

CORRELATION
BETWEEN THE TEXAS ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS
(TAKS), EXIT LEVEL, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, AND
HOW TO WRITE CLEAR SENTENCES: A SELF-PACED TEXT

The TAKS exit-level exam in English language arts consists of two tests, one in reading and one in written composition.

Reading Test

The reading test contains 28 objective questions. To correctly answer these questions, students must be able to read, comprehend, and interpret material in the reading passages on the test. The sergeants' text does not teach these skills, although any time students are working with academic materials, they are improving their ability to read, comprehend, and interpret.¹

Written Composition

The written composition test requires students to generate three short responses and one extended response that make one specific, clear point and support that point. To earn a *sufficient* or passing grade, student responses must be clear. The sergeants' text teaches clear sentence structure and is directly related to this goal.

The scoring rubric for the extended response evaluates the following aspects of the students' writing: focus and coherence; organization; development of ideas; voice; and conventions. Correct sentence structure, which the sergeants' text teaches, is related to all of these scoring criteria. The text directly correlates to the evaluation of conventions. Specifically, students who write effective presentations must demonstrate a good command of the following:

Skill	Reference in <i>How To Text</i>
Capitalization	Unit 9
Punctuation	Unit 8
Grammar	Units 1 and 5
Usage	Units 4 and 7
Sentence Structure	Units 2, 3, 6, and 8

¹ The follow-on book to the sergeants' text teaches paragraph unity, coherence, and development and will assist students in improving their reading and writing skills.

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The last section of this test consists of 19 questions that test a student's knowledge of revising and editing. Answering these questions correctly requires familiarity with all of the following skills:

Skill	Reference in <i>How To Text</i>
Difference between adjectives and adverbs	Unit 1
Pronoun case and agreement	Unit 7
Subject and verb agreement	Unit 4
Verb forms	Unit 5
Misplaced modifier	Units 2 and 6
Dangling modifier	Units 2 and 6
Parallel structure	Units 1 and Unit 6
Punctuation	Units 3 and 8