

Improve Standardized Literacy Tests Results  
With Help from Oxford Learning  
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According to just released results, almost a quarter of high school students in Ontario are not passing the standardized literacy tests that are given in grade 10.

While that may seem like a shocking figure, if you look at it another way, **more than three quarters** of all high school students are passing literacy tests on their first attempt.

Literacy tests assess student's familiarity with reading and writing skills, as well as general familiarity with the standards of the English language, up to the grade-nine level (in Ontario.)

Students that don't pass the test on their first attempt are given a second, and even third, attempt to write the test.

What is worrying is that a portion of the students that re-take the test are not passing, even on their second attempt.

Given that literacy is a **foundational skill that is very important to everyday life**, it is no wonder that it causes some concern when high school students at the tenth grade level are not functioning at a consistent fluency.

Aside from obvious reasons such as learning disabilities or non-native English speakers, one of the major reasons could be that the formal rules of English grammar are not taught beyond the early elementary grades.

While students use grammar in their everyday life, by the time that students reach high school, the rules are no longer familiar. Their language is second nature, so when students are asked to draw on rules that they were taught, five or so grades previously, it can be challenging.

That's why all students, not just those who find grammar challenging, should take a refresher course—Oxford Learning has a great program to help students hone their grammar, improve their writing, become critical thinkers, and get test-taking tips to boot.

For students entering the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, the **summer** presents a perfect opportunity to tune-up grammar skills before taking the standardized literacy test.

Like with any test, **preparation is key**. Students who take the time to review and prepare before a test will perform better and with less stress than those who are not prepared.

Consider an Oxford Learning program for your teen. It will mean better marks on not just the standardized literacy tests, but on *all* tests. Better marks equal happier students, happier parents, and happier school boards. It's win-win-win.