

COMPASS/ESL Reading Test

Test Overview

The **COMPASS/ESL Reading Test** is an assessment test that measures students' abilities to comprehend and use standard American English. The test measures both literal and inferential reading skills. This test is specifically made for students whose first language is **NOT** English.

Course Placement

Based on your test results, you may be advised to enroll in one of the American Language Reading classes at Mt. San Antonio College. This placement will help you to increase your reading and vocabulary skills, which will help you to be successful in your academic courses. You may be advised to take one of the following courses:

- English as a Second Language (non-credit ESL)
- **AmLa 31R** – Basic Reading
- **AmLa 32R** – Intermediate Reading
- **AmLa 33R** – Advanced Reading

Test Directions

This is a computerized test, which means that you will first listen to and interact with a set of directions that explains how to answer the questions using the computer. Once you have finished the test directions, you will read some passages and answer questions about what you read. You should read and answer the questions carefully. Once you have finished a passage and have gone to the next passage, you cannot go back to change your answers. The test is not timed. Each student reads differently. Some students may finish in a short time, and others may take longer to finish. The test automatically ends when you have completed enough questions to get an accurate score of your reading ability.

Test Results

Test results are available immediately after you complete the test. You will be able to see your reading class placement as soon as you finish the test.

An example of the type of reading on the test is on the back of this paper.

Sample COMPASS/ESL Reading Test Passage

Read the paragraph about the emporium in Galveston.

Shoppers enter the **emporium**, which is on the ground floor, through the original 14-foot doors. You can eat a sandwich inside while sitting on a wooden seat at an umbrella-covered table, or you can buy meats and cheeses by the pound for a picnic on the beach. There is also a wide selection of Texas foods, beers, chocolates, books, baskets, and specialty coffees and teas. A wine room features Texas, U.S., and international wines.

1. In the passage, what does the highlighted word “emporium” mean?

- A. Store
- B. Beach
- C. Bar
- D. Hotel

2. What can you buy at the emporium?

- A. 14-foot doors
- B. Wooden seats
- C. Meats and cheeses
- D. Ground floors

Answers: 1. A 2. C