

Lindsey Cook • Annabel Pope

PRELIMINARY POWER

**Four practice tests for
the Cambridge English
Language Assessments:
Preliminary for Schools (PET)**

edisco

Lindsey Cook • Annabel Pope



*Four practice tests and concise, precise advice
for the
Cambridge English Preliminary for Schools (PET)*

edisco

Preliminary Power

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FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

♦ WHAT IS PRELIMINARY FOR SCHOOLS?

Preliminary for Schools, also known as *Preliminary English Test (PET)* is the second level, B1, of the Cambridge English Language Assessment for teenagers.

♦ WHAT IS CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT?

Cambridge English Language Assessment is a range of exams, certificates and diplomas at various levels provided by the University of Cambridge. Each qualification is recognized all over the world and over three million people in 135 different countries take them.

♦ WHAT IS LEVEL B1?

B1 is the third level in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (C.E.F.R.). This standard shows that you are an independent user of the language, meaning that you can:

- ...understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc.;
- ...deal with most situations likely to arise while travelling in an area where the language is spoken;
- ...produce simple connected text on topics that are familiar or of personal interest;
- ...describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.

♦ WHAT IS THE C.E.F.R.?

This is a guideline which was put together in the 1990's by the Council of Europe to provide a fair method of assessing and teaching languages in Europe. It is now used worldwide.

If you have a basic knowledge of the four skills, Reading – Writing – Listening – Speaking, and you want to improve your English and gain confidence ...

... GO AHEAD AND TAKE KEY FOR SCHOOLS!

CAN I TAKE *PRELIMINARY FOR SCHOOLS*?

Preliminary English Test (PET) is the Cambridge English exam which introduces you to practical language skills in real life situations. It simply tests your ability to use English to communicate with native speakers for everyday purposes. It can be taken on paper or on a computer.

Preliminary for schools is exactly the same exam, but is more specifically aimed at the interests and experiences of young people of school age.

CAN YOU...	YES	NO
• ...deal with everyday events in English?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• ...understand basic instructions and public announcements, for example in airports or railway stations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• ...read simple text books and magazine articles?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• ...write letters or emails on familiar subjects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• ...take notes in English while listening to a lesson?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• ...understand people's opinions and emotions as well as facts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you've ticked all the boxes

START ON THE PRACTICE PAPERS!

HOW TO GET READY FOR *PRELIMINARY FOR SCHOOLS*

HANDY HINTS

ASK

friends who go to English speaking countries to bring you back tourist brochures and information leaflets for you to read.

CHANGE

the instructions on your mobile phone into English.

CHAT

on-line to English speaking friends and relations or even write a letter to an English pen friend and send it by post.

KEEP

in touch with what's happening in the English speaking world.

LISTEN

to songs in English and find the lyrics. You can have fun playing karaoke on your computer too.

LOOK

at video clips in English on YouTube.

SEND

short texts to your friends in English on your phone.

TAKE

every opportunity to read everyday English in books, magazines and advertisements. Think how many ads have English slogans!

TRY

apps on your smartphone / tablet to improve your English.

USE

the Internet sensibly to read news headlines or watch interviews with famous people.

WATCH

films in English with English sub-titles. It may seem difficult at first but you will soon get used to it.

WORK

carefully through this book and always find out where and why you make mistakes.

BE

prepared for the exam and know exactly...

...WHAT TO EXPECT FROM *PRELIMINARY FOR SCHOOLS*.

HOW THE EXAM IS GRADED

The total marks of the exam are out of 100 and they are graded as follows:

PASS WITH DISTINCTION	90 – 100% (YOU SHOWED ABILITY AT B2 LEVEL)
PASS WITH MERIT	85 – 89%
PASS	70 – 84%
LEVEL A2	45 – 69% (YOU SHOWED ABILITY AT LEVEL A2)
FAIL	0 – 44%

This means that you must get at least **70 marks** to pass the exam.

There are four parts to the exam: **Reading**, **Writing**, **Listening** and **Speaking**, which are divided up into three different papers.

PAPER 1

- contains both the **Reading** and **Writing Tests**
- lasts 1 hour 30 minutes and is worth 50% of the total marks
- Reading has five parts with 35 questions; Writing has 3 parts with 7 questions.

PAPER 2

- is the **Listening Test**
- lasts 30 minutes plus 6 minutes to transfer your answers to the special answer sheet
- is worth 25% of the total marks
- has 4 parts to it and a total of 25 questions.

PAPER 3

- is the **Speaking Test**
- lasts 10-12 minutes and is worth 25% of the total marks
- has four parts to it and is taken together with another candidate; sometimes, if there are three remaining students at the end of an examining session, they will take it together.

HOW TO BE PREPARED FOR THE EXAM

Your teacher will certainly know how to help you in the best possible way, but you can help yourself too by remembering the following:

DO

- read the instructions carefully and look at each example given to you before you begin
- answer ALL the questions, even if you are not sure that your answer is correct
- check your answers at the end and transfer them accurately to the answer sheet – you will have plenty of time to do this.

DON'T

- worry if there are some words that you don't understand – you will still be able to guess the meaning from the rest of the text.
- leave a blank. If you write something, you have a 50% chance of getting a mark!

WHAT TO EXPECT ON THE EXAM DAY

PREPARATION FOR THE DAY

DO remember to

- go to bed early the night before
- have a good breakfast
- get there early, too.

DON'T forget to

- check the date, time and address of your PET exam
- find out how long it will take you to travel to the exam.

BEFORE

DO bring

- your I.D.
- pencils, sharpener and rubber.
- a watch or small clock – it helps to keep a check on the time.

DON'T bring

- any food into the exam room
- your bag, phone or any other electronic device into the room.

AT YOUR DESK

DO

- listen carefully to the instructions given by the invigilator
- make sure you read all the instructions carefully, too
- put up your hand if you need help or to ask any questions
- put up your hand immediately if you are doing the Listening Part and cannot hear properly.

DON'T

- talk to anybody else in the exam room or try to see what other people are writing
- panic, just do your best!

WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED

DO

- put up your hand if you have any serious queries about the exam
- check your answers again if there is still time.

DON'T

- leave your seat until you have permission to leave
- talk about what you did right or wrong, forget about it until the results come out.

NEVER LOOK BACK!

PET is the second step up the ladder of the Cambridge ESOL exams. The first practice paper is a chance to test yourself on each part with some advice to help you. When you have completed this, then you are ready to work on all the practice tests.

DON'T FORGET:

IF YOU FOLLOW THIS ADVICE, YOU WILL SAIL THROUGH THE EXAM!



A HELPING HAND WITH...

... READING AND WRITING

- Prepare for the reading part by reading easy stories. Your teacher will suggest some.
- If you use Facebook, change the language to English. You will find some useful expressions.
- Keep a notebook with all the new vocabulary. You could draw a picture beside it to help you remember it.
- When you do the practice tests, remember to time yourself. In Practice Test One there is advice on how long each part might take you. However, it is only a guideline. The whole exam takes 90 minutes but you need to leave enough time at the end to write your letters or story.

... LISTENING

- Prepare for the test by listening to authentic spoken English. It is better to listen to short passages. Remember a recording is not like a conversation, the voice never stops and it is easy to become lost if the passage is too long.
- Take an active part in classroom discussions.
- Practice listening to and understanding different voices and styles of English.
- A good idea is to listen and watch 'How to' videos with instructions on YouTube.
- Revise and add to your vocabulary for the house and home, travel and public announcements, health, school and sports, clothes and shopping, work and jobs, numbers and dates.
- Remember to always listen to the whole dialogue during the exam. The information you need for the answer might be at any point in the passage, the beginning, middle or the end.
- Don't panic if you don't understand everything. You will still be able to answer the question if you understand the gist and you will hear each part twice in any case. If you miss an answer, move on to the next one. You can complete the answers the second time.

... SPEAKING

- Make sure you know your vocabulary on personal information, hobbies, animals, family, school, food, transport, travel, countries, likes and dislikes.
- Revise the English Alphabet. You will always be asked to spell your surname.
- Remember that the examiner wants to know that you can give and listen to opinions, make suggestions and take part in a realistic conversation with your partner.
- During the exam be polite, natural and spontaneous. Try and forget you are doing an exam and enjoy it!
- Listen carefully to the questions the examiner asks you and focus on the appropriate answer.





Part 1
Short messages

ADVICE

- Underline the important parts in the text.
- Eliminate the sentences (A, B or C) which really do not match the text.
- The texts will be short emails, texts, notices, labels, signs or adverts. If it is an email or text message, check who is writing it and to whom.
- Part 1 takes about 10 minutes.

Questions 1-5

- Look at the text in each question and underline important words as in the example.
- Choose the alternative – A, B or C – which matches the text.
- Mark the correct letter A, B or C on your answer sheet.

Example

(0)

Change of Timetable: Sports Centre Gym open on New Year's Day.

Work off those unwanted calories.
From 10 am to 3 pm Bring a towel.

- A) The sports centre isn't usually open on New Year's Day. ☒
- B) You can go to the gym for 6 hours. ☐
- C) You must take a day-off work. ☐

Answer: **0** **A** **B** **C**

1.

Hi Jo,
Sam and I are buying a present for Jack on Tuesday. Do you want to come? Meet us outside the school at 2 if you want to join us. If not, just give us £5 towards it.

- A) Jo has to meet his friends if he wants to help buy the present for Jack. ☐
- B) Jo can still contribute to the present even if he doesn't go with his friends. ☐
- C) The meeting place is outside the school on Thursday at 2. ☐

2.

Dear Mrs. Cook,
Sorry I couldn't come to the lesson, I had a flat tyre on the way. Could I come on Friday because I have a test the day after.

- A) Mrs Cook was cross with Jake for not coming to the lesson. ☐
- B) Josh tried to come to the lesson. ☐
- C) Josh has a Maths test on Saturday which he wants help with. ☐



3.

After-School Computer Club starting soon. Sign up here by Monday 3rd September if you want to join. Cost depends on number of enrolments. Maximum 20 places available.

- A) Computer club starting on Monday 3rd September. ☐
- B) If 20 people enrol the club will cost less. ☐
- C) Up to 20 people can enrol. ☐

4.

Dan phoned to ask you if you could arrange the music for his friend's 18th birthday party. He thinks he will hold it in the Village Hall so you need a good sound system.

Could you set up a web-site for people to request the songs they want? That was very popular last time. He has invited about 150 people but only about 100 will come.

- A) Dan is having his 18th birthday party in a Village Hall. ☐
- B) The web-site has been successful in the past. ☐
- C) About 150 people will come. ☐

5.

Good-as-new clothes sale on at David Shepherd's Animal Trust shop.

Bring your dresses, coats, jackets, shirts, trousers, suits to our shop by Saturday 1st June 9 am for the sale that day. Must be designer label, cleaned and ironed.

Sale on all day Saturday.

Excellent bargains to be had.

Money collected is given to "Wildlife in Danger of Extinction".

- A) If you bring clothes to the shop they must be new. ☐
- B) If your clothes are sold you will get the money. ☐
- C) The clothes sale is on Saturday 1st June. ☐



Part 2 Matching

ADVICE

- You will be given a situation about an individual or group who require something. This could be something to buy, somewhere to visit, join a club, find a book to read and so on. Read about each person (6 to 10) and underline key points.
- Read the descriptions starting with A on the next page. Does it match any of the people's needs (6-10)?
- Underline the key words in the descriptions in order to remember the important points.
- There are three extra descriptions.
- Double-check when you think you have matched person to description.
- This should take about 15 minutes.

Questions 6-10

- ♦ The teenagers below all want to go on a study-holiday during the summer.
- ♦ On the next page there are descriptions of eight study-holidays.
- ♦ Decide which would be the most suitable for the following people.
- ♦ For questions 6-10, mark the correct letter (A-H) on your answer sheet.



- ☐ 6. Zed loves sport especially football and wants to spend three weeks studying English in the mornings and learning new football techniques in the afternoons. He would prefer to go to England or Ireland and stay in a college. He wants to practise speaking and listening.



- ☐ 7. Jess, Pam and Megan want to go to Scotland together in July for three weeks. They want to stay in a family and go to school in the mornings to study for the PET exam. In the afternoons they'd like to go out on excursions. Edinburgh is a place they want to see because Megan has a relative there.



- ☐ 8. Francesca and Mina are 17 years old and need to earn some money. They are keen to work in the afternoons or evenings and study Business English in the mornings. They'd prefer to stay together either in a family or in a hostel.



- ☐ 9. Irene loves horse-riding and animals so she wants to stay in a family with pets and young children. Irene wants to be close to her friends but she'd prefer to be the only foreign student in the family as she speaks English well and has been to England before. Her parents are coming to England for a long weekend and want to learn English following a course just for a few days.



- ☐ 10. Jake enjoys fishing and football and doesn't like studying very much. He'd like to go to Ireland as his brother is studying there. He'd like to go to school in the morning and follow a photography course in the afternoon. He doesn't mind if he stays in a college or family but he only wants to stay for three weeks and wants to get better at speaking.

**SUMMER STUDY HOLIDAYS**

- A) **Dun Loaghe Projects: School of Languages.** We are a family-run school in Galway, Ireland, offering 3-week summer courses for students who want to improve their fluency. Courses are based around project work and interaction with the local people, so there are no boring lessons to sit through. What's more, in the afternoon students can choose from a variety of activities such as football training, helping with the farm animals or artistic photography classes while evenings are spent chatting with your charming host family.
- B) **Speak Out English Agency.** Would you like to work in the UK? You can work in restaurants, pubs, hotels and cafes or just follow one of our many language courses to reach a level which will allow you to find a job. All you need is to be 18 years old and to be hard-working.
- C) **Agatha Christie English School.** Love detective stories set in little old English villages? Come to our fun, interesting, lively English courses for people aged 1 to 100. Learn about the characters in famous murder stories and create your own scary stories. Your English skills will improve at the flick of a wand and before you can say Abracadabra! By the way, you will stay in a hostel where ghosts of the past will tell you their tales!
- D) **Guildford Language School.** Only 50 kilometres from London, yet set in beautiful countryside, our school offers a wide variety of courses such as Hotel English, Aviation, Cookery, Business and others. Accommodation is arranged in families with young children so some evening babysitting jobs are available and afternoon activities can be arranged.
- E) **Stoneleigh English Centre or Bramley High English.** The two schools, one situated in England and one in Scotland, offer General English courses throughout the year for Beginners to Advanced and Cambridge exams courses such as PET and First Certificate. Trips are organized three times a week to places of interest. On Saturday there is a full-day excursion to the capital city Edinburgh for those in Stoneleigh, and a trip to London for those in Bramley. Accommodation is in families or college in Bramley and families in Stoneleigh.
- F) **Stansted school** is so handy for people arriving from Europe and who need a short course. The school is in a lovely village and although you arrive at the busy airport, you will be in the countryside within 10 minutes. You can stay with a family which means you will practise English all the time. There are short courses lasting a few days or longer courses up to a year. Wind-surfing, horse-riding, football and painting are some of the activities offered. Families are carefully selected and students can choose to be in a family with children, pets or just by yourself.
- G) **St. Catherine's Summer school.** Four-hour lessons in the morning based on developing speaking and listening skills using an innovative approach plus afternoon excursions to places of interest, or following the tennis or football programme with coaches from Manchester United. Full-board accommodation provided in selected families or in our exclusive college.
- H) **Living English Courses.** Do you need to learn English quickly? Living with your teacher is the new fast-track way to learning English. No time wasted travelling to school. 100% attention on you from your teacher. Live the life of an English person with your teacher to guide you. You will be joining in the life of your teacher... shopping, visiting friends, going to the dentist, answering phone calls, doing hobbies just as if you had always been in England.



Part 3 True or false?

ADVICE

- The sentences (11-20) follow the text in an orderly way so the answer to sentence 11 can be found at the beginning of the text. Sentence 12 will be found a few sentences after and so on.
- Once you have found the phrase in the text underline it so that you can check you are right.
- This should take about 10 minutes.

Questions 11-20

- ♦ Look at the sentences below about inspirational disabled athletes.
- ♦ Read the text on the next page to decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect.
- ♦ If it is correct, mark A on your answer sheet. If it is not correct, mark B on your answer sheet.

	A	B
11. When Bethany was 12, she nearly died.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. When she was 15, she won an important competition.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Now Bethany is acting in a film about her life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Anthony started wrestling at High School.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Anthony was really good at his sport from the beginning.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Jason's left arm works well.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Jason writes books about his family.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Melissa's leg was amputated below the knee.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. She was already a diver before she had her injury.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. She feels that missing a leg stops her from doing some activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





INSPIRATIONAL ATHLETES

Born to surf

Raised by surfers in Hawaii, Bethany Hamilton was born to be in the water. A natural surfer, she began competing professionally as a young child. However, at 13, she lost her arm and nearly lost her life in a vicious shark attack. One month later she was back on her surfboard with a determined spirit and positive attitude. Two years later she won first place in the Explorer Women's Division of the NSSA National Championships. Now, the professional surfer shares her inspirational message of hope with millions of people and her story has been made into an inspiring major film, *Soul Surfer*, in cinemas now, starring Anna Sophia Robb, Helen Hunt and Dennis Quaid.

Wrestling champion

Anthony Robles was born without a leg, but this didn't stop him from becoming a national high school and college wrestling champion. He began his career on the mat in his high school. Although he tells the *Wall Street Journal* his first match as a small 90-pound first year student was less than good, he got better and then became the best. In March of 2011, the All-American Arizona State University student won the NCAA championship title for the 125-pound weight class division. He remains an inspiration to people everywhere. He told the WSJ, "I didn't get into the sport for the attention. I wrestle because I love wrestling. But if I can help change somebody's life for the better, I will."

Ironman

12-year-old Jason Lester was hit by a car and suffered, among many things, a paralyzed arm. How incredible, then, that he has become a world-class endurance sports champion. Today, he can swim faster, ride further and run extremely long distances as an Ironman and Ultraman; and he does it all without the full use of his right arm. He was the award winner for "Best Male Athlete with a Disability" and the first male triathlete to win such an honour. In addition to numerous championships, he's also the author of *Running on Faith*, the autobiography that describes his rise to fame and how his faith got him there. His message is summed up well when he wrote, "If you don't try, you won't get anywhere".

Winner

She is a war veteran with the U.S. Army, paralympian, paratriathlete and an above-the-knee amputee. In 2004, Melissa Stockwell lost her leg when a roadside bomb exploded during a convoy. A diver in high school, she began to swim at Walter Reed Hospital as part of her physical therapy. Eventually, she trained to compete in the 2008 Paralympic Games for the U.S. team in which she became the record holder for the 100 meter butterfly and the 100 meter freestyle. She gained national attention when she became the face of the Hartford U.S. Paralympics Partnership ad campaign. "I can really do anything I want to do, missing leg or not," she says.



Part 4 Multiple-choice

ADVICE

- You need to read the whole text from beginning to end because the questions test your general understanding of the text.
- This should take about 15 minutes.

Questions 21-25

- ♦ **Rachel Adams has written a report for her English homework.**
- ♦ **Read the text and the questions below.**
- ♦ **For each question, mark the correct letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet.**

NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL by Rachel Adams

The Notting Hill Carnival is the largest street festival in Europe and originated in 1964 as a way for Afro-Caribbean communities to celebrate their own cultures and traditions. Taking place every August Bank Holiday weekend in the streets of London W11, the Notting Hill Carnival is an amazing mix of sounds, colourful sights and social solidarity.

At the roots of the Notting Hill Carnival are the Caribbean carnivals of the early 19th century – a particularly strong tradition in Trinidad – which were all about celebrating the abolition of slavery and the slave trade. The very first carnival was an attempt to focus on the steel band musicians who played in the Earls Court of London every weekend. When the bands paraded through the streets of Notting Hill, black residents came out of their houses to watch. It reminded them of the Caribbean homes they had left behind.

In the days of abolition, there was a strong element of parody in the songs and dances Trinidadians performed. They were not allowed to hold festivals of their own during the period of slavery so they now took full advantage of the relative new freedoms the ending of slavery brought them. Dressing up in costumes that mimicked the European fashions of their former masters, even whitening their faces with flour or wearing white masks, they established a tradition that continues in the costume-making of today's Notting Hill Carnival. The proper name for this aspect of the Carnival is Mas (derived from Masquerade).

People from every culture love the carnival. Mary Smith, a teacher from Kent was interviewed with her 7-year-old twin daughters at the carnival.

