



# ETS Item Bank

## Measuring Student Success



### The ETS Formative Assessment Item Bank

includes more than 60,000 items that can be incorporated into formative assessments for classroom and district use.

### Content Areas and Grades Available

English Language Arts: K–12  
Mathematics: K–12  
Science: 3–12

## ETS Formative Assessment Item Bank

ETS has developed an item bank that educators, schools and districts can use to create a variety of formative assessments. The assessment results provide vital information that lets educators tailor instruction to get the most from their limited classroom time, and helps them monitor and track student progress toward mastering state standards.

The ETS Formative Assessment Item Bank is a repository of more than 60,000 high-quality items aligned to the standards of all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and the ETS National Framework. The items in the bank were carefully created by ETS using a rigorous item development process. Items are available to measure Mathematics and English Language Arts (reading and writing) standards for grades K–12 and Science standards for grades 3–12.

The majority of items in the ETS Formative Assessment Item Bank are multiple choice, but the item bank also contains some short and extended constructed-response items with item-specific and generic rubrics.

Educators can use the ETS Formative Assessment Item Bank to create a variety of custom formative assessments at the classroom and district levels:

- Classroom tests focused on one standard
- Classroom tests assessing multiple standards
- District tests built to pacing guides
- District tests reflecting the standards assessed on the state testing program

When creating custom formative assessments, educators have the flexibility to choose standards and items from the ETS Formative Assessment Item Bank that best reflect their instruction, their student population and the time of year the test is administered.

# High-quality test items built to state — and ETS — standards

## High-Quality Assessment Items

In order to create fair, valid and reliable assessments, it is important to use high-quality items. An assessment is only as good as each item on it. If items do not really measure the standard at the appropriate cognitive level, the assessment results will not be useful. Most importantly, teachers need valid assessment data to make effective use of their limited instructional time.

### ETS items are of high quality because they:

- go through rigorous content and editorial reviews
- are built for or aligned to state standards
- are developed by ETS's experienced staff of assessment specialists
- contain accurate content that reflects current teaching practice
- adhere to the principles of good item writing as defined by industry standards
- measure a range of cognitive levels
- vary in difficulty
- reflect the ETS commitment to quality in assessment and item creation

To learn more, visit [www.ets.org/itembank](http://www.ets.org/itembank)

## Item Development at ETS

### 1. Item writing guidelines

ETS assembled a staff of outstanding content assessment specialists who brought many years of item development experience to item bank creation. To help assure the items adhere to principles of good item writing, ETS staff created guidelines to train item writers to create items according to industry standards in order to reflect the highest technical quality.

### 2. Select and train item writers to write high-quality items

Because variety, creativity and diversity are essential to high-quality item development, ETS assessment specialists worked with a pool of experienced item writers (most are current or former teachers) who received extensive training on the principles of good item writing.

### 3. Internal item review process at ETS

ETS accepted items only if trained assessment specialists and content editors determined that they met our criteria for matching the objective or standard, had excellent technical qualities (like balanced response options with no single conspicuous answer choice), and were of appropriate difficulty and cognitive levels.

### 4. Compliance with ETS Fairness (bias and sensitivity) Guidelines

All ETS assessment specialists who review items receive specific ETS Fairness Review certification, which means they are specially trained to recognize and eliminate the use of discriminatory language/content and bias in assessment items.

### 5. Item review for style consistency, grammar and accuracy

ETS maintains a large editorial and proofreading staff with many years of test item review experience to ensure accuracy.



*Listening. Learning. Leading.*<sup>®</sup>

[www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org)