



Practice Test 2

Level A2

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Introduction to Skills for English

About Skills for English

Skills for English is a qualification that enables you to demonstrate your knowledge of the English language for a range of purposes, including work, study or settlement. *Skills for English* tests make the process of taking a test and gaining an English language qualification as easy and convenient as possible.

Skills for English: SELT is a Secure English Language Test approved by the UK Home Office for UK Visa purposes. You take the level you need for your required visa, making the test quick and convenient. *Skills for English: SELT* is available to take in our network of test centres in over 120 countries.

Skills for English: Global is an SQA-assured test that you can take at your chosen level. You can take the test at home, using our secure online proctoring. *Skills for English: Global* is ideal for academic applications or professional development.

Skills for English provides an accurate measure of language proficiency through practical and realistic tasks that you would expect to undertake in an English-speaking environment. You choose the test level you require, from A1 (beginner) to C2 (proficient). That way, you know you are preparing for, and taking, the level of test you need for your chosen purpose

All *Skills for English* tests use computer-based delivery for all skills. Reading and listening are automatically marked during the test session itself; speaking and writing are marked by professional markers (who have no access to your personal details) after you have finished. You move through each of the skills sections in a single test session, at home or in a test centre, then receive your results in as little as three days. When you receive your results, you will be given details of the individual outcome (pass/fail) for each skill taken, plus your overall test outcome (also pass/fail). You need to pass each of the skills taken to pass the test overall.

The Skills for English Practice Tests

Two sets of digital practice tests are available on the *Skills for English* website for people preparing to take the *Skills for English: SELT* and *Skills for English: Global* tests. Both practice tests are delivered on our testing platform and will give you a good idea of what to expect on test day. They cover all 6 levels of our tests and can be accessed by going to www.skillsforenglish.com

This booklet is a documented version of Practice Test 2, which is available on our website. It covers exactly the same material but is in a different format to help with your test

preparation activities. A separate booklet is available for each level of the test and can be used for both *Skills for English: SELT* and *Skills for English: Global* test preparation.

We ensure that *Skills for English* tests cover a variety of everyday contexts and scenarios including life, work and study. The contexts and scenarios in our practice tests are varied and representative of what you may see in our tests.

What is included in this document?

This document contains all the tasks which you will see at a given level on the *Skills for English* practice test pages for Practice Test 2. It covers all aspects of the test including:

- Speaking test questions and tasks
- Speaking sample answers and comments
- Scripts, questions and answers for the Listening tests

At B1 and above these documents also include:

- Reading texts, questions and answers
- Writing tasks
- Writing sample answers and comments

The commentary on the sample answers for Speaking and Writing tests will show you why each sample is an example of a good response.

How you can use this document

You can use this document in a variety of ways.

Test takers: you can use the information in this document alongside the digital practice tests on our website. We would suggest that you *always* try out the digital practice test as it will give you a good idea of what to expect on your test day. You can use this document to support any further preparation work you may want to do, for example to check on questions you may have missed or to reflect on your own performance.

Teachers and training providers: you can use the information in this document to support any training or practice work you may be doing with your students as well as any materials you may be developing for work in the classroom. This document will allow you to focus on specific parts or questions in the *Skills for English* tests and concentrate your student preparation on specific aspects of the tests.

For a full range of preparation and practice resources, visit www.skillsforenglish.com

Practice Test 2: A2 Speaking Test

There are 3 parts to this test.

All your answers are recorded.

Speaking: Part 1

In part 1, there are 5 questions about yourself.

Part 1 is not assessed.

After each question, you will hear a beep.

Answer the questions after each beep.

You will have 10 seconds to answer each question.

1. What is your name?
BEEP
2. Can you spell your first name, please?
BEEP
3. Where are you from?
BEEP
4. What is your date of birth?
BEEP
5. What do you do?
BEEP

That is the end of part 1.

Speaking: Part 2

In part 2 there are questions about 2 topics.

You will answer 5 questions about each topic.

Remember to answer the questions after each beep.

You will have 15 seconds to answer each question.

Now I am going to ask you some questions about your hometown.

Remember to answer the questions after each beep.

1. Tell me about your hometown.

BEEP

2. What is your favourite place to visit in your hometown? Why?

BEEP

3. What can tourists do in your hometown?

BEEP

4. Tell me about something you'd like to change in your hometown. Explain why.

BEEP

5. What do you think your hometown will be like in the future?

BEEP

Now I am going to ask you about what you do every day.

Remember to answer the questions after each beep.

1. Tell me what you usually do in the morning.

BEEP

2. What did you do yesterday evening?

BEEP

3. What are you going to do this weekend?

BEEP

4. What did you like doing in your free time when you were younger?

BEEP

5. Do you prefer spending your free time with other people or alone? Explain why.

BEEP

That is the end of part 2.

Speaking: Part 3

In part 3 you will talk about a subject on a role card.

The words on the role card will help you.

You can say more things if you like but you must say something about each point on the role card.

You will have 35 seconds to answer each item on the role card.

You have 1 minute to look at the role card.

Role Card: Speaking with a doctor

1. Hello. What seems to be the problem?

BEEP

2. When did the problem start?

BEEP

3. How did the problem start?

BEEP

4. What have you done to help the problem?

BEEP

5. When can you come for your next appointment?

BEEP

That is the end of the A2 Speaking test.

Sample answers and comments

This page provides you with a transcript of model answers for a strong pass at A2 for Speaking Part 2 and Speaking Part 3. Note: Part 1 of the Speaking test is not assessed.

The comments show why these answers result in a strong pass.

Sample Answers

Speaking Part 2: Where you live

1. *I live in a small town near the capital. It is called Crawley. There are many shops, a train station, and the airport is very close. It's a new town and there are no old buildings.*
2. *I love the main park. There is a lake in the park and there are always lots of animals to see in the park.*
3. *They can visit the park, they can stay in a nice hotel, and visit the shops. They can also go to London.*
4. *In my hometown, the roads are very busy. It is not possible to use a bicycle to travel. It is very dangerous. I would like to change this.*
5. *I hope in the future, it will be possible to ride a bicycle everywhere in the town.*

Speaking Part 2: What you do every day

1. *I wake up at half past six and go running near my house. Then I have breakfast and go to work.*
2. *Yesterday evening I went to see my parents.*
3. *This weekend I am going shopping. I need to buy food.*
4. *When I was younger, I liked spending time with my friends. We listened to music and played games.*
5. *I prefer to spend some time alone and some time with other people. I like reading but I also like talking to my friends.*

Speaking Part 3: Speaking with a doctor

1. *I have a headache and my stomach hurts.*
2. *Yesterday. The problem started yesterday.*
3. *I think I might have eaten something bad.*
4. *I took some medicine to help the pain. I drank some tea.*
5. *I can come next week, on Monday.*

Comments

This is an example of a good response at A2.

The candidate responses are relevant and address all the questions in Parts 2 and 3. The candidate also provides extra information or to explain their answers.

The candidate is able to talk about their hometown, their daily routine, and in Part 3, they are able to talk about in a simple way about health problems, as they might to a doctor. They are also able to add extra information to their response.

The responses are short but correct. The candidate uses simple grammar and vocabulary to communicate about their everyday life and where they live. They are able to communicate in a simple way with a doctor. They can use the present simple, the past simple and the future with 'going to', talk about things they can do and they can express their opinions and preferences.

Practice Test 2: A2 Listening Test

There are 3 parts to the listening test.

You will answer 5 questions in each part.

You will hear each recording twice.

Listening: Part 1

You will hear 5 short recordings.

For each question, 1 to 5, choose the correct answer.

You will hear each recording twice.

You will hear a beep each time to tell you that the recording is about to start.

1. Where can you get the train to Liverpool Street today?
 - a. At platform 1.
 - b. At platform 2.
 - c. At platform 3.

2. When is the new appointment?
 - a. On Tuesday.
 - b. On Wednesday.
 - c. On Thursday.

3. The weather will be cold and windy
 - a. in the north.
 - b. in the east.
 - c. In the south.

4. What will the man be doing at 12 o'clock?
 - a. Having a meeting with the directors.
 - b. Having a tour of the building.
 - c. Having lunch in the restaurant.

5. What does the speaker add to his soup?
 - a. Cheese.
 - b. Mushrooms.
 - c. Chocolate.

That is the end of part 1.

Listening: Part 2

You will hear a man talking to a woman about renting somewhere to live.

Listen to the conversation and answer questions 1 to 5. Choose the correct answer for each, a, b or c.

You will hear the recording twice.

You will hear a beep each time to tell you that the recording is about to start.

You have 1 minute to read the questions.

1. How many bedrooms does the man need?
 - a. Two.
 - b. Three.
 - c. Four.

2. What does the man think about the flat?
 - a. It isn't big enough.
 - b. The area isn't very nice.
 - c. There is no garden.

3. What is wrong with the first house?
 - a. One of the bedrooms is too small.
 - b. It's near a busy road.
 - c. It's too far from the children's school.

4. How does the man feel about the house in the countryside?
 - a. The garage is great for his car.
 - b. The size of the house is fine.
 - c. The house is too close to the fields.

5. The woman thinks that it's better to go to the shops
 - a. by bus.
 - b. on foot.
 - c. by car.

That is the end of part 2.

Listening: Part 3

Listen to a tour guide talking to some tourists about the place they are going to visit.

Answer questions 1 to 5. For each sentence choose one correct answer from the box.

You will hear the recording twice.

You will hear a beep each time to tell you that the recording is about to start.

You have 1 minute to read the questions.

art gallery	right
50	men
left	break
15	library
women	tour

1. The tourists will first have a _____.
2. For the first 60 years, only _____ could study at the college.
3. The modern building they are going to visit is the _____.
4. It will take the group _____ minutes to get to the college on foot.
5. The countryside they will see will be on their _____, opposite some old houses.

That is the end of the listening test.

Listening Scripts

Part 1

Question 1

Speaker 1	Attention, please. There is a platform change for passengers travelling to Liverpool Street. The 7.28 train to Liverpool Street will not stop at platform 2 today. It will now leave from platform 3. The train will leave in 10 minutes. If you need any help, please go to our information desk on platform 1. Remember to keep your bags with you at all times.
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Question 2

Speaker 1	Good morning, Highfield Dentists. How can I help you?
Speaker 2	Hello. I'm calling because I'd like to change my appointment, please.
Speaker 1	No problem. When would you like your new appointment?
Speaker 2	What about Wednesday at 10 o'clock?
Speaker 1	Unfortunately, we're closed this Wednesday. Would you like to come in on Tuesday or Thursday?
Speaker 2	Thursday morning would be good, thank you.
Speaker 1	Ok. So, how about Thursday at 9 am?
Speaker 2	Oh, I'm sorry – I've just remembered I'm busy on Thursday so Tuesday's better.
Speaker 1	Let's see ... at 11 o'clock?
Speaker 2	That's great, thank you.

Question 3

Speaker 1	And now, let's have a look at today's weather. The wind from the sea will bring clouds and rain to the north of the country, but with temperatures still high at around 20 degrees Celsius. The east will stay dry, but with strong winds and low temperatures down to 8 degrees Celsius, so don't forget your coat! In the west, the temperatures will be higher, but it'll be wet all
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	day, with light winds. Finally, the south of the country will see colder weather, but it'll be sunny all day.
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Question 4

Speaker 1	Hi Paul, welcome to your new office.
Speaker 2	Thank you, Lisa.
Speaker 1	This is the plan for today. First, you'll meet the team at 10 o'clock. Then, at noon I'll show you around the building. After that, we can have lunch at the restaurant downstairs.
Speaker 2	Great, thanks. What's the plan for the afternoon?
Speaker 1	At 2 o'clock the directors will talk to you about your first project. Do you have any questions?
Speaker 2	No, that's clear. Thank you, Lisa.

Question 5

Speaker 1	I'm going to tell you how I make my favourite soup – there's no other soup like this one! When the oil in the pan is hot, I slowly cook onions, garlic, potatoes, and tomatoes. Then, I add something special: a small piece of dark chocolate. Next, I add some salt and water and I let the soup boil for 30 minutes. You can also add mushrooms, but I prefer not to. I usually eat the soup with fresh bread that I put some cheese on. It's very good.
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Part 2

Speaker 1	Good afternoon, how can I help you?
Speaker 2	Hello. I'm looking for a place to rent in this area for me and my family.
Speaker 1	OK. Please sit down. How many bedrooms would you like?
Speaker 2	Well, there are four of us, so I think three is best. And two bathrooms. But I also need some space for our car.
Speaker 1	OK. There's a flat available in a lovely part of town. Here's the information about it.
Speaker 2	I see. Well, it's a large flat but I don't know the area it's in. Unfortunately, this isn't good for us. We really need a house with a lot of outside space for the summer – we have a lot of plants to bring with us and we often have family barbecues.
Speaker 1	Let's see ... here's the first house. It's a lovely house with two large double bedrooms, a third single bedroom, two bathrooms, and a beautiful garden, right in the centre of town. What do you think?
Speaker 2	Well, it sounds good. The third room isn't very big, but that's not a problem. And it's near a good school. There's a lot of traffic on the road in front of the house in this photo. The children won't be able to sleep if it's like that at night, too.
Speaker 1	No problem. Here's another house with a large garden. This one is in the countryside. It doesn't have a garage, but there's enough outside space to park your car there.
Speaker 2	Well, it's a shame about the garage, but it doesn't matter. The house and the garden are big enough for us. The area is beautiful and very quiet. And it looks onto the fields, which I don't mind.
Speaker 1	Great!
Speaker 2	Now, let's see...How far is it from the shops?
Speaker 1	It only takes five minutes to drive there, but that's not a good idea. It's difficult to find a parking space when it's busy. It's quite a long walk to the shops, so it's better to take the bus. It stops near the house and it's cheap.

Part 3

<p>Speaker 1</p>	<p>We've now arrived in one of the prettiest towns in the UK. We'll soon start the last tour of the day, but I'm sure you're all tired so let's have a short break first, while I tell you about the place we're going to visit.</p> <p>The college is one of the most beautiful buildings in the country. It opened in the 19th century, just for women. Sixty years later, men were also able to study there. The first thing you'll see when we arrive is the main building – it's the oldest part and you can't miss it. It looks like a French castle, and you can just imagine a king and a queen living in those towers! An interesting fact about this college is that many famous films have been filmed here. We might even see a film star!</p> <p>The college is very old, but you will also see some modern buildings there, where many of today's students live during the school year ... and there are a lot of students! Over eleven thousand of them study here each year. There's also an art gallery and a sports centre but we'll look around the library, which is in one of the new buildings and has about five hundred thousand books that students can borrow.</p> <p>There's a bus from here to the college every 50 minutes, but it'll be quicker if we go on foot. It's only a 15-minute walk along the main road – it's quite busy, so please be careful.</p> <p>On our way there, you'll see many pretty little houses on your right. They're unusual and very old, but unfortunately, we can't visit them. You'll see some beautiful countryside on your left, and there might even be some horses in the fields. I can't wait for you to see it all! Shall we go? Follow me!</p>
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Answer key

Part 1

1. c
2. a
3. b
4. b
5. c

Part 2

1. b
2. c
3. b
4. b
5. a

Part 3

1. break
2. women
3. library
4. 15
5. left



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