

# Cambridge English First

Brief exam guide  
*for exams from 2015*



*Ready for success in study, work and life*



**CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH**  
Language Assessment  
Part of the University of Cambridge

## Show that you are ready for success in study, work and life

*Cambridge English: First* uses real-life situations designed to help you communicate more effectively and learn the skills to take you to your next level of success.

## Gain real-life skills for work and study

The exam shows that you can:

- **study** in English at foundation or pathway level
- **work** in an English-speaking environment
- **live** independently in an English-speaking country.

## Get a certificate that is accepted globally

The exam is accepted as an upper-intermediate qualification in English by thousands of universities, colleges and employers around the world.

## Use the exam for visa applications

As well as using your certificate for university applications worldwide, you can also use it for your student visa application to Ireland.

To view the full list of institutions which accept the exam, visit [www.cambridgeenglish.org/recognition](http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/recognition)

## What level is the exam?

The exam focuses on Level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) – an upper-intermediate level of English.

## What's in the exam?

The exam is designed to be fair to people of all nationalities and linguistic backgrounds, and is supported by a dedicated research programme.

It covers all four language skills (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking) and knowledge of grammar and vocabulary.

<b>Reading and Use of English:</b> 1 hour 15 minutes	Shows that you can understand texts from publications such as books, newspapers and magazines.
<b>Writing:</b> 1 hour 20 minutes	Shows that you can write different text types, such as an essay, report or a letter.
<b>Listening:</b> 40 minutes	Shows that you can follow a range of spoken materials, such as news and everyday conversations.
<b>Speaking:</b> 14 minutes	Shows that you can communicate effectively in face-to-face situations. You take the test with one or two other candidates.

Your overall performance is calculated by averaging the scores you achieve in Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking and Use of English. The weighting of each of the four skills and Use of English is equal.

Download sample papers at [www.cambridgeenglish.org/first](http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/first)

You can take the exam on paper or on computer.



[www.cambridgeenglish.org/first](http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/first)



“ *My university recommended I take Cambridge English: First.*

*Preparing for the exam gave me the confidence and language skills to travel internationally, and get a job at a prestigious biopharmaceutical laboratory.* ”

Anais Legent  
*Cambridge English: First* certificate holder  
and Research Associate at Kymab Ltd.

## Ready for success in study, work and life

- Develop real-life English skills for work and study.
- Prove that you can use everyday written and spoken English at an upper-intermediate level.
- Show that you are ready to work or study in an English-speaking environment.
- Gain a valuable qualification that is accepted worldwide.

Over

# 20,000

organisations worldwide trust

## Cambridge English exams

### What's next?

#### STEP 1 – Test your level

See if *Cambridge English: First* is the right exam for you – take our free online test at [www.cambridgeenglish.org/testyourenglish](http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/testyourenglish)

#### STEP 2 – Contact your local exam centre

Your local centre can give you details of dates, costs, how to prepare and how to register for an exam. Find your nearest centre at [www.cambridgeenglish.org/centresearch](http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/centresearch)

#### STEP 3 – Get started on your preparation

Find a wide range of support, including official Cambridge English preparation materials, at [www.cambridgeenglish.org/first](http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/first)



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Cambridge English Language Assessment is part of the University of Cambridge. We develop and produce the most valuable range of qualifications for learners and teachers of English in the world. Over 5 million Cambridge English exams are taken each year in more than 130 countries. More than 20,000 universities, employers, government ministries and other organisations accept our certificates.

Cambridge English Language Assessment – a not-for-profit organisation.

All details are correct at the time of going to print in March 2015.



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