her dog went to the park, where they walked.
18. We knew it might get chilly at the football game. We brought along some extra blankets.
- We knew it might get chilly at the football game when we brought along some extra blankets.
  - Bringing along some extra blankets, we knew it might get chilly at the football game.
  - We brought along some extra blankets because it might get chilly at the football game.
  - It got chilly at the football game and we brought along some extra blankets.
19. Juan loves to play baseball. His friend Miguel enjoys baseball too.
- Both Juan and his friend Miguel enjoy playing baseball.
  - Juan and his friend Miguel enjoys playing baseball.
  - Juan enjoys playing baseball and his friend Miguel too.
  - Juan loves baseball and Miguel too enjoys baseball.

20. Wolves are pack animals. They are rarely spotted alone.
- A. Wolves are rarely spotted alone if they are pack animals.
  - B. Being pack animals, wolves are rarely spotted alone.
  - C. After being pack animals, wolves are rarely spotted alone.
  - D. Wolves are rarely spotted alone, although they are pack animals.
21. My aunt invited me to lunch. We went to her favorite restaurant.
- A. My aunt and I went to her favorite restaurant, when she invited me to lunch.
  - B. My aunt invited me to lunch because we went to her favorite restaurant.
  - C. My aunt invited me to lunch at her favorite restaurant.
  - D. My aunt, going to her favorite restaurant, invited me to lunch.
22. It was snowing heavily. Jorge still wished his father would let him drive into town.
- A. Even though it was snowing heavily, Jorge wished his father would let him drive into town.
  - B. Because it was snowing heavily, Jorge wished his father would let him drive into town.
  - C. Jorge wished his father would let him drive into town as it was snowing heavily.
  - D. Jorge wished his father would let him drive into town; nevertheless it was snowing heavily.
23. Do not pour your own drink when eating in a restaurant in Japan. It is considered impolite.
- A. Because it is considered impolite, do not pour your own drink when eating in a restaurant in Japan.
  - B. In Japan, do not pour your own drink when eating in a restaurant if it is considered impolite.
  - C. Pouring your own drink is considered impolite in Japan in a restaurant, so you should not do it.
  - D. Do not pour your own drink when eating in a restaurant in Japan while it is considered impolite.



# Answer Key

| ESL READING SKILLS |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| QUESTION NUMBER    | CORRECT ANSWER |
| 1                  | C              |
| 2                  | B              |
| 3                  | B              |
| 4                  | A              |
| 5                  | D              |
| 6                  | A              |
| 7                  | B              |
| 8                  | A              |
| 9                  | A              |
| 10                 | D              |
| 11                 | C              |
| 12                 | A              |
| 13                 | D              |
| 14                 | B              |
| 15                 | D              |
| 16                 | A              |
| 17                 | B              |

| ESL SENTENCE MEANING |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| QUESTION NUMBER      | CORRECT ANSWER |
| 1                    | D              |
| 2                    | A              |
| 3                    | A              |
| 4                    | A              |
| 5                    | C              |
| 6                    | D              |
| 7                    | A              |
| 8                    | C              |
| 9                    | D              |
| 10                   | D              |
| 11                   | B              |
| 12                   | C              |
| 13                   | D              |
| 14                   | A              |
| 15                   | B              |
| 16                   | C              |
| 17                   | C              |
| 18                   | D              |
| 19                   | B              |
| 20                   | C              |
| 21                   | C              |

# Answer Key

| ESL LANGUAGE USE |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| QUESTION NUMBER  | CORRECT ANSWER |
| 1                | A              |
| 2                | A              |
| 3                | D              |
| 4                | D              |
| 5                | B              |
| 6                | D              |
| 7                | D              |
| 8                | B              |
| 9                | A              |
| 10               | A              |
| 11               | D              |
| 12               | C              |
| 13               | B              |
| 14               | C              |
| 15               | B              |
| 16               | C              |
| 17               | B              |
| 18               | C              |
| 19               | A              |
| 20               | B              |
| 21               | C              |
| 22               | A              |
| 23               | A              |

| COLLEGE-LEVEL MATHEMATICS |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| QUESTION NUMBER           | CORRECT ANSWER |
| 1                         | C              |
| 2                         | E              |
| 3                         | F              |
| 4                         | C              |
| 5                         | A              |
| 6                         | E              |
| 7                         | C              |
| 8                         | B              |
| 9                         | A              |
| 10                        | D              |
| 11                        | B              |
| 12                        | E              |
| 13                        | E              |
| 14                        | C              |
| 15                        | A              |
| 16                        | E              |
| 17                        | E              |
| 18                        | E              |
| 19                        | D              |
| 20                        | E              |