

English and Vocabulary for the GL Assessment® 11+

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Introduction

The practice exercises in this book have been written to help children in primary school aged 9 and 10 prepare for the GL Assessment® 11+. The practice exercises are relevant to the GL Assessment-style 11+ administered in different parts of the UK.

Reading comprehension, punctuation and grammar are important features of the GL Assessment® 11+ examinations. In each of the ten Sections in this book, there is practice of these key areas, including a multiple-choice reading comprehension passage. Many of these passages are short stories or excerpts from stories, reflecting recent 11+ exam content. The reading comprehension exercises include questions about the use and meaning of words and phrases.

Vocabulary and spelling are also key areas often tested in GL Assessment 11+ examinations. The vocabulary and spelling exercises in this book are designed to help children extend their knowledge and range of English vocabulary – the meanings of words, their use in different contexts and the way they are spelt.

How to use this book

This book is divided into 10 Sections. Each Section provides 7 practice exercises. The level of difficulty is designed to be consistent across all of the Sections. It is recommended that you complete a full Section before starting the next one. You do not need to complete all 7 practice exercises in a single practice session.

Before you start an exercise, make sure you read the instructions carefully. For example, in the Synonyms and Antonyms exercises, check carefully whether you are being asked to identify synonyms (words with the same or nearly the same meaning) or antonyms (words with the opposite or nearly the opposite meaning).

Assessment

Many of the practice exercises in this book are timed. This is because in the GL Assessment® 11+ exam all of the exercises are timed, and it is useful practising to a time limit. You can time yourself using the timer function on a tablet, smart phone or similar – or ask someone to time you. You should not use a dictionary or thesaurus when completing a timed exercise. The following scores are indicative of good ability in the different exercise types:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Reading Comprehension exercises: | 70% correct answers or higher in the time allowed. |
| Spelling exercises: | 70% correct answers or higher in the time allowed. |
| Punctuation exercises: | 70% correct answers or higher in the time allowed. |
| Cloze procedure exercises: | 80% correct answers or higher in the time allowed. |
| Vocabulary exercises: | 70% correct answers or higher in the time allowed. |

Dictionary and thesaurus

For ease of use, an electronic dictionary with 240,000+ words and a thesaurus is recommended.

Section 1

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Comprehension, Grammar and Vocabulary 1

Read this passage carefully, then answer the questions that follow it. Time limit: **12 minutes**

Dr Dolittle

1. Many years ago - when our grandparents were little children - there was a doctor; and his name was Dolittle - John Dolittle, MD. "MD" means that he was a proper doctor and knew a whole lot.

He lived in a little town called Puddleby-on-the-Marsh. All the folk, young and old, knew him well by sight. And whenever he walked down the street everyone would say, "There goes the doctor!

5. He's a clever man." And the dogs and the children would all run up and follow behind him; and even the crows that lived in the church tower would caw and nod their heads.

The house he lived in, on the edge of the town, was quite small; but his garden was very large and had a wide lawn and stone seats and weeping-willows hanging over. His sister, Sarah Dolittle, was housekeeper for him; but the doctor looked after the garden himself.

10. He was very fond of animals and kept many kinds of pets. Besides the goldfish in the pond at the bottom of his garden, he had rabbits in the storeroom, white mice in his piano, a squirrel in the linen closet and a hedgehog in the cellar. He had a cow with a calf too, and an old lame horse - twenty-five years of age - and chickens, and pigeons, and two lambs, and many other animals. But his favourite pets were Jip the dog, Polynesia the parrot, and the owl Too-Too.
15. His sister used to grumble about all these animals and said they made the house untidy. And one day when an old lady with rheumatism came to see the doctor, she sat on the hedgehog who was sleeping on the sofa and never came to see him anymore, but drove every Saturday all the way to Oxenthorpe, another town ten miles off, to see a different doctor.

Then his sister, Sarah Dolittle, came to him and said,

20. "John, how can you expect sick people to come and see you when you keep all these animals in the house? What kind of doctor keeps his house full of hedgehogs and mice! That's the fourth person these animals have driven away. Squire Jenkins and the parson both say they won't come near your house again - no matter how sick they are. We are getting poorer every day. If you go on like this, none of the best people will have you for a doctor."
25. "But I like the animals better than the 'best people'," said the doctor.

"You are ridiculous," said his sister, and walked out of the room.

So, as time went on, the doctor got more and more animals; and the people who came to see him got less and less. If the doctor hadn't had some money saved up, no one knows what would have happened.

30. And he kept on getting still more pets; and of course it cost a lot to feed them. And the money he had saved up grew littler and littler.

Then he sold his piano, and let the mice live in a desk drawer. But the money he got for that too began to go, so he sold the brown suit he wore on Sundays and went on becoming poorer and poorer.

- And now, when he walked down the street in his high hat, people would say to one another,
 35. "There goes John Doolittle, MD! There was a time when he was the best known doctor in the West Country. Look at him now! He hasn't any money and his shoes are full of holes!" But the dogs and the cats and the children still ran up and followed him through the town - the same as they had done when he was rich.

(Adapted from *The Story of Doctor Dolittle* by Hugh Lofting)

Now answer questions 1-18. You can look at the passage again if you need to, but do not use a dictionary. You should choose the best answer and indicate your answer by circling A, B, C or D.

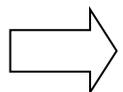
1. What is the most likely meaning of the letters MD as used in the passage? (line 2)
 - A. Modern Doctor.
 - B. Medical Doctor.
 - C. Miracle Doctor.
 - D. Mysterious Doctor.

2. '*All the folk, young and old, knew him well by sight.*' (lines 3-4) What is meant by 'folk'?
 - A. People in general.
 - B. Visitors to the town.
 - C. Patients.
 - D. Families.

3. Which of the following statements is incorrect?
 - A. Patients visited the doctor at his house.
 - B. Many of the animals lived in the house.
 - C. The doctor and his sister were getting poorer.
 - D. The doctor looked after the house and garden.

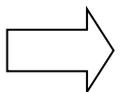
4. What word best describes Sarah Dolittle's attitude to her brother?
 - A. Supportive.
 - B. Exasperated.
 - C. Confused.
 - D. Optimistic.

Carry on to the next question



5. Complete the following analogy: 'Caw is to crow as...
- A. tail is to dog.'
 - B. feather is to bird.'
 - C. squawk is to parrot.'
 - D. coo is to owl.'
6. Why did one of the doctor's patients decide to go to another doctor instead?
- A. Because Dr Dolittle was rude to her.
 - B. Because she was kept waiting a long time by Doctor Dolittle.
 - C. Because she had to pay too much in doctor's fees.
 - D. Because one of the animals caused her a problem.
7. What word best describes Dr Dolittle's attitude to his current situation?
- A. Worried.
 - B. Relaxed.
 - C. Concerned.
 - D. Desperate.
8. Where did the mice live before they lived in the desk drawer?
- A. In the garden.
 - B. In the sofa.
 - C. In the piano.
 - D. In the storeroom.
9. Dr Dolittle's parrot is called Polynesia, which is also the name of....
- A. a group of islands.
 - B. a kind of material.
 - C. a kind of polygon.
 - D. a type of illness.
10. Which of the following best describes the Doctor's house?
- A. It is like an aquarium.
 - B. It is like a menagerie.
 - C. It is like a medical centre.
 - D. It is like an aviary.
11. Which event happened third?
- A. Dr Dolittle's patient decided to see another doctor instead.
 - B. Sarah Dolittle warned the doctor they were getting poorer and poorer.
 - C. Dr Dolittle sold his suit.
 - D. Dr Dolittle sold his piano.

Carry on to the next question



12. Which of the following best describes the Doctor's attitude?
- A. He only cares about himself.
 - B. He enjoys looking after animals.
 - C. He is worried about his financial situation.
 - D. He is passionate about helping people.
13. The main point made in the second paragraph (lines 3-6) is that...
- A. Dr Dolittle lives in a town.
 - B. The people in Puddleby-on-the-Marsh know Dr Dolittle likes animals.
 - C. Dr Dolittle likes to walk.
 - D. Dr Dolittle is well known in Puddleby-on-the-Marsh.
14. The 'old lame horse' (line 12) had a problem with its...
- A. leg or foot.
 - B. teeth.
 - C. hearing.
 - D. neck.
15. Which of the following words is closest in meaning to 'parson'? (line 22)
- A. person
 - B. police officer
 - C. vicar
 - D. lawyer
16. 'Look at him now!' (line 36) Which of these words is a preposition?
- A. Look
 - B. at
 - C. him
 - D. now
17. The owl's name is 'Too-Too' (line 14). This name is an example of...
- A. personification.
 - B. imagery.
 - C. onomatopoeia.
 - D. slang.
18. The last paragraph states Dr Dolittle was still followed by the dogs and the cats and the children when he was in town. What does this suggest?
- A. That children liked making fun of him, now that he was poor.
 - B. That children and animals still liked him, even though he was poor.
 - C. That Dr Dolittle was always unaware of what was happening around him.
 - D. That the children and animals were curious about where Dr Dolittle was going.