oxfordenglishtesting.com

Information for students about online PET practice tests from www.oxfordenglishtesting.com

What is oxfordenglishtesting.com?

- It is a website that gives students and teachers of English access to interactive practice tests.

- It is where students who have bought OUP materials can access online practice tests via a MultiROM.

What is the PET exam?

PET is an intermediate-level Cambridge ESOL exam. It corresponds to Level B1 of the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

You can go to **www.cambridgeesol.org/exams/general-english/pet.html** for more information about the PET exam, and why it might benefit you.

What do the online PET practice tests consist of?

The PET online practice tests reflect what happens in the real exam. Each online practice test covers every paper in the exam. The practice tests are all full length. For a guide to the content of PET, see page 2.

You do not print the tests in order to do them. Instead you take them online and most questions can be marked automatically. In addition, there is a range of help features that you can use during the test. These include dictionary look-up, exam tips, audio scripts, the ability to mark and change individual answers, and get feedback on answers. See page 4 for more details on these features.

The combination of online marking and help features makes the practice tests ideal for self-study.

PET content and overview

Paper	Content	Test focus
Paper 1 READING/ WRITING 1 hour 30 minutes	**READING** Part 1 5 very short texts, each with a multiple-choice question. The texts can be signs, postcards, notes, e-mails, etc. Part 2 There will be a description of 5 different people and 8 short texts on one topic. You have to decide which text matches which person. Part 3 One long factual text with 10 questions. Each question makes a statement about the text, and you must decide whether it is true or false. Part 4 One long text with 5 multiple-choice questions. The text will give an opinion or point of view on a topic. Part 5 A text with 10 multiple-choice gaps. For each gap you have to choose a word or phrase that completes the sentence.	Assessment of your ability to understand the meaning of written English at word, phrase, sentence, paragraph, and whole text level.
	WRITING Part 1 There are 5 questions. For each question you will be given 2 sentences. You have to complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first. You can use up to 3 words. Part 2 You have to write a short message like a postcard or an email that is 35 to 45 words long. The question will say who you are writing to and what to include. Part 3 You have to write a letter or a story around 100 words long on a given topic.	Assessment of your ability to produce straightforward written English, ranging from producing variations on simple sentences to pieces of continuous text.
Paper 2 LISTENING About 30 minutes	Part 1 There are 7 questions, each with an audio clip and 3 pictures. You have to listen to the clip and decide which picture shows what you hear. Part 2 You have to listen to a longer audio clip and answer 6 multiple-choice questions. Part 3 There is an audio clip and 6 sentences, each with a gap. You have to listen for information to complete the sentences. Part 4 There is an audio clip of 2 people talking and 6 questions. Each question makes a statement about the clip, and you must decide whether it is true or false.	Assessment of your ability to understand dialogues and monologues in both informal and neutral settings on a range of everyday topics.
Paper 3 SPEAKING 10–12 minutes	Part 1 You are given 2–3 minutes to talk about personal information. The examiner asks you questions about your personal details, daily routines, likes and dislikes, etc. Part 2 There is a simulated situation in which you speak to another candidate for 2–3 minutes. You use pictures to help you in your discussion, for example to make and respond to suggestions, make recommendations, ask for and give opinions, reach an agreement, etc. Part 3 You are given a photograph and 3 minutes to describe what you can see. Part 4 In Part 4 of the Speaking test you have a general conversation with another candidate. The conversation is based on the theme of the photographs in Part 3. You should speak for 3 minutes and discuss your likes and dislikes, your experiences, your opinions and reasons for them, etc. You should also respond to what your partner says.	Assessment of your ability to express yourself in order to carry out functions at Threshold level. To ask and to understand questions and make appropriate responses. To talk freely on matters of personal interest.

How do I do a practice test?

You can do a practice test wherever you have access to a computer and the Internet. You will need an e-mail address and to be online when you do the tests. There is a demo about the practice tests on the homepage. Instructions on how to take a test can be found in the **Quick-start guide for students** on your **My study space** screen.

For further details about system requirements, see page 5. You have access to the test for 365 days from the time you pay, or put your MultiROM into the computer and register. After 365 days you will have to submit the test for final marking.

You do not have to do the whole test at one time. You can answer and then mark a question, a part, a paper, or the whole test. All your answers are automatically saved when you leave the site, and you can come back to the test at any time. You can also skip questions and come back to them later.

You can monitor your progress via the **Test Overview**, which records questions not attempted, attempted but not marked, right and wrong answers, and questions that cannot be marked automatically. You can also print the **Test Overview** and **Results** page.

When doing the Listening paper, you can start, stop, and repeat the audio as many times as you like. If you still find it difficult to understand the audio, you can read or print an audio script after you have attempted the questions. If you need to control the volume of the audio, please use the controls on your computer to do so.

The testing site has a **Dictionary look-up facility**. Just double-click on any word in the test and get a definition from the *Oxford Wordpower Dictionary*.

Marking the practice test

The system can automatically mark the Reading and Listening papers, and part of the Writing paper. You can read and print **Feedback** for answers, if you mark the questions as you go. The **Feedback** gives explanations of the correct and incorrect answers.

If you are asked to key in your answers, the automatic marking system will only accept words that are spelled correctly. Answers may be typed in upper case or lower case, but not a mixture of the two (e.g. 'CORRECT ANSWER' and 'correct answer' but not 'Correct answer', unless at the start of a sentence, or a proper name). Both British and American spelling will be accepted. When you take your answer from a text provided, make sure you copy the word exactly.

The system cannot automatically mark the Speaking paper. You can see all parts of the Speaking paper online and, to help you practice, we have included **Useful language** on the website for each task. Ask a fellow student to practice with you. If your teacher would like to do a Speaking paper with you, you can download and print the entire Speaking paper via the link on the **Learning resources** section of the **My Tests** page. You can enter your marks for the Speaking paper on your **Results** page.

Some of the Writing paper tasks also cannot be marked automatically. You have the choice of printing them or e-mailing them for your teacher to mark. You can then enter the marks on your **Results** page once you have submitted all your answers for final marking. You can read or print off a **Sample answer** for each Writing task to help you understand what is expected of you.

The test results you see include scores for the separate skills and a total score. If you do not enter Writing or Speaking marks, the marking scheme will take this into account.

It is very important to remember that these are only practice tests, not the real exam, and so your final mark will only be an indication of how you might perform in the real exam.

What help is available while I do the test?

Features	Benefits
Test tips	You can see a **Tip** on how to answer every type of question.
Dictionary look-up	You can look up the meaning of any word in the practice test. Just double click it and a definition will pop up from the *Oxford Wordpower Dictionary*. You will need to have pop-up windows enabled.
Instant marking and feedback	When you have answered a question in the Reading or Listening papers, or part 1 of the Writing paper, you can mark it immediately to see whether you got it right. You can then get **Feedback** to find out why it was right or wrong. You can print the feedback if you wish. Understanding why you answered a question incorrectly helps you think more clearly about a similar question next time.
Change your answer	You can go back and try to answer the question again as many times as you like.
Save and come back later	You do not have to complete a paper or test at one time. Your answers are saved as you take the test and kept when you log out. You can come back to it at any time. You have 365 days before you have to submit the practice test for final marking. The **My tests** page tells you when the test expires.
Mark individual answers, a part, a paper, or the whole test	However much you have done of the practice test, you can mark it and see how well you are doing. The Reading and Listening papers, and part 1 of the Writing paper, are all marked automatically.
Audio scripts	These are available for all parts of the Listening paper. Reading the **Audio script** will help you understand anything you did not understand when you were listening to them. You can also print the audio scripts.
Sample answers for questions in the Writing paper	You can see **Sample answers** after you have written your own response. The sample answers have been written by real students, and will give you a good idea of what is expected. The answers contain incorrectly spelled words that can't be found in the dictionary look-up. What you write will not be marked automatically. If you would like your teacher to mark it, you can print it off to give to them or e-mail it to them. When they have marked it, you can enter the mark on your **Results** page. It does not matter if you do not enter a mark, the final marks will be adjusted to take that into account.
Useful language for the Speaking paper	There is **Useful language** to help you practice the Speaking papers. You can print the Speaking paper from the **Resources** page, and ask your teacher to do the Speaking paper with you. As with the Writing paper, you can enter the mark your teacher gives you. However, even if you do not, your final marks will be adjusted to take that into account.
Results page	You will see your score by paper and part and as a percentage. Remember this is a practice test and you will only get an indication of what your score may be in the actual PET test.
Try sample questions first	You can try out a short version of a practice test before you do a real one. The sample questions allow you to find out how to use a test before you start. The samples are available in the **Online shop**, or by clicking the link to **Try a free sample** on the homepage.

Buying tests

You can buy tests online by clicking on the link to the **Online shop**. You will be asked to fill in a **Registration form** before you buy the test if you have not already registered. You may already have access to a test with an OUP coursebook, workbook, dictionary, or grammar book. The tests that you can buy online are different from the ones available via the MultiROM.

Where can I find more about oxfordenglishtesting.com?

There is a demo on the individual site that will give you a clear understanding of the site and the practice tests. You can access it via the **Online shop** or the **My study space** screen.

For more help, click on the **Support** tab on www.oxfordenglishtesting.com. You'll find a comprehensive list of **Frequently Asked Questions** (FAQs) covering technical issues, registering, buying tests, doing tests, and other topics. You can also contact us at customerservice.eltonline@oup.com.

System requirements

Browsers

Internet Explorer® 7 or later

Firefox® 3 or later

Safari® 3 or later

The test delivery software requires JavaScript™ and pop-up windows to be enabled on your browser.

Hardware

128 MB RAM

Monitor capable of 1024 x 768 resolution

Sound card with headphones or speakers

You will need to be online to access tests.

You need an email address to register and get access to the tests.

You will need to have Adobe® Reader® in order to download PDF documents (available from www.adobe.com).

Audio

To play audio for the listening parts of the tests, you will require Adobe® Flash Player® 9 or higher (available from www.adobe.com).

Display

You will need a colour display.

The test delivery software has been optimized to appear in a browser window sized at 1024 x 768 pixels. You therefore need a monitor that can have the display set to a resolution of at least 1024 x 768 pixels.

Bandwidth

The audio files in the tests are up to three megabytes and will be slow at dial-up speeds. Because of this we recommend you have a broadband connection to take the tests.