

Test 10

Directions: Read the story. Use context clues to figure out the possible meanings of the words in bold. Then write them next to their meanings below.

Today was the day Jamal had dreamed about for most of his 22 years. As he stood in the tunnel waiting for the **profound** moment when he would first step out on the field, he thought about how he had arrived at this point.

He smiled fondly at the mental picture of himself as a nine-year-old in an oversized uniform. He recalled falling **intermittently** and **fumbling** the too-big ball. Middle school was better, but still he made mistakes and a few times even cost his team the game. In high school, he **toiled** long hours to get into top physical shape and then **crammed** his nose into the books to keep his grades high. It had paid off. He made it into a good college on a football scholarship. Day in and day out, he studied, worked out, and practiced. The scouts took notice of him, and when draft day came he waited nervously through a **litany** of names until, yes, his was **ultimately** called. Third-round choice—the fourth running back chosen overall.

The summer had been hot and **grueling**. Not only did he endure the exhaustion of pushing his body to the limits in team practices and his mind into learning dozens of formations in the team's playbook, but he also took the **razzing** that veteran players dish out to rookies, and the anxiety of possibly being cut from the team.

But, here he was. The first game of the regular season. Just moments ago he had **donned** his pads and proudly put on his uniform. As the crowd noise swelled, so did his heart. He had made it onto a professional football team.



1. extremely difficult and tiresome: _____
2. reciting of a list: _____
3. finally; at last; in the end: _____
4. worked hard: _____
5. teasing; playing pranks on: _____
6. put on or dressed in: _____
7. rose; grew in size or strength: _____
8. periodically; from time to time: _____
9. pushed; placed with intensity: _____
10. people who search for those with particular talents: _____
11. handling clumsily; dropping; losing grip: _____
12. deeply or intensely felt: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Answers

1. grueling
2. litany
3. ultimately
4. toiled
5. razing
6. donned
7. swelled
8. intermittently
9. crammed
10. scouts
11. fumbling
12. profound