



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.