

# The NorthStar Listening and Speaking Placement Test


The test will last 55 minutes. There are four parts to the test: Parts 1–3 (50 minutes); Part 4 (5 minutes). The test is 9 pages. Read the directions for each section before you answer questions.

Answer every question. *Write all answers directly on the test.*


Make sure that you have written your name on each test page.

Listen to a passage. Then, you will have 20 seconds to answer each question. You will hear a beep when the next passage will begin.


**PART 1A: LISTENING**

- 1.1  Listen to the beginning of an interview. Choose the best prediction of what the rest of the interview is about. There is only one right answer.

- \_\_\_ A. the safety of video games for children
- \_\_\_ B. the use of video games to teach children
- \_\_\_ C. parents who are interested in children's video games
- \_\_\_ D. the number of studies about children's video games

- 1.2  Now listen to the entire interview. Use the information to choose the correct answers.


1. This interview is mainly about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - \_\_\_ A. how often children should play video games
  - \_\_\_ B. which video games are safe for children
  - \_\_\_ C. what violent games do to children
  - \_\_\_ D. how video games affect children
2. Dr. Nottingham said some studies show that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - \_\_\_ A. it is safe for children to play fantasy and adventure games
  - \_\_\_ B. children who play video games every day are more violent
  - \_\_\_ C. children who play violent video games have more violent thoughts
  - \_\_\_ D. video games are not harmful for children if they play every week
3. How do Dr. Nottingham and Tina feel about violent video games?
  - \_\_\_ A. They agree that violent video games are bad.
  - \_\_\_ B. They disagree that violent video games are bad.
  - \_\_\_ C. They are unsure that violent video games are bad.
  - \_\_\_ D. They do not care about violent video games.
4. When Dr. Nottingham says, "You see, it's easy for children to get addicted to playing these games," why does Tina say, "I have a 13-year-old. And I know exactly what you mean"?
  - \_\_\_ A. She doesn't want her children to be addicted to video games.
  - \_\_\_ B. She wants to tell Dr. Nottingham about her family.
  - \_\_\_ C. She wants advice from Dr. Nottingham about her family.
  - \_\_\_ D. She understands and agrees with Dr. Nottingham.

- 1.3  Listen to a family being interviewed at a video exhibition. Use the information from this listening and the listening in Part 1.2 for your answers. Check (✓) the box that shows how each person feels about the opinion. One answer is already given.

**Opinion:** It is OK for children to play Action/Adventure video games.


	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
Grandfather			✓
1. Dr. Nottingham			
2. Boy			

## PART 1B: LISTENING

- 1.4  Listen to the beginning of the class discussion. What does it mean when we say someone speaks with an accent? Choose the correct answer.

1. What does it mean when we say someone "speaks with an accent"?

\_\_\_ A. the way he or she acts when talking with others  
\_\_\_ B. the way he or she fits in when talking with others  
\_\_\_ C. the way he or she looks when talking with others  
\_\_\_ D. the way he or she sounds when talking with others

- 1.5  Now listen to the entire discussion. Use the information to choose the correct answers.

1. The discussion is about how accents relate to people's \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_ A. dialects  
\_\_\_ B. identities  
\_\_\_ C. parents  
\_\_\_ D. slang

2. The professor says that many children want to \_\_\_\_\_ their parents.

\_\_\_ A. dress the same as  
\_\_\_ B. fit in with  
\_\_\_ C. separate from  
\_\_\_ D. speak like

*(continued on next page)*

3. Whose parents came from Germany?
- \_\_\_ A. the male student's
  - \_\_\_ B. the female student's
  - \_\_\_ C. Bern's
  - \_\_\_ D. the professor's
4. Which person feels negatively about the way teenagers talk today?
- \_\_\_ A. the male student
  - \_\_\_ B. the female student
  - \_\_\_ C. Bern
  - \_\_\_ D. the professor

**PART 1C: LISTENING**

1.6  Listen to a conversation. Use the information to choose the correct answers.

1. What happens during REM sleep?
- \_\_\_ A. You begin to breathe slowly.
  - \_\_\_ B. A sleep hormone is released.
  - \_\_\_ C. Your muscles don't move.
  - \_\_\_ D. You have problems with memory.
2. During non-REM sleep \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_ A. you have bad dreams
  - \_\_\_ B. you are not fully asleep
  - \_\_\_ C. your eyes move rapidly
  - \_\_\_ D. your breathing is regular
3. If you are deprived of REM sleep, you might have trouble \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_ A. moving your eyes
  - \_\_\_ B. learning new things
  - \_\_\_ C. falling back to sleep
  - \_\_\_ D. releasing sleep hormones

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4. Why does Donald say "What"?
- \_\_\_\_ A. He wants Sonia to repeat what she said.
  - \_\_\_\_ B. He wants Sonia to speak more loudly.
  - \_\_\_\_ C. He wants Sonia to give an explanation.
  - \_\_\_\_ D. He wants Sonia to continue with what she was saying.
- 1.7 **▶** Listen to the interview about teen sleep. Use information from this interview and the conversation in Part 1.6 to complete the outline. Use the letters of the phrases to complete the outline. Not all answers will be used. One answer is already given.
- A. can occur after 10 minutes
  - B. can make you feel miserable
  - C. is a stage of sleep
  - D. can affect memory
  - E. is a hormone released to make you sleepy
  - F. can occur when you first fall asleep
  - G. ~~is called rapid eye movement~~

I. Sleep

A. REM sleep

1. \_\_\_\_\_ G \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
- a. lack of REM sleep \_\_\_\_\_ (2)

B. Melatonin

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (3)
- a. lack of sleep \_\_\_\_\_ (4)

**PART 2: SKILLS FOR SPEAKING**

- 2.1 **▶** Listen to the words or phrases. Write the number of words you hear. One answer is already given.

\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_ words

1. \_\_\_\_ words

This is the end of the audio section of the test. Now, you have 25 minutes to complete the written portion of the test.



- 2.2 Read the conversation between the police officer and a woman. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in parentheses. One answer is already given.

POLICE OFFICER: Where were you on Monday afternoon?  
(be)

WOMAN: Well, I \_\_\_\_\_ riding on the bus. Why?  
1. (be)

POLICE OFFICER: Did you see a woman getting on the bus?

WOMAN: Yes, she \_\_\_\_\_ on the bus at 33rd Street.  
2. (get)

POLICE OFFICER: OK. Thank you for your time.

- 2.3 Complete the commercial. Fill in the blanks using the correct verb form: either *infinitive* or *present progressive*. One answer is already given.

ANNOUNCER: Are you having a lot of pain? If so, I want \_\_\_\_\_ you about a  
(have) 1. (tell)  
new solution. This little pill is called No More Pain. It is so effective you'll never have  
another headache. Look at Jim now, after a week of No More Pain. He is at a party.  
He feels great. The noise doesn't make his head hurt. He \_\_\_\_\_ hands  
2. (shake)  
with his boss, and he \_\_\_\_\_ his wife, Elena.  
3. (introduce)

- 2.4 Read the paragraph. There are four *present unreal conditional verb* errors in the paragraph. Write the correct form of the verb on the lines below. One answer is already given.

If I **don't** have a cup of coffee after dinner, I would sleep better. If I had sleep better, I could get up earlier too. If I got up earlier, I can get to work on time. At work, I wouldn't be yawning and falling asleep at my desk. I would get much more accomplished if I stop drinking coffee after dinner.

- didn't  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

2.5 Use an expression from the box to complete each sentence. One answer is already given.

How about	That's a good idea	What's the matter
Maybe you should	That's too bad	

OLIVER: What's the matter? You look miserable.

SILVIA: I didn't get any sleep. My husband was snoring all night.

1. OLIVER: \_\_\_\_\_ give him some Snore No More. He can take a pill one hour before he goes to bed, and you'll both sleep like babies.

2. SILVIA: \_\_\_\_\_. I'll try it tonight.

2.6 Read the sentences. Write *S* for a strong opinion, *W* for a weak opinion, and *N* if it is not an opinion sentence.

\_\_\_\_ 1. It seems like people would be happier and healthier if they ran more.

\_\_\_\_ 2. I think my story can inspire others to keep a positive attitude.

2.7 Below are five facts about John, a high school senior, and three elements of personal achievement. Choose the two facts that are elements of personal achievement. Write the letter of each fact next to the element it represents. One answer is already given.

Elements of Personal Achievement	Facts about John
<u>D</u> Background	A. John grew up in a neighborhood of poverty.
____ 1. Accomplishment	B. John thinks he will get along well with students at Simpson College.
____ 2. Life Lesson	C. John stayed in high school despite being poor and having to work.
	D. John hopes to attend Simpson College next year.
	E. John learned that hard work and dedication can help anyone succeed.

**PART 3: VOCABULARY**

- 3.1 Fill in the blanks with the words from the box. Not all words will be used. Be sure to use correct spelling. One answer is already given.

addicted to	endurance	healthy	overcome	promote
ashamed	fatigue	intentionally	prevent	simply

Some say to find your dream job you simply have to work hard.

1. Being lazy can \_\_\_\_\_ you from finding the job of your dreams.
  2. Exercise is an important part of a \_\_\_\_\_ lifestyle.
  3. Lack of sleep leads to \_\_\_\_\_, and this can affect your alertness.
  4. Companies use e-mail, social media contests, and advertisements to \_\_\_\_\_ their products.
  5. I'm not \_\_\_\_\_ to admit that I prefer to take it easy in the morning.
  6. Every night I used to turn on the TV; I suddenly realized that I was \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- 3.2 Choose the word that best completes the sentence. There is only one right answer.

1. A week ago someone committed a \_\_\_\_\_ in our town.  
\_\_\_\_ A. challenge  
\_\_\_\_ B. crime  
\_\_\_\_ C. habit  
\_\_\_\_ D. prison
2. After one year of running, I was able to \_\_\_\_\_ my dream.  
\_\_\_\_ A. achieve  
\_\_\_\_ B. alert  
\_\_\_\_ C. give  
\_\_\_\_ D. limit
3. Before I ate my dinner, I turned on the television to \_\_\_\_\_ the news.  
\_\_\_\_ A. catch  
\_\_\_\_ B. create  
\_\_\_\_ C. plead  
\_\_\_\_ D. prove



- 3.3 Complete the chart with the missing word forms. Write the words in the boxes. Be sure to use correct spelling. One answer is already given.

Noun	Verb	Adjective
<u>selection</u>	select	
power		1. _____
information	2. _____	
3. _____	produce	
4. _____		colorful
harm	harm	5. _____
organization	6. _____	

- 3.4 Choose the word form that best completes the statement. There is only one right answer.

- \_\_\_\_\_ means without a name.
  - \_\_\_ A. Forename
  - \_\_\_ B. Misname
  - \_\_\_ C. Nameless
  - \_\_\_ D. Nameful
- \_\_\_\_\_ means to be born again.
  - \_\_\_ A. Foreborn
  - \_\_\_ B. Inborn
  - \_\_\_ C. Misborn
  - \_\_\_ D. Reborn
- \_\_\_\_\_ means not clear.
  - \_\_\_ A. Disclear
  - \_\_\_ B. Inclear
  - \_\_\_ C. Nonclear
  - \_\_\_ D. Unclear
- \_\_\_\_\_ means bad luck.
  - \_\_\_ A. Disfortune
  - \_\_\_ B. Imfortune
  - \_\_\_ C. Misfortune
  - \_\_\_ D. Refortune

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5. \_\_\_\_\_ means hiding the truth.

- \_\_\_ A. Dishonest
- \_\_\_ B. Forehonest
- \_\_\_ C. Nonhonest
- \_\_\_ D. Rehonest

**PART 4: SPEAKING**

► Listen to the class discussion. You may take notes in the space on the next page. Then, complete the three activities below.

1. Say one thing that the professor discussed with the class. (5–20 seconds)
2. Say one thing that the female student, Maria, thought about teenagers today. (5–20 seconds)
3. Now, you will have 1–2 minutes. Speak about whether the professor would agree or disagree with this statement and then give your opinion:

*“A person speaks the way his or her parents do.”*

- Include information from the listening.
- Explain why you think the professor agrees or disagrees.
- Give your opinion and support it with examples.

**THIS IS THE END OF THE TEST.**

**PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME AND RETURN  
THE TEST TO YOUR TEACHER.**