Exit ticket examples for students, by grade: K–2, 3–5 and 6–8

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Exit ticket examples for students in K–2, 3–5 and 6–8: the prompt, what a strong answer and a not-yet answer look like, and what to do with each pile.

A good exit ticket asks one thing, takes about three minutes, and gets an answer you can sort into got it, almost and not yet. Below are exit ticket examples for students in three grade bands, each with the prompt, a strong answer and a not-yet answer, so you can see what to look for before you print. Every prompt here starts from one you can print with Peabody Teach's free exit ticket maker, and thirty more formats are on exit ticket ideas. Peabody is free through the end of 2026.

The sample answers are made up for this post, written the way students in each band tend to write. They show what the piles look like, not what any real class wrote.

How to read the examples

Each example has three parts:

- The prompt, as it goes on the ticket.
- Got it: an answer that shows the idea.
- Not yet: an answer that tells you what to reteach.

An "almost" answer sits between the two, and it is often the most useful pile. It usually means the idea is there but one step or one word is missing.

Kindergarten to 2nd grade

Young students write little, so these tickets lean on drawing, circling and one sentence. The faces line ("How sure are you?" with Not yet, Getting there and Got it) does a lot of the work here; a child who can't write much yet can still circle a face.

Draw it (a math lesson on teen numbers) Prompt: "Draw 14 as tens and ones. Label two parts." Got it: one bundle of ten sticks labeled "10" and four single sticks labeled "4". Not yet: fourteen loose sticks, or a 1 and a 4 with nothing to show what they mean.

One word (a read-aloud) Prompt: "Sum up the story in one word. Then write why." Got it: "Brave. The girl went in the dark cave to get her dog." Not yet: "Dog." with no reason. Ask the child to tell you why, out loud, before you sort it.

Three-box question (sight words) A one-question ticket from the bank: you read a word aloud, students circle the one they heard. The answer key prints on the second page. Six to a page works for a single short question.

3rd to 5th grade

Students in these grades can explain a step, so ask for one.

Show one (multiplying by a two-digit number) Prompt: "Do one example of today's skill. Then explain one step in words." Got it: 23 × 14 worked out to 322, with "I did 23 × 4 first, then 23 × 10, then added them." Not yet: the right answer with no words, or a step explained but done wrong, such as 23 × 1 instead of 23 × 10. That second one goes in "almost": the method is there, the place value is not.

Muddiest point (a science lesson on the water cycle) Prompt: "What was the most confusing part of today? What would help you understand it?" Got it, for this ticket: any honest, specific answer. "I don't get where the water goes when it evaporates. A picture would help." Not yet: "Nothing" from a student whose classwork says otherwise. Answers that repeat across the class tell you what to open with tomorrow.

Spot the mistake (rounding) Prompt: "What is one mistake someone could make with today's lesson? How would you avoid it?" Got it: "Rounding 349 to 400 because the 4 is big. Only look at the tens digit." Not yet: "Doing it wrong." Push for the actual mistake.

6th to 8th grade

Older students can write the test question, connect ideas and say how their thinking changed.

Write the test question (ratios) Prompt: "Write a question about today that you think should be on the test, and answer it." Got it: "A recipe uses 2 cups of flour for 3 cups of milk. How much milk for 8 cups of flour? 12 cups." Not yet: a question that only asks for a definition, or a good question with a wrong answer.

I used to think (a reading lesson on theme) Prompt: "I used to think ... Now I think ..." Got it: "I used to think the theme was what the story is about. Now I think it's the lesson the story is trying to teach, like don't judge people fast." Not yet: two sentences that say the same thing.

Tell a friend who was away (an equations lesson) Prompt: "Explain today's big idea to a friend who was away today, in two sentences." Got it: "Whatever you do to one side of the equation you do to the other. That's how you get x by itself." Not yet: steps from one problem with no general idea.

Printing them

Every example above starts from one of the twelve prompts in the exit ticket maker. Print a prompt as it is, or reword it for your lesson with My own prompt, as the teen numbers and story examples do. Short ones like One word, Muddiest point and Headline fit six to a page; 3-2-1 prints four. For question tickets with three answer boxes and a key, switch the maker to Questions. The exit ticket template post walks through every setting.

Read the tickets the same day. The point is tomorrow's plan, not a grade. For a reading lesson to end on, Peabody's free stories are leveled from the first readers to 8th grade.

Questions

What is a good exit ticket example for students?

One prompt tied to today's lesson that a student can answer in three minutes, such as "Do one example of today's skill, then explain one step in words." It should produce answers you can sort into got it, almost and not yet.

What exit tickets work for kindergarten?

Ones that need little writing: draw it, a one-question ticket you read aloud, or a line of three faces to circle for how sure they feel. Peabody's exit ticket maker prints all three, free through the end of 2026.

Should exit tickets be graded?

Most teachers don't grade them. A grade makes students cautious and copy each other, and you lose the honest picture. Sort them, plan tomorrow from the piles, and at most mark them as done.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/exit-ticket-examples-for-students