

Achievement Tests

Unit 3

Name: _____

Date: _____

PART I: READING

- 1.1** Read the beginning of a personal essay. Check (✓) the best prediction of what the reading is about. There is only one right answer.

I have always wanted to be a teacher. Throughout my education I worked hard to excel in all of my classes. It was because of my diligence, more than my intelligence, that I was able to achieve high grades. I had developed a passion for literature: poetry, prose, and drama. Expressing my ideas through writing was becoming a talent that my teachers nourished. It was my assumption that the logical step after graduating from high school would be college. Unfortunately, my family disagreed.

- _____ A. intelligence
_____ B. difficulty becoming a teacher
_____ C. disagreements in families
_____ D. high grades in college

- 1.2** Now read the entire essay. Use the information to choose the correct answers.

A Will to Succeed

I have always wanted to be a teacher. Throughout my education I worked hard to excel in all of my classes. It was because of my diligence, more than my intelligence, that I was able to achieve high grades. I had developed a passion for literature: poetry, prose, and drama. Expressing my ideas through writing was becoming a talent that my teachers nourished. It was my assumption that the logical step after graduating from high school would be college. Unfortunately, my family disagreed.

As I was researching information for teachers colleges, my parents did not hesitate for a minute to inform me that furthering my education was not an option. Because we live in a country where we all have choices, their reaction made no sense to me. I tried to maintain my composure and not cry. I never imagined that I would encounter such resistance from my father. At first I thought he was being stubborn, but soon I realized that it was a financial issue and that his pride, not his stubbornness, caused him to reject my plans. I became more determined than ever to attend college, and without missing a beat, I obtained a demanding job that paid well. The long hours did wear me out, but the result was enough money for college tuition. There were days when my future looked dim, but I never gave up.

I am now a high school English teacher who, due to self-motivation and ambition, has achieved my goals and found success.

Check (✓) the best answer.

1. The author was successful because of _____.
 A. expressive ideas
 B. hard work
 C. intelligence
 D. talented teachers
2. The author's parents were against college because they _____.
 A. didn't want their child moving far away
 B. felt the author should work instead
 C. had no money to help pay for school
 D. thought their child needed better grades
3. The author most likely thought her parents' decision made no sense because _____.
 A. everyone in the family went to college
 B. it was not their choice to make
 C. their child wanted to be a teacher
 D. they were proud of their child

1.3 Check (✓) the three words that describe the author in the passage. Not all of the words will be used.

- A. demanding
- B. determined
- C. diligent
- D. nourishing
- E. passionate
- F. angry

- 1.4** Read the passage from “Kids Learn Poise Through Dance” in NorthStar: Reading and Writing 5, Unit 3. Use the information from this reading and “A Will to Succeed” to complete the activity. Not all of the ideas will be used. The first one has been done for you.

Kids Learn Poise Through Dance

For Rosemary Tejada, the course had an added benefit. She says, “I’ve gotten to be better friends with a boy. I’ve known my partner since first grade, but we didn’t really communicate a lot. But now, with ballroom dancing, we’ve communicated more.” At the end of every course, all the schools compete in a series of competitions.

Tejada and her partner, Julian Perez, have made it to the semifinals. “At the competition, I’m really excited, but I’m also nervous,” Tejada says. To compete, teams must be proficient in five dances: swing, rumba, foxtrot, tango, and merengue. But each couple also has a specialty, and Tejada’s is swing. She says, “In swing, you really move a lot, and you feel in a happy mood. I get to express my feelings when I dance.”

It is wonderful to see the students getting excited about something as old-fashioned as ballroom dance. Dulaine notes, “There is a camaraderie¹ that develops between them, and it’s a camaraderie to excel.” He adds, “Quite honestly, I’m not interested in whether they remember every single step. Learning to touch someone with respect is the key to all of ballroom dancing.”

In this competition, Tejada and her teammates won a silver trophy. But Dulaine hopes that they’ve also gained an interest in a pastime that promotes grace, manners, and civility.² He says, “All those children love to dance. They have their imagination, and this is what we need to nurture.” If you’d like to learn more, there is a documentary movie about the program entitled “Mad Hot Ballroom.”

¹ **camaraderie:** a feeling of group loyalty and friendship

² **civility:** politeness; appropriate behavior for social interactions

- A. allows for expression of ideas
- B. guarantees you will be successful
- ~~C. can be nurtured and nourished~~
- D. allows for expression of feelings
- E. promotes grace, manners, and civility
- F. leads to a gold trophy

Dancing	Writing	Both
1.	2.	C
		3.

PART 2: VOCABULARY

2.1 Use the words from the box to fill in the blanks. Not all of the words will be used.

afford	courtesy	make sense	speed
composure	hesitate for a minute	reluctant	worn out

Sometimes people cannot do things easily, but it doesn't _____ for them to just give up. If things don't go exactly as planned, all you need is a bit of _____ to help you get through the difficult moments. At the same time, those people who _____ are often the same people who miss the opportunity of a lifetime. No matter what, you shouldn't worry and let yourself get _____, because nothing is ever worth that much stress. Even when things look a bit gloomy, don't be _____ to keep trying because there are always better days ahead.

2.2 Check (✓) the collocation that best completes the sentence.

- In order to _____, people need to have patience and also know when to take control of things.
 - _____ A. achieve success
 - _____ B. make success
 - _____ C. try success
 - _____ D. want success
- Often, you still _____ no matter what you do and no matter how hard you work.
 - _____ A. attain obstacles
 - _____ B. earn obstacles
 - _____ C. meet obstacles
 - _____ D. start obstacles

(continued on next page)

3. So, if you _____ at some point, just know that this is only one of many you will have in your lifetime.
- _____ A. begin a difficulty
 - _____ B. encounter a difficulty
 - _____ C. receive a difficulty
 - _____ D. show a difficulty
4. Sometimes, the difficulties are easy to overcome, while others _____ of you.
- _____ A. break it out
 - _____ B. make it out
 - _____ C. take it out
 - _____ D. wake it out
5. In these cases, you might need someone to _____ you and help you to get moving!
- _____ A. light a fire beside
 - _____ B. light a fire close to
 - _____ C. light a fire over
 - _____ D. light a fire under

PART 3: SKILLS FOR WRITING

3.1 *Combine each pair of sentences into a single sentence. Use the relative pronouns **who**, **which**, and **that** as well as adjective clauses. You may use pronouns more than once. Include correct punctuation in your answers. Follow the example.*

Katie was a self-taught dancer. She considered herself a “natural.”

Katie, who considered herself a “natural,” was a self-taught dancer.

1. People lack what it takes to achieve big successes. They also lack the courage to fail.

2. A modern idea is that success can be measured only in financial terms. I do not share this idea.

3. Attitudes are the key to success. Attitudes help you feel positive about yourself.

4. My future was about to get even better. My future was already very bright.

5. Great leaders are also great listeners. They get things done quickly and efficiently.

3.2 Reread the paragraph from “Kids Learn Poise Through Dance” in NorthStar: Reading and Writing 5, Unit 3. Then complete the sentences.

(1) This program was started by Pierre Dulaine, a four-time British exhibition dance champion. (2) Eleven years ago, Dulaine offered to teach ballroom in one school. (3) There had been a fire in the school a year ago. (4) Today, his instructors teach in more than 60 schools. (5) Dulaine says, “It has developed into an arts and education program where the children learn about ballroom dancing, and dances from different countries. (6) But most important, they learn teamwork, having to work with another human being. (7) Some children who danced were also on the soccer team.” (8) For Rosemary Tejada, the course had an added benefit. (9) She says, “I’ve gotten to be better friends with a boy. (10) I’ve known my partner since first grade, but we didn’t really communicate a lot. (11) But now, with ballroom dancing, we’ve communicated more.” (12) Rosemary likes to write a lot of letters. (13) At the end of every course, all the schools compete in a series of competitions.

1. Sentences _____, _____, and _____ do not belong in this paragraph.
2. Sentence _____ is the best concluding sentence for this paragraph.
3. Besides ballroom dancing, the most important thing children learn about is _____.

PART 4: WRITING

A Descriptive Essay (20 minutes)

Write a five-paragraph essay about three qualities you have that help you succeed in life.

- Describe the qualities and how they help you to succeed.
- Include three body paragraphs, one for each quality.
- Include the main points in topic sentences.
- Give illustrations to support your main points.
- Use the vocabulary and grammar from Unit 3.

Unit 3 Vocabulary Words			
achieve	encounter	miss a beat	success
composure	hesitate for a minute	obstacle	take it out of
difficulty	make sense	speed	wear you out
Unit 3 Grammar: Using Identifying and Nonidentifying Adjective Clauses			
<p style="text-align: center;">[identifying adjective clause]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who eat breakfast are usually not tired when they are at work. <p style="text-align: center;">[nonidentifying adjective clause]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My breakfast, which was oatmeal and orange juice, is helping me stay alert today. 			