



Cambridge English Key for Schools

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Key English Test (KET) for Schools

Our course:

What is Cambridge English: Key for Schools?

Cambridge English: Key for Schools is a test at Level A2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). The test has exactly the same types of tasks and questions as *Cambridge English: Key*. Both tests use English in everyday situations. The only difference is that *Cambridge English: Key for Schools* is for candidates who are at school. You can do *Cambridge English: Key for Schools* as a paper-based or computer-based test.

Our aim:

Prove that students have the skills to communicate

The exam shows that students can:

- **understand and use basic phrases and expressions**
- **introduce themselves** and answer basic questions about their personal details
- **interact with English speakers** who talk slowly and clearly
- **write short, simple notes.**

What level is the exam?

The exam focuses on Level A2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). It shows that a student can use everyday English at a basic level.

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.

The exam is designed for people of all nationalities, backgrounds, and is part of a research programme.

The overall performance is calculated by averaging the scores achieved in Reading and Writing, Listening and Speaking.
The score for Reading and Writing is doubled in this calculation.

Reading and Writing: 1 hour 10 minutes	Shows that a student can understand simple written information and write short messages related to personal information.
Listening: 30 minutes	Shows that a student can understand key information in everyday conversations.
Speaking: 8-10 minutes	Shows that a student can take part in a conversation. The test is taken face-to-face with one or two other candidates.

Exam structure

Paper details	What's in the paper?	Skills assessed
<p>Reading & Writing</p> <p>1 hour 10 minutes</p> <p>50% of the marks for the exam</p>	<p>The Reading and Writing paper has nine parts and the tasks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• matching sentences to notices• multiple-choice questions on a text• multiple-choice responses to something someone says• a multiple-matching question• a spelling task• an open-cloze task (a text with gaps - you need to fill in the gaps)• an information-transfer task• a guided writing task	<p>Some things you need to be able to do are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• understand real-word notices• read and choose the correct word• read and choose the correct answer• put a conversation in the correct order• spell words correctly• choose the correct words to complete a text• complete an email/letter with missing words• complete a form with important information• write a short note, email or postcard

Paper details	What's in the paper?	Skills assessed
<p>Listening</p> <p>About 30 minutes</p> <p>25% of the marks for the exam</p>	<p>The Listening paper has five parts and the tasks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • answering multiple-choice questions on short listening texts • matching a list of nouns to people while listening • answering multiple-choice questions on a conversation • filling in missing words on a form while listening to one or two people speaking 	<p>You need to be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • listen for important information in short and long conversations and monologues • listen and write down important information and spell words correctly
<p>Speaking</p> <p>About 10-12 minutes</p> <p>25% of the marks for the exam</p>	<p>The Speaking test has two parts. In the first part the interlocutor asks the candidate 'getting to know you' type questions; in the second part candidates talk to each other to get/give some information.</p>	<p>You need to be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • answer questions about yourself • read a card and ask your partner some questions to get missing information • read a card and answer your partner's questions

Details: READING & WRITING

SUMMARY

Time allowed:	1 hour 10 minutes
Number of parts:	9
Number of questions:	56
Marks:	50% of total

Parts 1–5 are about reading and
Parts 6–9 are mainly about writing.

PART 1: matching

What's in Part 1?

Eight signs, notices or other very short texts (A–H) and five sentences. Students have to match each sentence to the right sign or notice.

What does the student have to practise?

Reading for the main message.

How many questions are there?

5

How many marks are there?

One mark for each correct answer.

PART 2: multiple choice

What's in Part 2?	Five sentences on the same topic or which make a story. Each sentence has a missing word and students have to choose the best word (A, B or C) to complete the sentence.
What does the student have to practise?	Reading and finding the right word.
How many questions are there?	5
How many marks are there?	One mark for each correct answer.

PART 3: multiple choice and matching

What's in Part 3?

The first five questions are about a conversation. For each sentence, students have to choose what the other person says next (A, B or C). The second part of Part 3 is a longer conversation, but some sentences are missing. Students have a list of sentences (A–H) and have to find the right sentence for each space.

What does the student have to practise?

Reading and finding the right answer for everyday conversations.

How many questions are there?

10

How many marks are there?

One mark for each correct answer.

PART 4: Right/Wrong/Doesn't say OR multiple choice

What's in Part 4?

A long text or three short texts. According to the text(s), students have to either decide if the correct answer to each question is (A), (B) or (C) or decide if sentences are Right, Wrong, or Doesn't say.

What does the student have to practise?

Reading to understand the detail and main ideas of a text.

How many questions are there?

7

How many marks are there?

One mark for each correct answer.

PART 5: Multiple-choice cloze

What's in Part 5?

A short text with eight numbered spaces. Each space represents a missing word and students have to choose the right answer (A, B or C).

What does the student have to practise?

Reading to find the right structural word, e.g. a preposition like 'for' or 'since', or verb form like 'keeping', 'keep' or 'kept', etc.

How many questions are there?

8

How many marks are there?

One mark for each correct answer.

PART 6: Word completion

What's in Part 6?

Five sentences like the definitions found in a dictionary. We give students the first letter of the word and the number of letters and they have to complete the word.

What does the student have to practise?

Vocabulary and spelling.

How many questions are there?

5

How many marks are there?

One mark for each correct answer.

PART 7: Open cloze

What's in Part 7?

A short text, for example a note, email or letter. There are 10 missing words in the text and students have to find the right word for each space.

What does the student have to practise?

Grammar, vocabulary and spelling.

How many questions are there?

10

How many marks are there?

One mark for each correct answer.

PART 8: Information transfer

What's in Part 8?

Two short texts to read.
Students have to use the information in the texts to fill in a form correctly.

What does the student have to practise?

Reading and writing down words or numbers correctly.

How many questions are there?

5

How many marks are there?

One mark for each correct answer.

PART 9: Guided writing

What's in Part 9?

Students have to write a short message, e.g. a note, email or postcard. The instructions tell the student who to write to and what to say.

What does the student have to practise?

Writing short messages.

How many questions are there?

1

How much does the student have to write?

25-35 words

How many marks are there?

This question has a total of 5 marks.

Reading and Writing

DO

- ✓ Read the instructions and study any examples carefully.
- ✓ Do exactly what the instructions say (for example, only write ONE word for each space in Part 7).
- ✓ Answer all the questions, even if you are not sure of your answers.
- ✓ Check your answers and make sure you have written them in the correct place on the answer sheet.
- ✓ Write your answers on the answer sheet including Parts 6, 7, 8 and 9.
- ✓ Take your time and don't hurry. There is plenty of time to answer all of the questions.
- ✓ Use a pencil, not a pen, on the answer sheet.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't worry if there are words you don't understand. Try to guess what they mean.
- ✗ Don't make a spelling mistake when you are copying the words in Part 8.
- ✗ Don't write fewer than 25 words in Part 9.

How do I fill in the answer sheet correctly?

You should use a pencil and not a pen. For Parts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 mark ONE letter for each question. In Parts 6, 7 and 8 write your answers in the spaces next to the numbers. If you make a mistake you can use an eraser and rub it out.

What is the recommended timing for each part?

There is no recommended timing as some tasks will take longer than others, depending on how you approach them. Candidates have different strengths and weaknesses, and this will affect how long they need to spend on each part. Overall, 1 hour and 10 minutes allows you plenty of time to complete all the tasks.

Details: LISTENING

SUMMARY

Time allowed:	About 30 minutes (including 8 minutes to copy the answers onto the answer sheet)
Number of parts:	5
Number of questions:	25
Marks:	25% of total

For each part students have to listen to a recorded text or texts and answer some questions. Recordings are played twice.

PART 1: Multiple choice

What's in Part 1?

Five short conversations. For each conversation there is a question and three pictures (A, B or C). Students listen to the conversations and choose the right answer.

What does the student have to practise?

Listening to find key information.

How many questions are there?

5

How many marks are there?

One mark for each correct answer.

PART 2: Matching

What's in Part 2?

A longer conversation and two lists of words. Students listen to the conversation and match two lists of items, for example, people with the food they like to eat, or days of the week with activities.

What does the student have to practise?

Listening for key information.

How many questions are there?

5

How many marks are there?

One mark for each correct answer.

PART 3: Multiple choice

What's in Part 1?

A conversation and some questions. Students listen to the conversation and choose the right answer (A, B or C) for each question.

What does the student have to practise?

Listening for information.

How many questions are there?

5

How many marks are there?

One mark for each correct answer.

PART 4: Gap-fill

What's in Part 4?

A conversation between two people. Students listen to the recording and have to write the information they hear in a message or notes.

What does the student have to practise?

Listening and writing down information correctly.

How many questions are there?

5

How many marks are there?

One mark for each correct answer.

PART 5: Gap-fill

What's in Part 5?

A monologue (one person is speaking). Students listen to the recording and fill in a message or notes.

What does the student have to practise?

Listening and writing down information correctly.

How many questions are there?

5

How many marks are there?

One mark for each correct answer.

Listening

DO

- ✓ Practise listening to English as much as possible.
- ✓ Revise the letters of the alphabet and numbers.
- ✓ Revise vocabulary in topics (for example, jobs, sports, colours).
- ✓ Read the instructions carefully.
- ✓ Work through some past papers for practice.
- ✓ Make sure you understand how to complete the answer sheet.
- ✓ Check your answers at the second listening.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't get nervous in the exam. Just relax and do your best.
- ✗ Don't leave any answers blank (it's better to make a guess).
- ✗ Don't worry if you don't know how to spell a word – this might not be a problem.
- ✗ Don't forget to take care to transfer your answers to the answer sheet correctly.

How many times will I hear the recording for each part?

You hear each part twice. This means that you can check your answers, or fill in any gaps, at the second listening.

Are different accents used in the recordings?

Yes, there are some regional British accents and occasionally Irish, American or Australian speakers.

How quickly do the speakers in the recording speak?

All *Cambridge English: Key for Schools* recordings are delivered clearly, at slightly slower than natural speed.

How much time do I have for transferring my answers?

You have a total of 8 minutes to do this. You are warned after 7 minutes that you only have 1 minute left.

Which parts of the paper do candidates find most challenging?

Parts 4 and 5 (which involve listening and writing words or numbers) are often found to be challenging. Part 3, the multiple-choice task, is also quite challenging.

Which parts of the exam do candidates usually find the easiest?

The short dialogues in Part 1 are an easy introduction to the paper. Part 2, the matching task, is also usually done well by candidates.

Does it matter if I make a spelling mistake?

No (as long as it is possible to recognise the word), unless it is a common, high-frequency word, e.g. Monday, or where the spelling of the word is dictated.

Can I wear headphones for the Listening paper?

Ask your centre whether you can use headphones or not – it depends how they choose to run the exam.

Details: SPEAKING

SUMMARY

Time allowed:	8–10 minutes per pair of candidates
Number of parts:	2
Marks:	25% of total
Students have to talk:	with the examiner with the other candidate

PART 1: Interview

What's in Part 1?

Conversation with the examiner. The examiner asks students some questions about themselves and they answer.

What does the student have to practise?

Giving information about themselves.

How long do students have to speak for?

5–6 minutes

PART 2: Collaborative task

What's in Part 2?

The examiner gives students some information or a card with some ideas for questions. They have to talk with the other candidate and ask or answer questions.

What does the student have to practise?

Asking and answering simple questions about daily life.

How long do students have to speak for?

3–4 minutes

Speaking

DO

- ✓ Make sure you know what you have to do in both parts of the test.
- ✓ Practise speaking English as much as possible, both inside and outside the classroom.
- ✓ Practise speaking English in many different situations so that you can speak clearly even if you are nervous.
- ✓ Listen carefully to the examiner's instructions and questions during the test.
- ✓ Speak clearly, so that both examiners can hear you.
- ✓ Talk to the examiner in Part 1.
- ✓ Talk to your partner in Part 2.
- ✓ Ask the examiner to repeat the instructions, or a question, if you have not understood.
- ✓ Listen to your partner's questions and answers in Part 2 and try to make it a natural conversation.
- ✓ Remember that the examiners want you to do your best.
- ✓ Try and relax and enjoy the test.
- ✓ Always try to answer the questions, even if you are worried about making mistakes. The examiners can't mark you if you don't say anything.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't worry too much about making grammar mistakes.
- ✗ Don't worry if you don't understand. Just ask the examiner to repeat or explain the question.
- ✗ Don't prepare long answers and try to learn them in advance.
- ✗ Don't worry if you think your partner is not as good at speaking English as you, or is much better than you. The examiners mark you individually.
- ✗ Don't be so nervous that you don't speak. The examiners can't mark you if you don't say anything.
- ✗ Don't worry if the examiner stops you. It is important that the tests are not too long.

Could I do the test together with someone from my own school?

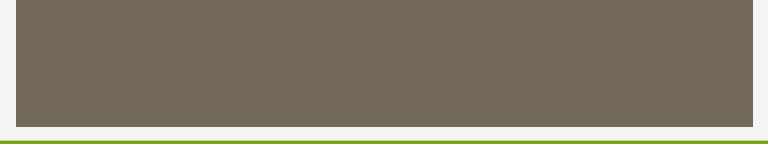
This depends on the centre. In some centres, candidates from the same school are paired together. In others, where candidates from a number of different schools do the test at the same time, you may do the test with a student from another school. Check with your centre to find out more.

Do both examiners speak during the test?

No. Only one examiner (the interlocutor) speaks. The other examiner (the assessor) stays silent, except for saying hello and goodbye to you.

Do I need to speak to the other candidate as well as to the examiner?

Yes. In Part 1, you only speak to the examiner, but in Part 2, you must talk to each other. In this part, it is important that you speak to each other and NOT to the examiner, unless you need to ask them a question.



Does knowing your partner make it easier to do well?

There is no evidence that candidates do better in the Speaking test, or worse, if they know their partner. Some people feel more relaxed and confident when they do the test with someone that they know, while others may feel shy, or that the situation is unnatural. In both cases, the examiners are trained to give all candidates equal opportunities to do their best. In addition, the use of different tasks in the Speaking test allows candidates to perform both with and without a partner, so any possible effects of knowing your partner are minimised.

What if the two candidates have very different personalities (for example, one is very shy and one is very outgoing)?

Examiners are trained to deal with this situation and to be fair to all candidates. Everyone has the chance to show what they can do. Just remember to make the best use of the time you have to show your language skills, without dominating your partner.

What should I do if I don't understand the instructions?

Just ask the examiner to repeat the instructions.

What happens if there is an odd number of candidates left at the end of a Speaking test session?

In this case, the last candidates would be examined as a group of three, and the test would last for 13 to 15 minutes.