



# Practice Test 2

Level B1

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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 remote 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/pass with merit/fail) for each skill taken, plus your overall test outcome (also pass/pass with merit/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](http://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](http://www.skillsforenglish.com)

## Practice Test 2: B1 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 20 seconds to answer each question.

Now I am going to ask you some questions about one of your friends.

Remember to answer the questions after each beep.

1. Describe one of your friends.

**BEEP**

2. When and where did you first meet your friend?

**BEEP**

3. What did you do with your friend when you last spent time together?

**BEEP**

4. What other activities do you like doing with your friends?

**BEEP**

5. Explain what makes a good friend.

**BEEP**

Now I am going to ask you about festivals and celebrations.

Remember to answer the questions after each beep.

1. Which festivals do you celebrate every year?

**BEEP**

2. Describe the kind of activities people do during festivals.

**BEEP**

3. What other events are celebrated where you live?

**BEEP**

4. Why do you think many people enjoy celebrating festivals every year?

**BEEP**

5. Do you think it's important to know about festivals of other cultures or countries? 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 have 1 minute to look at the role card.

You will have up to 5 minutes to speak.

Please remember to always check the *Skills for English* website for the latest version of your test specification.

### **Role Card: Giving advice to a friend about doing sports and exercise.**

- Tell your friend about the sports and exercises you do.
- Explain why you enjoy doing these sports and exercises.
- Say what you find difficult about doing sports and exercise.
- Tell your friend how doing different kinds of sport and exercise could help them.
- Advise your friend about the best places to do sports and exercise.

That is the end of the B1 Speaking test.

## Sample answers and comments

This page provides you with a transcript of model answers for a strong pass at B1 for Speaking Part 2. 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: One of your friends

1. *My friend Mariam is 31 years old. She is a schoolteacher. She is tall and has dark hair. She lives in Bahrain.*
2. *I met my friend when I was young. We both went to the same school and were in the same class.*
3. *The last time we saw each other, we celebrated Mariam's birthday. We had a party in her house with her family and friends. We had a big cake.*
4. *We usually go out for dinner every week. Sometimes we go to the cinema. At the weekends, we often go shopping together.*
5. *A good friend is someone who is kind and generous. A good friend is someone you can trust, and someone you can talk to. Good friends are always there when you need them.*

#### Speaking Part 2: Festivals and Celebrations

1. *I celebrate Christmas and Easter of course with my family. I also sometimes go to music festivals near where I live.*
2. *At Christmas and Easter, people eat a lot of special food together. My family also go to church, and then we give each other presents, especially at Christmas. At Easter we usually colour eggs.*
3. *Where I live, we also celebrate Saint days and other festivals in the church, for example Vartavar.*
4. *People enjoy celebrating festivals because it is a reason to stop work and spend time with family and friends, eat special food and play games, or go to church. It's a change from going to work.*
5. *I think it's important to know about the festivals in other countries, if you are going to visit them. You can learn about other people and what they do on the festival days. Then you can join in and have fun.*

## Speaking Part 3: Giving advice to a friend about doing sports and exercise

*Hello Mariam, how are you?*

*As you know, it's important for everyone's health to do sports and exercise. For example, I go swimming every weekend, and I play football with the children in the garden. The swimming is not interesting but it keeps me fit. I really enjoy playing football with the children, we have fun and we get fit together.*

*What I really don't enjoy about going swimming every week, is that I do this alone. I usually go early in the morning because the swimming pool is empty. But swimming alone is very boring. After I have a swim, I come home and make a big breakfast for everyone. I feel good about eating a big breakfast because I know I have done my exercise.*

*You know, you should start doing some exercise too. Why don't you come swimming with me?' It will be fun. It can help you stay fit, especially when you are working very hard. It can also help you to lose weight.*

*If you don't want to come swimming with me, you can go for a regular walk in the park with Sumaya. Then you will be in the fresh air. Or maybe you can join a sports club. I remember you used to play volleyball at school, maybe you can join a club and play volleyball again. If you join a club, maybe there will be other sports you can try there. Anyway, let me know if you want to come swimming with me.*

## Comments

This is an example of a good response at B1.

The candidate is able to address all the questions in Part 2 and talk about sports and exercise in Part 3. The candidate also provides extra information or to explain their answers.

In Part 2, the candidate is able to describe their friends and talk about what they do with their friends. They are also able to talk about specific festivals and celebrations and describe what happens at these. They can talk about past activities as well as discuss familiar abstract topics such as talking about what makes a good friend.

In Part 3, the candidate is able to talk at length about exercise and sports. They can describe what they do and give reasons for this. They can also make suggestions and provide explanations.

The responses are correct and the candidate is able to link what they want to say in a simple way, but using 'and', 'but' and 'because'. They can use the question form and the negative to talk about things they don't like. They have a good range of vocabulary (*kind, generous, trust, presents, church, boring, lose weight, keep fit, sports club, volleyball*).

## Practice Test 2: B1 Listening Test

There are 3 parts to the listening test.

You will answer 10 questions in each part.

You will hear each recording twice.

### Listening: Part 1

You will hear 10 short recordings.

For each question, 1 to 10, 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.

You have 1 minute to read the questions.

1. What is Peter worried about?
  - a. Completing an essay.
  - b. Going to a birthday party.
  - c. Preparing a particular dessert.
  
2. What does the speaker plan to do next?
  - a. To return to college.
  - b. To find work.
  - c. To start a company.
  
3. When would the shop prefer to deliver the sofa to Mrs Johnson?
  - a. Monday.
  - b. Thursday.
  - c. Friday.
  
4. Why is the woman calling?
  - a. To buy a new kettle.
  - b. To have a kettle repaired.
  - c. To return a kettle.

5. What time will the plane leave for New York?
  - a. 15:10.
  - b. 16:05.
  - c. 16:25.
  
6. What kind of programmes does Mike Thompson produce?
  - a. Wildlife.
  - b. Music.
  - c. Travel.
  
7. Where does John normally buy strawberries now?
  - a. Supermarket.
  - b. Farm shop.
  - c. Village shop.
  
8. Which hotel does the man like best?
  - a. The Grand Hotel.
  - b. The International Hotel.
  - c. The Sea View Hotel.
  
9. Where are the two people going to meet?
  - a. Alice's house.
  - b. A nearby park.
  - c. Their favourite café.
  
10. Which number should you press to make payments?
  - a. 1.
  - b. 2.
  - c. 3.

That is the end of part 1.

## Listening: Part 2

You will hear two people being interviewed on the radio.

Listen to the conversation and answer questions 1 to 10. 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. What made Lisa first realise she was good at playing the flute?
  - a. Joining the school orchestra.
  - b. Winning a music competition.
  - c. Comments from her flute teacher.
  
2. What other instrument does Lisa play?
  - a. Trumpet.
  - b. Violin.
  - c. Drums.
  
3. What did Lisa like most about the competition?
  - a. Making lots of new friends.
  - b. Competing against talented people.
  - c. Being the first flute player to win.
  
4. How did Mike learn the guitar?
  - a. His parents taught him.
  - b. His uncle taught him.
  - c. He taught himself.
  
5. What did Mike win his prize for?
  - a. A song written by him.
  - b. A live performance.
  - c. A video he created.

6. What is Lisa's advice about learning a musical instrument?
  - a. Pay attention to things you find difficult.
  - b. Practise familiar pieces until they are perfect.
  - c. Start with music that is fairly simple.
  
7. What is Mike's advice about practising?
  - a. Practise on the same day each week.
  - b. Practise different pieces of music.
  - c. Practise regularly.
  
8. What is Lisa's advice about buying your first instrument?
  - a. Buy a good-quality, expensive one.
  - b. Hire one from a music shop.
  - c. Look for a second-hand one.
  
9. What does Mike suggest about buying a guitar?
  - a. Check that it has good reviews.
  - b. Buy one on the internet.
  - c. Take a guitarist with you to the shop.
  
10. What is Mike going to do next?
  - a. Work on his new record.
  - b. Take a break for a while.
  - c. Practise for a competition.

That is the end of part 2.

## Listening: Part 3

Listen to a talk about careers.

For each question, 1 to 10, 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.

### Questions 1 to 5

market	roles
societies	computer skills
qualifications	competition
websites	workers
training	communities

### Topic of talk: Preparing for the future after your studies

Reasons why you need to be prepared:

- increase in the 1. \_\_\_\_\_ for jobs.
- scientific developments are already changing 2. \_\_\_\_\_.
- companies now do business all over the world.

Effects of the changes

- New technology
  - causes existing 3. \_\_\_\_\_ to disappear, for example in shops.
  - Will lead to new positions for those with 4. \_\_\_\_\_ means lots of people have to get more 5. \_\_\_\_\_.

**Questions 6 to 10**

experts	cheaply
Chinese	Thursday
chef	users
athlete	English
quickly	Friday

Why the future is challenging

- not easy to predict the future.
- unexpected changes for companies.
  - For example, a factory will close if a competitor succeeds in making a product more 6. \_\_\_\_\_.
- unexpected changes for individual people.
  - For example, Rachel Smith, a former 7. \_\_\_\_\_, had to change career.

Speaker's comments

- Take a course if you want to become skilled computer 8. \_\_\_\_\_.
- Think about studying a language, especially 9. \_\_\_\_\_.
- Use opportunities provided by green technologies.
- Go to the talk on 10. \_\_\_\_\_.

That is the end of the B1 Listening test.

# Listening Scripts

## Part 1

### Question 1

Speaker 1	Hi Peter. How's it going?
Speaker 2	OK, I guess. I'm a bit worried though.
Speaker 1	Because of next week's maths quiz?
Speaker 2	I'm confident about that, but I still haven't finished my history essay.
Speaker 1	Do you have to hand it in today?
Speaker 2	The teacher wants it tomorrow, but this evening we're cooking dinner for my sister's birthday so I haven't got much time especially as I'm making the dessert. I'm going to make her favourite one.
Speaker 1	Good luck with everything!

### Question 2

Speaker 1	As for my plans for the future, well I finished my college course in business studies last year. When I was studying, I dreamed of having my own shop selling cakes one day, but I think it's too early for that at the moment. Right now, I'm looking for a job in a restaurant. That should give me some experience in the food industry.
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### Question 3

Speaker 1	Hello. This is a message for Mrs Johnson. I'm calling from Brown's Furniture Shop. The sofa which you ordered on Monday is ready. We want to arrange a day to deliver it. We'd like to come on Friday, but we might just be able to do it on Thursday. Please could you let us know when would be convenient for you.
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### Question 4

Speaker 1	Hello, Green Street Electrical Shop.
Speaker 2	Hi, this is Anna Cooper. My electric kettle isn't working. Would you be able to help me?
Speaker 1	Certainly, Madam. What seems to be the problem?
Speaker 2	Yesterday I switched it on and nothing happened.
Speaker 1	Is it a new kettle?

Speaker 2	No, I've had it for ages. I don't want to replace it because it was a wedding present from my grandparents. I'm hoping you'll be able to fix it for me.
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Question 5

Speaker 1	This is a passenger announcement for passengers travelling on Flight 231 to New York. The original departure time for this flight was fifteen ten hours. Unfortunately, due to bad weather, the flight will depart later than planned at sixteen twenty-five hours. We apologise for the delay and advise passengers on Flight 231 that they should go to Gate 19 which closes at sixteen-o-five hours. Please have your boarding cards ready.
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Question 6

Speaker 1	Our next programme here on Radio Thamesmead is "My Favourite Music", where we invite a special guest to talk about their ten favourite pieces of music. Today's guest is Mike Thompson who's best known for making television series about wildlife. But what most people won't know about Mike is that he's also a huge music fan. During his travels around the world he's collected recordings of musicians from many different countries.
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Question 7

Speaker 1	Delicious strawberries, John! Where did you get them? I need some for a dessert.
Speaker 2	From the farm shop. They grow their own strawberries. I go there at least once a week because I know their fruit's always fresh. I've heard that the supermarket has nice strawberries, but that takes me half an hour on the bus. I used to buy all my fruit from the shop in our village, but I stopped when the new owner put the prices up.

Question 8

Speaker 1	I'm going to spend my summer holiday in a town near the sea. I looked on a travel website and found three hotels which look nice. The Grand Hotel is a luxury hotel, but it's too expensive. The Sea View Hotel is smaller, but I prefer it because the price is OK and it's got a pool. There's also the International Hotel. That one's the cheapest, but I'm not too keen because it's a long way from the beach.
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Question 9

Speaker 1	Alice, where do you think we should meet tomorrow?
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Speaker 2	How about at the entrance to the park near your house, Peter?
Speaker 1	What if it's raining? We don't want to get wet.
Speaker 2	What about in that café we like instead?
Speaker 1	It gets very crowded in there on a Saturday. We may not be able to find a place to sit.
Speaker 2	Umm, I didn't think of that. What about at my house?
Speaker 1	OK, If you're sure it's not too much trouble.

Question 10

Speaker 1	Thank you for calling customer services at HomeGen electricity company. Our assistants are always happy to help you. If you're already a customer with us and you would like to change the services we provide for you, please press 1. For anything to do with your electricity bill, please press 2. If you want to become a new customer with us, please press 3. We also have lots of useful information on our website.
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## Part 2

Speaker 1	I'd like to welcome today's guests to the show: Lisa and Mike. Both talented musicians are still at school. Lisa, tell us how you learned to play your instrument.
Speaker 2	I started playing the flute when I was ten. My parents arranged flute lessons for me with a private teacher who was great. Later I became a member of the school orchestra. That's when I first thought I may have some musical ability. The orchestra is pretty good and often enters music competitions.
Speaker 1	Have you ever learned any other instruments?
Speaker 2	When I was little, I wanted to learn the drums, but my parents weren't keen. They probably thought I'd be noisy and annoy the neighbours! But my mum had a violin and let me practise on it. Unfortunately, I was no good and stopped after a year. However, I've been learning the trumpet recently. I'll never reach professional level, but it's a lot of fun.
Speaker 1	And recently you won an important prize for young classical musicians.
Speaker 2	Yes, that was a great experience. I met talented musicians from all over the UK. Although it was a competition, everybody was friendly. I'm the only flute player to ever win the prize. That was the thing that made me happiest. I also hope I've encouraged other young people to start playing the flute.
Speaker 1	And Mike, what's your instrument?
Speaker 3	I've been playing guitar since I was seven. My uncle gave me his old guitar, but my parents didn't have enough money to pay for lessons so I had to manage on my own. I learnt by listening to songs on the radio and copying them.
Speaker 1	You also recently won a prize: Best Young Rock Musician. Tell me about that.
Speaker 3	I was playing in local clubs without much success. I even put a video of myself playing one of my own songs on the Internet. Unfortunately, not many people watched it. Then I heard about a TV talent show where you perform a song that's already famous in front of judges. Normally I prefer playing my own stuff, but I entered the competition anyway. To my surprise, I won it.
Speaker 1	Hmm, you're both successful young musicians. What would you say to a young person interested in learning an instrument?
Speaker 2	As my flute teacher once said to me, "Practise what you don't know, not what you do". There's no point just practising pieces of music you find easy. You should work on whatever you're having problems with. Do you agree, Mike?
Speaker 3	Sure. We all know that "practice makes perfect", but you must also think about how you practise. Everybody is different, but I think it's better to practise the same piece of music for a short time every day rather than doing nothing all week and then several hours on, say, a Saturday. Practising for so long could get boring.
Speaker 1	Lisa, do you have any advice for someone buying their first instrument?

Speaker 2	New flutes are expensive to buy. You could save money by getting a second-hand one, but I don't recommend that for a beginner. You need experience to know if it's in good condition. You can also rent instruments from some music shops. I think that's a good idea.
Speaker 1	And, Mike, do you remember buying your first guitar?
Speaker 3	I didn't buy a cheap one because you'll never get a good sound from a poor quality instrument. Instead, I bought the best one I could afford. Of course, you can get instruments a bit cheaper on the Internet but it's nice to see what you're buying. It's a good idea to take someone who knows a lot about guitars with you when you go to the music shop. They can try the guitars and tell you which ones are good quality. Looking back, I should have done that too! Luckily, it's been fine. In fact, I read a good review of the one I bought in a guitar magazine soon afterwards.
Speaker 1	Anyway, congratulations on winning the prizes. Lisa, you told me before the show you'll soon be going to university to study for a music degree. You said the prize money will help pay for your studies. What are your plans, Mike?
Speaker 3	One day I'd love to hire a studio and record my own album, but that's very expensive. Now, I just want to have a holiday. I won't be entering another competition any time soon. Doing all that practice last time was hard work!

**Part 3**

Speaker 1	<p>Good afternoon, everyone. Thanks for coming to today’s talk on the future of the jobs market and preparing for working life after your studies. Nowadays, this is important because things are moving quickly in the world of work. The competition for positions is rising in almost every field of employment. Another thing to remember is that developments in modern technology mean that societies are beginning to change a lot even today. In ten years’ time, people may do jobs or work in industries which don’t exist in their communities today. We now live in “the global village” and companies do business with people from all over the world.</p> <p>So, what are the effects of these changes? The use of new technology means that some traditional roles will no longer exist in such great numbers. For example, companies are replacing employees with robots in their factories. Also, with the increase in shopping on the Internet, there are fewer shops and fewer jobs for people now working in them. But it’s not all bad news. New technology can also create new opportunities. For instance, companies selling things online need people with computer skills to update their shopping websites regularly. However, many workers, especially older ones, will need extra training to do these new jobs and their companies could provide this. People don’t need to return to college or to get any qualifications in computing or whatever.</p> <p>The future is challenging because changes aren’t always easy to predict. For example, a business could find it difficult to compete if another company suddenly discovers a technical improvement allowing them to produce the same goods more quickly. If a factory makes a particular product, but a competitor starts making it more cheaply, the factory will go out of business. Unexpected changes can happen not just to companies, but to individual people. Take Rachel Smith, the famous chef, who does cooking programmes on TV. When she was younger, she was a very good athlete and dreamed of competing in the Olympic Games. Unfortunately, when she was twenty-two, she broke her leg. This ended her sports career so she went back to college and learned to cook.</p> <p>The example of Rachel Smith shows us that you can still be successful despite having to change career. But to give yourself the best chance of success, you need to prepare for the future. Here are some suggestions. Computers are now used in almost every job, and this trend is likely to continue. That’s why everyone – not just computer experts – needs some knowledge of digital technology. The</p>
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college runs digital skills courses for students whose main subject isn't computing, but want to improve as users of computers. Although not absolutely necessary, I'd definitely recommend doing one of those. Also, if you do business with people in other countries, you need to communicate with them – so foreign languages are important. But think carefully about which ones to study. English is very useful, but is it enough in the fast-changing world of international trade? Again, the college provides courses in several languages. Chinese is very popular among business students, and definitely worth considering. Finally, companies nowadays have to operate in a way that protects the environment. You may want to take advantage of job opportunities created by new 'green' technologies. That's the subject of next week's career talk. Don't forget this will now be on Friday rather than Thursday. The change in date is because the lecture theatre is needed for an exam.

## Answer key

### Part 1

1. a
2. b
3. c
4. b
5. c
6. a
7. b
8. c
9. a
10. b

### Part 2

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

7. c

8. b

9. c

10. b

### Part 3

1. competition
2. societies
3. roles
4. computer skills
5. training
6. cheaply
7. athlete
8. users
9. Chinese
10. Friday

## Practice Test 2: B1 Reading Test

There are 3 parts to the reading test.

You will answer 10 questions in each part.

You have 1 hour for the reading test.

### Reading: Part 1

Read each short text and answer the question that follows. For each question, choose the correct answer, a, b or c.

1 [text message]

Hi Helen

If you want to wear my dress when you go to Laura's party, you're welcome to keep it for a bit longer. You'll find some matching shoes in my wardrobe.

If you wash it, could you do it by hand, using warm (not hot) water and then dry it flat. I usually put it on a towel.

It's only a cheap dress from *Best Buys* but it's my favourite so I'm being careful!

Enjoy the party

Sara

1. Why has Sara sent the text?
  - a. To explain to Helen where to find the dress.
  - b. To advise Helen on how to look after the dress.
  - c. To tell Helen why she bought the dress.

2 [online review]

**Not satisfied**

I chose this printer because it was cheaper than most of the others online but the amount I saved really wasn't worth all the stress! It took me ages to connect the printer to my wifi. The online instructions are useless - it's like reading a foreign language. And even when it WAS finally installed, I found that although the quality of the printing is fine, the ink runs out really quickly and costs a lot to replace.

2. The writer is complaining because the...
- d. instructions for the printer aren't in English.
  - e. ink for the printer is difficult to find online.
  - f. printer isn't good enough value for money.

3 [formal letter]

31 January

Dear Ms Chalmers,

We are writing to remind you that your annual eye test will take place on 6th February at 10am. Please allow one hour for this from the time of arrival.

If you have any questions or are no longer able to attend, please phone reception or go online to arrange another time.

As car parking at the clinic is limited, please use public transport if possible.

Yours sincerely,

The eye clinic team

3. What is the purpose of the letter?
- To explain how to get to the clinic.
  - To confirm an appointment.
  - To change the date of a test.

4 [returns form]

### Returns

We are happy to give a refund for clothes (not including sale items) if you return them in perfect condition, with the receipt and attached returns label. You have a fortnight to do this.

When returning clothes by post, please give the reason for the return.

Items can also be returned to any of our 45 stores across the country.

For sale items or returns after 14 days (up to 30 days maximum), you can receive an exchange.

4. To get your money back you must ...

- a. prove that you paid the full price for your clothes.
- b. send your clothes back by post within 30 days.
- c. return your clothes to the shop where you bought them.

5 [newspaper review]

### The Happy Chef

Cooking competitions on TV usually show people attempting complicated recipes that you'd never dream of preparing at home. However, *The Happy Chef* actually gives some good tips! The celebrity chefs giving the instructions run successful restaurants and the food they tell the competitors to cook is simple but delicious.

Unfortunately, the competitors seem to feel they have to entertain us. Why can't we watch people cooking like they do at home when there are no TV cameras?

5. What makes *The Happy Chef* different from other cooking programmes?
  - a. The competitors are all famous people.
  - b. The chefs are very amusing.
  - c. People watching may get some useful ideas.

6 [notice in local paper]

**Make a difference!**

Have you got a few spare hours a week?

If so, why not join our local team of volunteers who provide support to older people living alone?

A typical visit might include tidying up, preparing a snack or doing a bit of shopping (a car is useful but not necessary).

Above all, we need kind people who will be available to listen, chat and take an interest in people's lives.

Please contact us on 07699 228253.

6. It is essential that volunteers ...
- a. are friendly.
  - b. can cook well.
  - c. own a car.

7 [for-sale advert]

### **CAR FOR SALE**

Small yellow Fiat, 15 years old but comes with a history of regular checks, new tyres and has just passed the MOT (Ministry of Transport) safety test.

Its small engine makes it a perfect first car; cheap on fuel, easy to park when going around town but also safe and reliable on longer motorway journeys.

Sadly, though, our growing teenage sons no longer fit in it comfortably.

Offers welcome.

Phone Carl on 07983 341874

7. Why are the owners selling the car?
- a. They're spending too much on it.
  - b. It's too small for their family.
  - c. They don't think it's suitable for long trips.

8 [notice on university board]

**Wanted**

I'm a 21-year-old university student looking for a room to rent.

I'm studying for my final exams this year, so I don't want to live in a noisy neighbourhood.

The perfect place for me would be a location out of town, maybe close to a park.

Being near a bus route to the university would be useful but not essential as I'm used to cycling long distances.

Please contact Kareem on 07904 154709

8. The most important thing for the student is to live ...

- a. close to the town centre.
- b. near the university.
- c. in a peaceful area.

## 9 [informal email]

Hi

Sorry I haven't been in touch recently – it's been such a busy time!

As you might remember, we're having a new living room added to the house, and the building work is taking much longer than expected.

As a result, the trip to New York with the kids for David's birthday sadly didn't happen.

Anyway, we're going to have a big party for him here instead when the living room is finished. I'll send you more details later.

Louise

9. The writer is telling her friend ...

- a. how a birthday will be celebrated.
- b. what she and her family did on holiday.
- c. when some house improvements will be finished.

10 [online forum]

### **Disappointed**

I seem to be the only person who was disappointed by Carol Thomas's new novel. I read her previous ones from cover to cover, so I was surprised to find that I didn't really like this one at all. Although it was as well written as always, I felt I had nothing in common with the people in it. I managed to reach the end, but it was a real effort.

10. What does the reader say about the novel?

- a. She didn't finish reading it.
- b. She doesn't like the writer's style.
- c. She wasn't interested in the characters.

## Reading: Part 2

Read the text and answer questions 1 to 10 with True, False or Not Given.

### BEING SAFE AT HOME

Of course we don't want anyone to break into our home and steal our possessions. But remember, burglars are more likely to take advantage of an opportunity which becomes available, rather than decide to break into a certain house. So make sure you protect your home as well as possible.

#### Inside the house

- Install locks on windows and doors, so even if someone tries to break in, they may not be successful. Crime figures suggest that windows downstairs are of particular interest to burglars, so concentrate on putting strong locks on these first.
- If you go out in the evening, leave lights and the TV on. Criminals rarely enter a house if they think someone is there.
- Get a dog! Police believe a dog keeps burglars away, whatever its size, because they're noisy.
- Make sure you have nothing valuable on display which anyone passing by can see from the road.

#### Outside the house

- It is often easier for burglars to break in from the back rather than the front of a building, because they are less likely to be noticed. So make it difficult for them, with high walls and a strong side gate with a good lock.
- Burglars don't usually carry tools with them, but may use ladders or anything else left in unlocked garages and sheds to help them break in.
- Outdoor lighting which comes on if there's any movement can give you early warning of burglars. However, if cats or wild animals visit your garden you may prefer a different solution, unless you don't mind waking up during the night, or annoying the neighbours!
- If you must hide your spare keys in the garden, avoid obvious places like plant pots, where most people put them.

**Top tips when going away**

- Cancel any regular deliveries, and don't order anything that will be delivered while you're away.
- Ask a friend or neighbour to come in regularly to open and close curtains and pick up mail.
- When you are on social networking sites, take care not to give details of your holiday plans in case criminals make use of this information.

For questions 1 to 10, choose True, False or Not Given.

1. People who break into houses tend to plan their crime in advance.
2. Most burglars break in at night.
3. The police recommend that houseowners get a big dog.
4. Avoid keeping anything expensive near a window, in case people outside notice it.
5. Back doors of houses are generally less well protected than front doors.
6. Burglars will often bring equipment to help them enter your property.
7. Outdoor lighting is affected by wildlife.
8. Most people are creative in choosing unusual places to hide their keys.
9. Someone you trust should stay at your house.
10. Criminals may search online to discover when owners will be away from home.

## Reading: Part 3

Read the text below and answer questions 1 to 10.

### Reducing waste in the home

In our article *Wasting our world*, we said that here in the UK we are responsible for throwing away about 20% of the food and 30% of the clothes that we buy. Here are some of the many emails we have received, in which readers told us how they've been changing their habits.

#### A. AISHA

I'm definitely going to read information on food more carefully. Too much food in our house gets wasted, either because it's out of date or because it can't be frozen. That will have to change!

I buy dresses and tops that don't cost much and have to replace them after only a short time. Your article convinced me that I should get better quality goods – they'll cost more, but they'll last so much longer.

I agree that people should give possessions they don't want any more to charity shops. Then other people might use them. I intend to buy birthday presents there in future.

My house is full of books I'll never read again! I've started inviting friends round for coffee every month, to discuss what we've been reading and to swap books. It's a great way to save resources because we don't keep buying new ones. And we have a lot of fun too!

#### B. TOM

Your article reminded me of all the things we've bought for the kitchen and garden that we hardly ever use. I've now decided to buy something only if we're sure we'll often use it. Otherwise, I'll borrow or hire it instead.

It's great that supermarkets are making more effort to use less plastic, but it's still not enough. I don't see why things like fruit and vegetables need to be covered in anything at all.

Another thing that annoys me are all the free newspapers and advertising material that comes through my door. I used to put it all in the bin, but it's such a waste, so I complained to the local council. Things will never change unless people do something about it.

My son makes fun of me for always switching off lights and turning down the heating, but it's his future that I'm worried about. We'll soon have problems if we go on wasting electricity.

### **C. LUCY**

After reading the article I realised I had far too many clothes, but I've always felt guilty about throwing things away. Your suggestion to take anything I don't wear to charity shops was really good, and I got rid of a lot of things. I can now decide what to wear for work much more quickly, because there's much less in my wardrobe! When I need to buy more clothes, I'll look round charity shops. I saw that they have plenty of really good things that people don't want any more.

I know there's been a lot of media attention about the environmental danger of plastic bags and bottles, and I agree. However, what worries me far more is the issue of electricity. I'm always asking my husband to use less hot water and turn the heating down, but he thinks it's just about the bills. He doesn't seem to realise how important it is for the environment.

### **D. ANDY**

I hate waste – I even get annoyed when I have to throw away the sections of the newspaper that I don't read!

Your article made me realise how much food our family wastes – we buy far too much and end up throwing loads away. So we've agreed to plan what we're going to cook in the next few days, and spend some time making a list of the ingredients we need, instead of just grabbing things off the shelves. It will save us time and money when we're shopping.

And, after reading your advice, I made an effort to find people who could repair several pieces of equipment, from tennis rackets to old computers. I didn't want to throw them away, so they were all in the garage. I'm delighted that we can now use them again!

I've also made up my mind to change the way I buy gifts for people, because it's such a waste when they just end up in a cupboard. It's much better to give people fun days out, such as tickets for the theatre or an exhibition.

Match each statement (1-10) to the correct person (A-D). You may use each person more than once.

- A. Aisha
- B. Tom
- C. Lucy
- D. Andy

1. Which person has found that owning less can save time?
2. Which person is keen to reduce the amount of unwanted paper received?
3. Which person organises social events where items are exchanged?
4. Which person has decided to give a different type of present?
5. Which person complains about a family member wasting energy?
6. Which person hopes to avoid food waste by planning meals before shopping?
7. Which person intends to stop buying equipment unless it is used frequently?
8. Which person is going to buy more expensive clothes?
9. Which person believes that shops should avoid wrapping certain types of food?
10. Which person has found a way to start using various devices again?

## Answer key

### Part 1

1. b
2. c
3. b
4. a
5. c
6. a
7. b
8. c
9. a
10. c

### Part 2

1. F
2. NG
3. F
4. T
5. NG
6. F
7. T
8. F
9. F
10. T

### Part 3

1. C
2. B
3. A
4. D
5. C
6. D
7. B
8. A
9. B
10. D

## Practice Test 2: B1 Writing Test

There are 2 parts to this test.

You must write a response to the task in both part 1 and part 2.

You have 1 hour for the B1 Writing Test.

We recommend you spend 20 minutes on Part 1 and 40 minutes on Part 2.

### Writing: Part 1

You have just completed a college course.

Write an email to your teacher to give him or her suggestions about how to improve the course for future students.

In your email:

- describe the course you have done
- say what you liked about the course
- explain what the college could do to improve the course

Write your email here. You should write between 70 and 100 words.

## Part 1 sample answer

Dear Sir/Madam

I have recently finished an ESOL and IT course at the college. The course was English language and computer skills. I have learnt grammar and speaking skills and how to write documents.

The course was very interesting. I liked the topics in the English class and the teacher was very helpful and friendly.

I think the college needs to provide more computers for the class because sometimes there were not enough computers for everyone, and we had to share.

Best wishes

Amina Begum

[85 words]

## Comments

This is a good response to the task. The response addresses all the bullet points appropriately and is within the required word count.

The candidate has used email writing conventions correctly (*Dear Sir/Madam, ...Best wishes*) although they could also have used a name in the greeting, for example Dear Mrs Jones. The response is appropriately paragraphed, and punctuation is simple and accurate.

A variety of tenses have been used correctly (*I have recently finished, The course was, I think*). The candidate also uses modal verbs accurately (*the college needs to, we had to*) and provided an explanation for their proposal using *because*.

The candidate has also shown a good range of relevant vocabulary, used correctly (*English language, computer skills, grammar, documents, topics, computers, to share*). Spelling is accurate.

## Writing: Part 2

The way that people work is changing.

Describe the advantages and disadvantages of working from home and how this might change in the future.

Write about:

- why some people prefer working from home while others may not
- the effect of home working on different companies
- how you think the way that people work may change in the future

Write your answer here. You should write between 110 and 130 words.

## Part 2 sample answer

Some people prefer to work from home because they don't have to pay for transport to the office. They don't have to spend a lot of time travelling. People can work when they want to. However, others may feel lonely and find it difficult to concentrate at home.

To allow people to work from home some companies may need to provide people with equipment and devices which may cost a lot of money or change working hours. Other companies may prefer to have people working in offices because of the kind of work they do, such as in tourism offices.

I think more people will work from home in the future because it is better for the environment, and it will be cheaper for some companies.

[126 words]

## Comments

The candidate has discussed the advantages and disadvantages of working from home and the response addresses all three bullet points adequately. The response is also adequately paragraphed, with each paragraph addressing one of the 3 bullet points.

The candidate has shown their ability to use a variety of modal verbs correctly (*don't have to pay, can work, may feel, may need to*). The candidate has also used *will* to talk about the future (*will work, will be cheaper*). Grammatical constructions are correct and sentences are linked appropriately (*because, when, however, and, which, such as*) to present the candidate's point of view.

The response also shows good range of relevant vocabulary (*transport to the office, traveling, lonely, concentrate, provide, equipment, devices, tourism, environment*). Spelling and punctuation are both correct.



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