

The purpose of this chart is to help you understand the NWEA measurement scale (RIT scale) and how it can be used to measure academic growth over time. For more specific information to help support instruction please see NWEA's DesCartes: A Continuum of Learning.

RIT Reference Chart for Language Usage

NWEA tests produce scores that make it possible to monitor student growth from year to year along developmental curriculum scales or continua. The chart inside shows examples of the kinds of work students can do at various points along the NWEA RIT scale, assuming they have been exposed to content. This type of information is helpful in supporting appropriate instruction.

Please note that each subject-area has a unique alignment to the RIT scale. As a result, scores between subjects are not equivalent.

How to use the charts:

1. Find the column containing the student's score for a particular subject. For example, if the student's score in "Writing Process" is 188, refer to the column labeled 181-190.
2. Read down the column to locate a sample test question for a given reporting area, such as "Writing Process." A student's score suggests that, currently, they are likely to get about half of the questions of this difficulty correct.
3. Now look at the questions in the column(s) to the left. The student is likely to get most of these correct, assuming he or she has been instructed in these skills and concepts.
4. The questions in the column(s) to the right will probably require new learning on the student's part.

RIT Scale

We use the RIT scale to measure a student's academic growth over time. Like units on a ruler, the scale is divided into equal intervals – called Rasch Units (RIT) – and is independent of grade level.

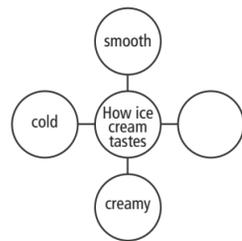


LANGUAGE USAGE below 161

Writing Process

Students use skills to write, draft, revise, edit, and proofread.

Study the graphic organizer.



Which word would best complete the graphic organizer?

- 1. bitter
- ✓ 2. sweet
- 3. loud
- 4. salty

161-170

Which group of words would be best to use to tell about the Moon?

- 1. soft, small, blue
- 2. close, green, cold
- ✓ 3. white, round, full
- 4. wet, black, square

171-180

Read the paragraph.

A cat is a great pet to have. To keep your cat healthy, make sure to give it plenty of fresh water. Dogs like to swim. Don't feed your cat human food. For a special treat, you can give your cat some catnip.

Which sentence does NOT belong in the paragraph?

- 1. A cat is a great pet to have.
- ✓ 2. Dogs like to swim.
- 3. Don't feed your cat human food.
- 4. For a special treat, you can give your cat some catnip.

181-190

Read the paragraph.

I always look forward to winter for one reason: hot chocolate. Hot chocolate is my favorite. It warms me up when I am really cold.

Which sentence could be added to describe what hot chocolate tastes like?

- ✓ 1. It is sweet and warm and so chocolaty!
- 2. Hot chocolate comes in different flavors.
- 3. I have hot chocolate every day in winter.
- 4. Hot chocolate is drunk by people of all ages.

191-200

Read the paragraph.

Amy was in a rush this morning. She forgot her books. She felt embarrassed walking into class during Mr. Bishop's lecture on Greek city-states. She sat on the floor outside the class and waited.

Which revision of the sentences best shows a cause-effect relationship between the ideas in the paragraph?

- ✓ 1. Since Amy was in a rush this morning, she forgot her books. She was late and felt embarrassed interrupting Mr. Bishop's lecture, so she sat on the floor outside class and waited.
- 2. Amy waited sitting on the floor outside class. Before that, she realized she forgot her books. Before that, she had been rushing.
- 3. First, Amy had been in a rush this morning. Then, she forgot her books. Next, she felt embarrassed to interrupt Mr. Bishop's lecture. Finally, she sat on the floor outside class and waited.
- 4. If Amy rushed in the morning, she might forget her books. If she forgot her books, she might be embarrassed to interrupt Mr. Bishop. If she feels embarrassed, she might sit on the floor outside class and wait.

201-210

Laurie decides to write a biography on the life of Pablo Picasso.

Which method of organization will help Laurie to sequence the life of Picasso?

- 1. a Venn diagram
- ✓ 2. a timeline
- 3. a web
- 4. a graph

211-220

Your class just finished studying about rivers. Your teacher has assigned you to write a research paper that further explores rivers.

Which of the following would be the best research question?

- 1. What is your favorite river?
- ✓ 2. How are the Nile and Amazon rivers different?
- 3. Where is the world's longest river?
- 4. How many times has the Nile River flooded?

221-230

You are writing a paragraph about how you felt one time when you were swimming.

Once I was swimming because I was sad, and I swam as fast as I could, but I was still sad. I felt like crying. I used to swim to be the fastest, but not anymore. Now I swim to be healthy. I really want to be a lawyer because they help people. By swimming, you stay in shape, and you can grow up to be a healthy person.

Which is the best way for you to revise your draft?

- ✓ 1. Stay on the subject. Take out the sentence about wanting to be a lawyer.
- 2. Explain why you wanted to be the fastest swimmer.
- 3. Change some of the words so you sound more like a lawyer.
- 4. Introduce the paragraph with a sentence that explains why good health is important.

above 230

Read the information.

Mike began this persuasive essay for his English class.

There is a mystery at our school today. We are being subjected to a poison. This school was built over eighty years ago. Back then, less was known about proper building materials. This means that the school was built with asbestos.

A peer reviewer gave this feedback to Mike: I like the opening paragraph, but think that the word "mystery" in the first sentence could be replaced with a more appropriate word that describes the current situation better.

Which revision best incorporates the feedback from the peer reviewer?

- 1. There is a scene at our school today.
- ✓ 2. There is a problem at our school today.
- 3. There is a crime at our school today.
- 4. There is a pest at our school today.

Writing Types and Purposes

Students recognize different types of writing and understand their purposes.

Read the sentence.

Once there was a little elf who wanted to fly.

This sentence might be used to

- 1. tell about something you saw last night.
- ✓ 2. begin a funny make-believe story.
- 3. thank Aunt Mary for a birthday present.
- 4. tell about a trip to a farm.

Read the poem.

Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
Better hide quickly
I'm coming for _____.

Which rhyming word best completes the poem?

- 1. blue
- 2. through
- ✓ 3. you
- 4. grew

Read the sentences.

You are invited to a birthday party for Jesse. It will be held at 1402 Pine Street from 2 - 4 PM on Wednesday, June 25th.

These sentences would be used to write a

- 1. fairy tale.
- ✓ 2. party invitation.
- 3. letter.
- 4. book report.

Kema is giving a speech to her class about the animals of Africa.

Which should Kema show her classmates to help them understand her topic?

- 1. a globe that shows the location of Africa
- ✓ 2. a photo of each animal she talks about
- 3. a tiger's tooth that her father found
- 4. a bar graph showing the numbers of animals

How is a poem developed?

- 1. State the idea and give examples or definitions.
- ✓ 2. Use words in rhythmic patterns to create images.
- 3. Tell what happened in the order it happened.
- 4. State your opinion and support it with facts or reasons.

Derrick is writing a science report about the moons of Jupiter.

Which source of information will be most useful to Derrick?

- 1. a chart that shows the orbits of all the planets
- 2. a science fiction movie about life on one of Jupiter's moons
- ✓ 3. a book that names and describes the moons of each planet
- 4. a magazine article that explains the origins of the universe

These sentences form a paragraph.

Which is the topic sentence?

- 1. Painting the window frames will take twice as much time as painting the walls.
- 2. A good brush and an extension ladder are necessary.
- ✓ 3. The most time-consuming job in painting a house is painting the trim.
- 4. The person who thinks the job is half done when the walls are finished is in for a surprise.

What does the conclusion to a report do?

- 1. states what you plan to discuss in the writing
- 2. lists the sources used
- 3. focuses on a specific supporting detail
- ✓ 4. leaves the reader with a clear understanding of the report

Which is the best thesis for a persuasive essay on World War I?

- 1. World War I began in 1914 when Archduke Ferdinand was shot.
- 2. America tried to stay neutral when World War I began.
- 3. World War I took place across Europe and Africa, lasting four long years.
- ✓ 4. World War I was inevitable due to many complicating factors.

Grammar and Usage

Students understand the conventions of grammar and usage.

Choose the missing word.

The dog _____ in the house.

- 1. am
- ✓ 2. is
- 3. are
- 4. were

Choose the missing word.

Can you watch the movie with _____?

- 1. we
- ✓ 2. us
- 3. he
- 4. I

Choose the best words to complete the sentence.

Greg is _____ his father, George.

- 1. tallest than
- 2. taller from
- ✓ 3. taller than
- 4. tall than

Read the sentence.

The student wrote a report _____ Abraham Lincoln, our 16th president.

Which preposition would best complete the sentence?

- 1. in
- 2. from
- ✓ 3. about
- 4. with

Choose the missing word.

The sun seems to rise _____ each day.

- 1. early
- 2. more early
- ✓ 3. earlier
- 4. most early

Read the sentence fragment.

Each penguin in the pool.

Which is a complete sentence?

- 1. Each penguin in the deep pool.
- 2. Each and every penguin in the pool.
- ✓ 3. Each penguin in the pool swam.
- 4. Each little penguin in the deep pool.

Which sentence contains a double negative?

- 1. Ron is seldom late for a meeting.
- 2. You should hesitate before raising your voice.
- ✓ 3. The comedian didn't say nothing funny.
- 4. The cake can't bake in a cold oven.

Read the draft of Talia's paragraph.

The tallest mountain in the world is Mount Everest. Its elevation is 29,029 feet. It was ascended in 1953 for the first time.

Talia wants to combine these statements into one sentence. Which best combines these sentences?

- 1. The tallest mountain, at 29,029 feet, in the world is Mount Everest and it was first ascended in 1953.
- 2. The tallest mountain in the world, Mount Everest (29,029 feet elevation), first successfully was ascended in 1953.
- ✓ 3. Mount Everest, the tallest mountain in the world with an elevation of 29,029 feet, was ascended in 1953 for the first time.
- 4. First successfully ascended in 1953, the tallest mountain, Mount Everest, in the world has an elevation of 29, 029 feet.

Which sentence shows clear pronoun-antecedent agreement?

- 1. We unpacked our books from the boxes and then returned them to the office.
- 2. As soon as the monkeys left their cages, the janitors cleaned them.
- 3. If anybody wants to play professional basketball, you have to practice the fundamentals.
- ✓ 4. For English class, the students had to memorize a monologue by their favorite playwright.

Writing Conventions

Students understand the conventions of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

Read the words.

Do flowers bloom in the spring

Which mark(s) will punctuate the words correctly?

- 1. ,
- 2. " "
- 3. '
- ✓ 4. ?

Read the sentence.

My teacher gave the note to mrs. Begay to take home.

Which word needs a capital letter?

- 1. teacher
- 2. note
- ✓ 3. mrs.
- 4. home

Which word is always capitalized?

- 1. we
- 2. me
- ✓ 3. i
- 4. us

Identify the sentence that correctly uses quotation marks.

- ✓ 1. Mom said, "Go clean your room."
- 2. "What's that? I asked."
- 3. "Mr. Ramirez said, Get in the car."
- 4. "Dad," I asked, "can I feed the fish?"

Which is the correct spelling for more than one berry?

- 1. berries
- 2. berryses
- ✓ 3. berries
- 4. berry

Which sentence has the words capitalized correctly?

- 1. He said, "The Tide is Coming In."
- 2. He said, "The Tide is coming In."
- 3. He said, "the tide is coming in."
- ✓ 4. He said, "The tide is coming in."

Which sentence has the underlined word spelled correctly?

- 1. Sarah wore a costum for the school play.
- ✓ 2. The movie will continue playing during recess.
- 3. The manner of his speaking was formal.
- 4. I discribed the first time I went to the ocean.

Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- 1. Pilar watch out for the bees in the garden.
- 2. It seems to us, Mr. Jones that the trip should be canceled.
- 3. What are you going to do after practice tonight Tom?
- ✓ 4. If you ask me, Lorraine, this phone book is outdated.

Which group of words is spelled correctly?

- 1. phsycology, provide, leige
- 2. lisence, opposite, factory
- ✓ 3. sophisticated, détente, retrospect
- 4. truely, paradox, decieve