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# Go for **Preliminary**

also suitable for Preliminary for Schools

## Practice Tests

  
mm publications

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# Introduction

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The *Cambridge English: Preliminary (PET)* is a means of assessing English language proficiency at B1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). However, the test also assesses candidates at both A2 and B2 levels. It demonstrates that candidates are able to communicate competently in everyday contexts and understand practical information.

This book is suitable for candidates of all ages who are preparing to take *Cambridge English: Preliminary (PET)* or *Cambridge English: Preliminary (PET) for Schools*. It contains **five complete practice tests**, each consisting of three papers (Reading & Writing, Listening, and Speaking), and also includes:

- an **introduction** with detailed information about the test.
- a step-by-step **training section** which focuses on specific features of the test. This section provides preparation material and useful strategies for each paper, and is divided into four parts:
  - **Use of English**, which focuses on revision of grammatical structures typically found in the test, especially in Reading part 5 and Writing part 1.
  - **Reading & Writing (Paper 1)**, which helps candidates develop test-taking strategies and practise the skills that will help them answer questions in the different parts.
  - **Listening (Paper 2)**, which teaches candidates how to approach listening questions and helps them develop crucial listening sub-skills such as listening for gist and for specific information.
  - **Speaking (Paper 3)**, designed to help candidates analyse responses, recognise common mistakes, learn useful expressions and approaches, and discuss typical speaking topics.
- **tips** and **test-taking strategies** to help candidates in the test. These are included in the first practice test, and are intended to familiarise candidates with the requirements of each part and guide them through choosing their answers.
- two comprehensive **appendices** to be used for reference purposes. These include prepositional phrases and common collocations with prepositions.
- **sample answer sheets** for Papers 1 and 2.

This book is designed to equip students with the necessary skills and techniques required for taking *Cambridge English: Preliminary (PET)*. To this end, candidates are advised first to complete the tasks included in the training section before attempting the practice tests. While completing the practice tests, candidates may refer to the training section, as well as to the two appendices, for reference and self-study purposes.

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## Components

- **Student's Book + Student's CD-ROM** with interactive vocabulary list
- **Self-study Pack - Student's Book + Resource CD-ROM** including:
  - an interactive **vocabulary list**
  - the **key** to the training section and all tests
  - **justification** of answers for Paper 1, Parts 1–4
  - the **listening transcripts** with justification of answers for Paper 2
  - suggested **speaking points** for Paper 3
  - **audio material** (in MP3 format) for Papers 2 and 3
- **Teacher's Pack** - Self-study Pack + Class CDs

## Test format - a brief overview

Cambridge English: Preliminary (PET) is comprised of three papers: Reading & Writing, Listening and Speaking.

Paper	Duration	Overview
<b>Reading &amp; Writing</b>	1 hour 30 mins	Reading – 5 parts (35 questions in total) Writing – 3 parts (7 questions in total)
<b>Listening</b>	Approximately 35 mins (+ 6 mins transfer time)	4 parts (25 questions in total)
<b>Speaking</b>	10-12 mins	4 parts (led by an examiner)

## Test components

### PAPER 1: READING & WRITING

Part	Content	Format	Focus
<b>Reading</b>			
1 <i>questions 1-5</i>	Five short texts (notices, emails, etc.) referring to a range of everyday topics.	Three-option multiple-choice questions (discrete).	Questions test candidates' understanding of general meaning in short texts.
2 <i>questions 6-10</i>	Five descriptions of people in various situations and eight short topic-related texts.	Matching exercise in which candidates must match five descriptions to eight short texts.	Questions assess candidates' ability to understand and locate specific detail.
3 <i>questions 11-20</i>	A long text that gives factual information.	True or false questions.	Questions require candidates to locate specific factual information.
4 <i>questions 21-25</i>	A long text that expresses attitudes or personal opinions.	Four-option multiple-choice questions.	Questions test candidates' ability to understand rhetorical purpose, attitude, relayed opinion, personal opinion, inference and overall meaning.
5 <i>questions 26-35</i>	A short text of an informational or narrative nature.	Four-option multiple-choice cloze questions.	Questions require candidates to understand vocabulary and grammar and recognise lexic-structural patterns.

Part	Content	Format	Focus
<b>Writing</b>			
1 <i>questions 1-5</i>	Five sentences on a common topic and five sentences for completion.	Candidates are asked to complete sentence transformations.	Questions test candidates' ability to produce specific grammatical structures and use correct spelling.
2 <i>question 6</i>	A short communication and a reply prompt in the form of bullet points.	Candidates are asked to produce a short communication of between 35-45 words, covering the points provided.	This question requires candidates to use written language clearly and effectively to communicate information and intent.
3 <i>question 7/8</i>	A short communication and prompts for a reply. <b>or</b> A prompt for a story.	Candidates are asked to produce a text of approximately 100 words on a task of their choice	In this question, candidates are expected to select relevant content to include, show effective use of language, organise their writing clearly, and demonstrate an understanding of tone and register.

**PAPER 2: LISTENING**

Part	Content	Format	Focus
<b>Reading</b>			
1 <i>questions 1-7</i>	Seven short, informal monologues or dialogues taken from everyday situations.	Three-option multiple-choice questions (discrete).	Questions test candidates' ability to understand context and listen for specific information.
2 <i>questions 8-13</i>	A monologue or interview of an informational nature.	Three-option multiple-choice questions.	Questions require candidates to listen for specific information and understand detail.
3 <i>questions 14-19</i>	An informational monologue.	A gapped summary in note-form for completion.	Questions require candidates to listen for specific information and understand detail.
4 <i>questions 20-25</i>	An informal dialogue taken from an everyday context.	True or false questions.	Questions assess candidates' ability to identify attitude and opinion, recognise agreement or disagreement, and listen for detailed meaning.

**PAPER 3: SPEAKING**

Part	Content	Format	Focus
<b>Reading</b>			
1 2-3 mins	Standardised questions on everyday topics.	Interaction between interlocutor and each candidate in turn.	This part tests candidates' ability to respond to factual and personal questions and give information.
2 2-3 mins	Visual prompts based on a simulated situation.	Interaction between candidates.	This part assesses candidates' ability to negotiate and discuss options, respond to and make suggestions, and express agreement or disagreement.
3 3 mins	Two photographs on a related topic.	Extended turn by each candidate individually (1 min each).	This part requires candidates to speak for an extended turn and use specific vocabulary.
4 3 mins	A standardised question related to the topic in the previous part.	Extended conversation between candidates.	This part tests candidates' ability to talk at length about opinions and experiences, and to display effective communication skills.

**Scoring Cambridge English: Preliminary (PET)**

In the test, each of the four skills (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking) is worth 25% of the final mark.

READING            questions 1-35            are worth 1 mark each  
**Total: 35 marks** (adjusted to 25%)

WRITING            questions 1-5            are worth 1 mark each  
                          question 6                is worth 5 marks  
                          question 7/8            is worth 15 marks  
**Total: 25 marks**

LISTENING            questions 1-25            are worth 1 mark each  
**Total: 25 marks**

SPEAKING            candidates are assessed out of 25 for the whole paper  
**Total: 25 marks**

Detailed instructions on how to score *Cambridge English: Preliminary (PET)* can be found at <http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/>