



UNIVERSITY *of* CAMBRIDGE
ESOL Examinations

Cambridge English First

First Certificate in English (FCE)
CEFR Level B2



*Ready for success
in the real world*

World-class recognition

Cambridge English: First, also known as *First Certificate in English (FCE)*, is an upper-intermediate level qualification that is officially recognised by universities, employers and governments globally. It shows that you are ready for success in the real world.

Cambridge English exams are recognised by more than 12,000 organisations around the world.

The following are just a few of the international institutions that recognise *Cambridge English: First*.

University of Bath	Universidad de Salamanca
Regent's Business School London	Los Angeles City College (LACC)
Universidad Central (Chile)	Universidade de São Paulo
University of Southern Queensland	Vietnam National University
Hewlett-Packard (HP)	Credit Suisse
KPMG	Accenture
IBM	Motorola
ACNielsen	PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)
Sony	Siemens AG
Bosch	
DHL	


Cambridge English: First is accredited by Ofqual, the regulator of qualifications, examinations and assessments in England.

For the full recognition list, please visit
www.CambridgeESOL.org/recognition

Working and studying in the UK

The UK Border Agency accepts *Cambridge English: First* as meeting the language requirements for Tier 2 and 4 visa applications.

Visit **www.CambridgeESOL.org/UK-immigration** for more details.



Cambridge English: First gives
you the right language skills to
take the next step to success.

Why take Cambridge English: First?

Globally accepted

Your certificate is accepted by thousands of employers, universities and government departments around the world.

Real-life language skills

Preparing for *Cambridge English: First* will give you the practical English skills to:

- study in English at Foundation or Pathway level
- work in an English-speaking environment
- live independently in an English-speaking country.

Choice

The *Cambridge English: First* exam is available internationally at over 1,000 centres. Also, with paper-based and computer-based exam options, you can choose when, where and how you take your exam.

Fast results

Get your results in just two weeks with our computer-based exams.

Fair

Cambridge English exams cover all major varieties of English and are designed to be fair to users of all nationalities and linguistic backgrounds.

Reliable

Backed by the largest research programme of its kind, Cambridge English exams provide the most reliable reflection of your language skills.

A Cambridge English qualification

Once you have earned a Cambridge English certificate, you hold one of the most valuable English qualifications in the world.

www.CambridgeESOL.org/First

Ready for success in the real world

Cambridge English: First is developed in accordance with the principles and approaches of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Developed by the Council of Europe, the CEFR is the standard benchmark used internationally to describe language ability.

Cambridge English: First is set at CEFR Level B2¹, which is upper-intermediate on the CEFR scale. It is an ideal level for anyone who wants to work or study in an English-speaking environment. It shows that you are becoming skilled in English.



¹ The B2 level approximates to the level of bands 5.5 to 6.5 in IELTS.

Your results

Cambridge English: First – Level C1

Grade A

Exceptional candidates sometimes show ability beyond B2 level. If you achieve a grade A in your exam, you will receive the *First Certificate in English* stating that you demonstrated ability at Level C1.

Cambridge English: First – Level B2

Grade B or C

If you achieve grade B or C in your exam you will be awarded the *First Certificate in English* at Level B2. Reaching this level shows that you are ready for success in the real world.

Level B1 certificate

We believe it is important to recognise your achievement, even if you do not reach Level B2.

If your performance is below Level B2, but falls within Level B1, you will receive a Cambridge English certificate stating that you demonstrated ability at B1 level.

The Common European Framework of Reference

C Proficient user	C2
	C1
B Independent user	B2
	B1
A Basic user	A2
	A1

Cambridge English:
First

Grade A
Grade B
Grade C
Level B1
Fail

Ready for success in the real world

The world's most valued English qualifications

Education institutions and employers can instantly check the authenticity of your Cambridge English certificate online. We are also introducing exam day photos for greater security and to make your Cambridge English certificate even more valued and trusted.



Format of the exam

Cambridge English: First covers all four language skills: Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking – plus a Use of English component which tests knowledge of grammar and vocabulary.

The Speaking test is conducted face-to-face and you will take your test with one or two other candidates and two examiners, making the test more realistic and reliable.

Each of the five papers carries 20% of the total marks.

Reading: 1 hour

Shows you can deal confidently with different types of text, such as fiction, newspapers and magazines.

Writing: 1 hour 20 minutes

Requires you to be able to produce two different pieces of writing, such as letters, reports, reviews and short stories.

Use of English: 45 minutes

Tests your ability to use the right words, tenses and idioms in the right situation, at the right time.

Listening: 40 minutes

Requires you to be able to follow and understand a range of spoken materials, such as news programmes, speeches and stories.

Speaking: 14 minutes

Tests your ability to communicate effectively in face-to-face situations.

Download sample papers

www.candidates.CambridgeESOL.org



Flexible test options

In addition to the standard paper-based exam, *Cambridge English: First* is available as a computer-based test.

Advantages of computer-based testing include:

- **Additional exam sessions**
More exam dates are added each year, giving you more flexibility about when you can take your exam.
- **The same certificate**
You will get the same internationally recognised certificate as the paper-based version.
- **Shorter registration**
You can register for your exam as little as a week before taking it.
- **Faster access to results**
With a computer-based exam you can get your results in just two weeks.
- **No extra preparation needed**
The test is easy to understand and the online timer and help functions allow you to get the best from your exam performance.
- **Use of headphones**
Using headphones for your Listening test means you can adjust the volume to suit your personal needs.

To provide fair assessment of speaking ability in realistic situations, the computer-based version of *Cambridge English: First* features the same face-to-face Speaking test as the paper-based version.



Join the Cambridge English world

Why not immerse yourself in the Cambridge English community? More than 3 million people from all over the world choose Cambridge English exams each year.

Next steps to taking Cambridge English: First

Step 1

Test your level – take our free online test at www.CambridgeESOL.org/testyourenglish and see if *Cambridge English: First* is the right exam for you.

Step 2

Find a Cambridge ESOL exam centre near you for information about:

- how to register
- exam dates
- practice materials
- preparation courses.

www.CambridgeESOL.org/centres

Step 3

Take the challenge – register for your exam!

A wide range of support and preparation materials are available to help you get the most out of your exam.

www.candidates.CambridgeESOL.org

Step 4

Pass the exam with flying colours!

Once you have taken *Cambridge English: First*, you are one step closer to achieving your dreams and ambitions.

Cambridge English

noun /'keɪm.brɪdʒ 'ɪŋ.gəlɪʃ/

- An international language including the world's major varieties of English
- English that is understood and used globally for business, study and everyday living
- The English spoken in the real world - not just the classroom
- The most valuable range of English qualifications in the world

Contact us:

University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations
1 Hills Road
Cambridge
CB1 2EU
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 1223 553997

Email: ESOLHelpdesk@CambridgeESOL.org



Cambridge English: First is developed by Cambridge ESOL - one of three major exam boards which form the Cambridge Assessment Group (Cambridge Assessment). Cambridge Assessment is a not-for-profit department of the University of Cambridge. More than 8 million people in 150 countries take Cambridge Assessment exams every year.

www.CambridgeESOL.org

