

# Cambridge English First

Brief exam guide



*Ready for success in the real world*

First Certificate in English (FCE)



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

## Show you are ready for success in the real world

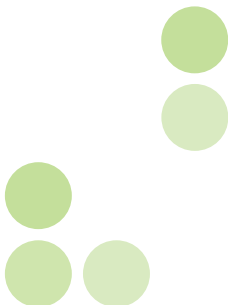
Cambridge English: First uses real-life situations designed to help you communicate more effectively and learn the skills to take you to your next level of success.

## Gain real-life skills for work and study

Use the exam to help you study at foundation or pathway level, and work in an English-speaking environment, at home or abroad.

## Get a certificate that is accepted globally

The exam is accepted as an upper-intermediate qualification in English by thousands of leading businesses and educational institutions around the world.



## 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:</b> 1 hour	Shows you can deal confidently with different types of text.
<b>Writing:</b> 1 hour 20 minutes	Shows you can write different text types, such as an essay, report or a letter.
<b>Use of English:</b> 45 minutes	Shows how well you can control your grammar and vocabulary.
<b>Listening:</b> 40 minutes	Shows you can follow a range of spoken materials, such as news and everyday conversations.
<b>Speaking:</b> 14 minutes	Shows you can communicate effectively in face-to-face situations. You take the test with one or two other candidates.

Each paper is worth 20% of the total marks.

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



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“ *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 the real world

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

**13,000+**  
organisations worldwide trust  
Cambridge English exams

### Register now

You can take the exam on paper or on computer.

#### 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/centres](http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/centres)

#### 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 – a not-for-profit organisation.



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