

University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations

Young Learners English

Starters



Information for Candidates



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
ESOL Examinations

English for Speakers of Other Languages

Information for candidates – YLE Starters

Dear Parent

Thank you for encouraging your child to learn English and to take this YLE (Young Learners English) Starters test.

We believe that learning English should be fun and stimulating for children and we hope it will also be interesting for you to watch your child grow in confidence as he or she learns more and more English. Taking a test such as YLE Starters is an excellent way of motivating your child to learn and showing how much progress he or she has made.

We have prepared this booklet to give you and your child a brief introduction to the different parts of YLE Starters and the type of questions you can expect to find. We hope you will take the time to read the booklet together with your child and that it will give you a clear picture of what we expect children to be able to do in English when taking YLE Starters.

Young Learners English tests come to you from Cambridge ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) which is part of Cambridge Assessment, a department of the world-famous University of Cambridge in the UK. So, you can be sure that we have created a test you can trust which will help your child to do his or her very best at English.

We hope you enjoy preparing for and taking YLE Starters!

With best wishes

Cambridge ESOL

What does YLE Starters involve?

This booklet is a brief introduction to YLE Starters. We show examples from each part of the test, but in some cases we do not show the full text or all of the questions. If you would like to see full sample papers for YLE Starters, you can download them from our website at:

www.CambridgeESOL.org/support/dloads/yle_downloads.htm

There is a defined set of vocabulary and structures for each level of YLE and you should make sure that you are familiar with the vocabulary and structures you need to know for YLE Starters. This list of grammar and structures and a list of vocabulary (in alphabetical order) is also available from our website.

The table below shows the different parts of YLE Starters and how long each paper takes.

Name of paper	Number of parts	Number of questions	Time allowed
Listening	4 parts	20 questions	approx. 20 minutes
Reading and Writing	5 parts	25 questions	20 minutes
Speaking	5 parts	–	3–5 minutes

■ Listening

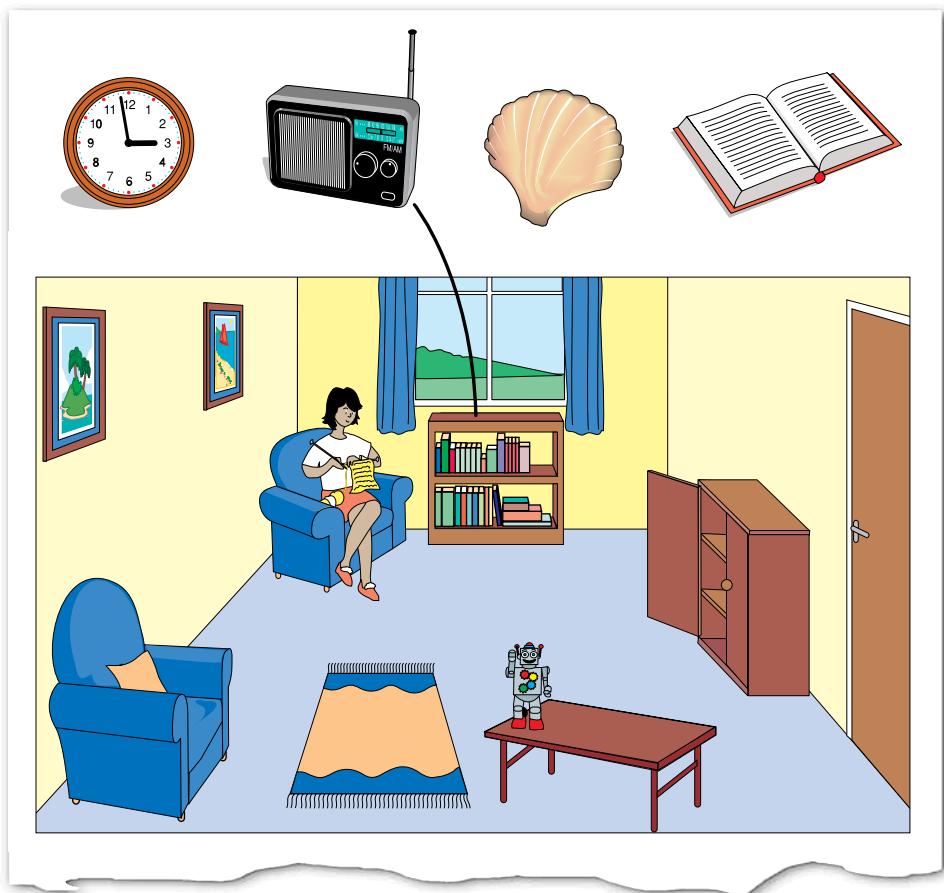
approx. 20 minutes/20 questions

There are four parts in the Listening test. You hear all the parts of the test twice. In the test, all the parts include an example.

Part 1 (5 questions)

In Part 1 you see a big picture with seven objects around the outside. You hear five short dialogues between a man and a woman. You have to draw a line from the object they name in each dialogue to the place they mention in the big picture. We have done an example for you. Can you see the line from the radio?

In the test, there are three more dialogues like the ones below.



This is what you hear ...

Can you see the line? This is an example. Now you listen and draw lines.

One

Woman: Put the clock between the two pictures.

Man: Pardon? Where do I put the clock?

Woman: On the wall. Between the two pictures.

Man: OK.

Two

Woman: Now put the book under the table.

Man: Sorry? Put the book where?

Woman: Put it under the small table.

Man: Right. I can do that.

Part 2 (5 questions)

In Part 2 you hear a conversation between a child and an adult. On the question paper there is a picture to set the scene and some questions. You must answer each question with a number or a name. You can write the numbers as figures or as words. The numbers may be anything from 1 to 20 and the names that are used are all in the Starters vocabulary list. If the answer is a name, then we spell it for you letter by letter and you must write it down correctly.

In the test, there are three more questions like the ones below.



Questions

1 What is Lucy's friend's name?

.....

2 Which class are the two children in at school?

.....

This is what you hear ...

One

Man: Is this your friend in the picture with you?
Girl: Yes, it is.
Man: What's his name?
Girl: His name's Alex.
Man: How do you spell that?
Girl: A-L-E-X.

Two

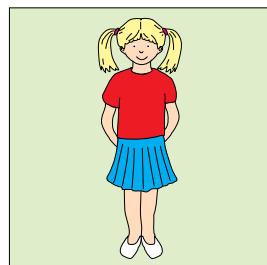
Man: Is he in your class at school?
Girl: Yes! We're in class eight.
Man: Sorry?
Girl: In class eight. And we've got a great teacher.

Part 3 (5 questions)

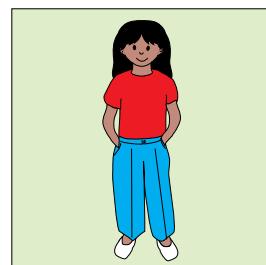
In Part 3 you hear five short dialogues between different pairs of people. There is a question about each dialogue and you have to choose which of three pictures gives the answer to the question. You must put a tick (✓) in the box under the correct picture.

In the test, there are three more questions like the ones below.

1 Which is May?



A

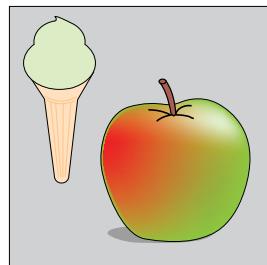


B

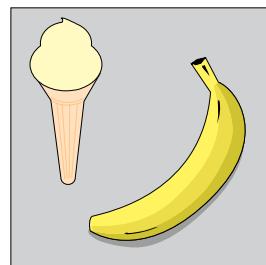


C

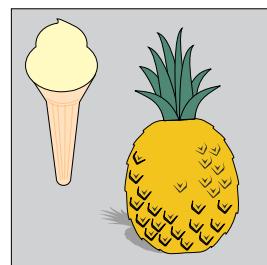
2 Which is Nick's favourite ice-cream?



A



B



C

This is what you hear ...

One

- Boy: Where's May, Mum?
Woman: Is that her, wearing trousers?
Boy: No, she's wearing a skirt.
Woman: Oh yes, and a T-shirt. She looks great.

Two

- Girl: Is that an apple ice-cream, Nick?
Boy: No, it's pineapple.
Girl: Is that your favourite?
Boy: No. My favourite's banana.

Part 4 (5 questions)

In Part 4 you see a big picture which includes seven examples of the same object – seven balls or hats or books, for example. You listen to a dialogue between an adult and a child and colour each object named using the colour that you hear in the dialogue.

You do not need to colour the object beautifully as long as you make it clear that you have understood which object to colour and you use the correct colour.

In the test, there are three more dialogues like the ones below and three more objects to colour.



This is what you hear ...

Can you see the orange bird in the water?

This is an example. Now you listen and colour.

One

Woman: Now find the bird on the man.

Boy: It's sitting on the man's head!

Woman: (Laughing) Yes it is. What a funny bird! Can you colour it pink?

Boy: Pink?

Woman: That's right.

Two

Woman: Look at the bird in the tree.

Boy: OK, I can see it. Can I colour it?

Woman: Yes. Colour it yellow.

Boy: OK. A yellow bird in the tree.

■ Reading and Writing

20 minutes/25 questions

There are five parts in the Reading and Writing test. In the test, all the parts include at least one example.

You do not have to write much but you must take care to spell all your answers correctly.

Part 1 (5 questions)

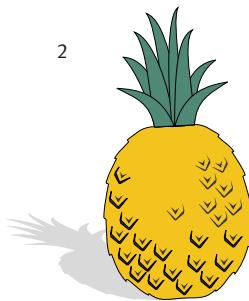
In Part 1 you look at five little pictures of objects and read a sentence about each one. Each sentence begins 'This is a ...'. If the sentence is true you put a tick (✓) in the box and if it is not true you put a cross (✗) in the box.

In the test, there are two more questions like the ones below.

1



2



3



This is a bike.

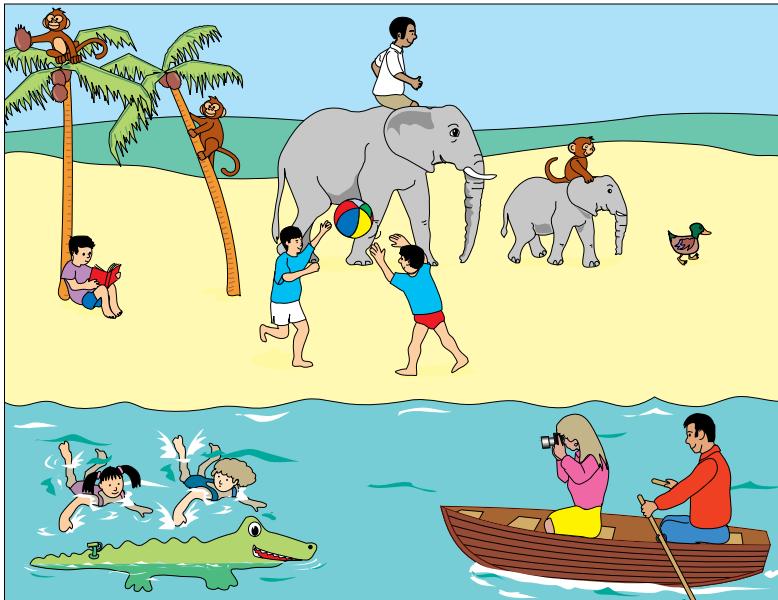
This is a pineapple.

This is a television.

Part 2 (5 questions)

In Part 2 you look at a big picture and read five sentences about it. Some of the sentences describe the picture correctly and some do not. If the sentence says something true about the picture, then you write 'yes'. If what the sentence says about the picture is not true, then you write 'no'.

In the test, there are two more questions like the ones below.



Questions

1 There are two children in the sea.

.....

2 The duck is walking behind the two elephants.

.....

3 The girls are playing with a ball.

.....

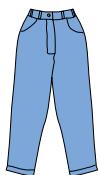
Part 3 (5 questions)

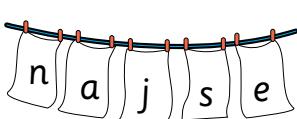
In Part 3 you show that you know how to spell five words. You look at a picture of an object and at some jumbled letters. There are also dashes which show you how many letters there are in the word. You have to rearrange the letters and write the word for the object above the dashes.

In the test, there are two more questions like the ones below.

Questions

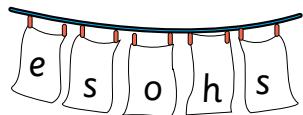
1





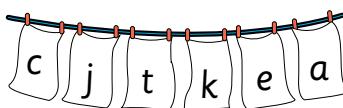
2





3



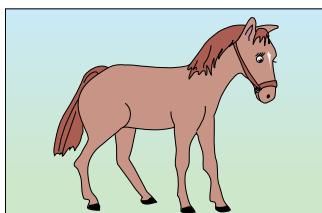


Part 4 (5 questions)

In Part 4 you read a text which has five gaps in it. All the missing words are nouns.

Under the text there is a box with labelled pictures. You choose a word from the box and copy it into each gap.

A horse



I've got four legs , two ears, two eyes and long
(1) on my head. I'm a big animal. I don't live in
a (2) or a garden. I like eating
(3) and apples. I drink (4)

A woman, a (5) or a child can ride me.

What am I? I am a horse.

example



legs



hippo



water



carrots



hair



man



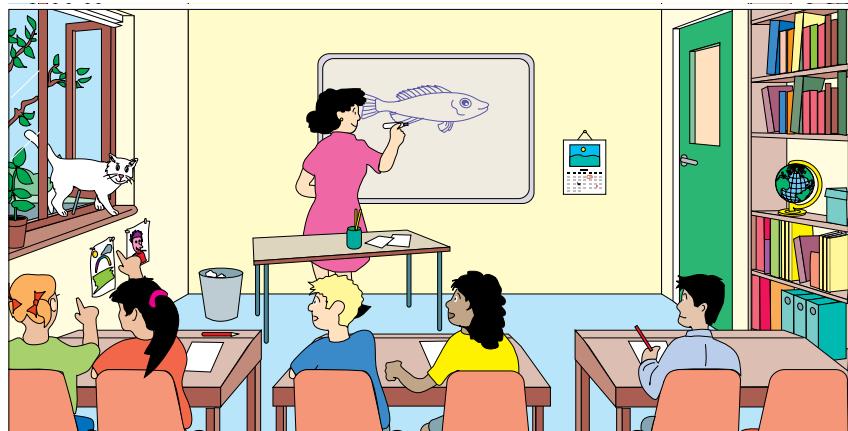
house



piano

Part 5 (5 questions)

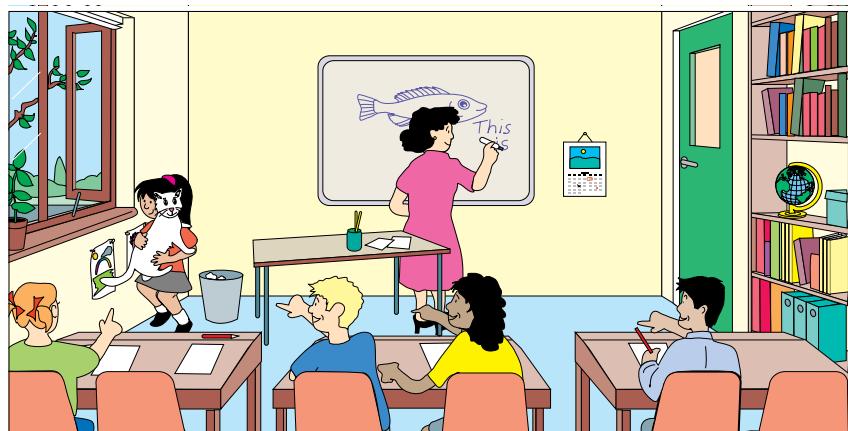
In Part 5 you look at three pictures which tell a story. There are questions for each of the pictures. You must write a one-word answer to each of the questions. You may need to write a noun, a verb or a number.



Questions

1 What is the teacher drawing?

a

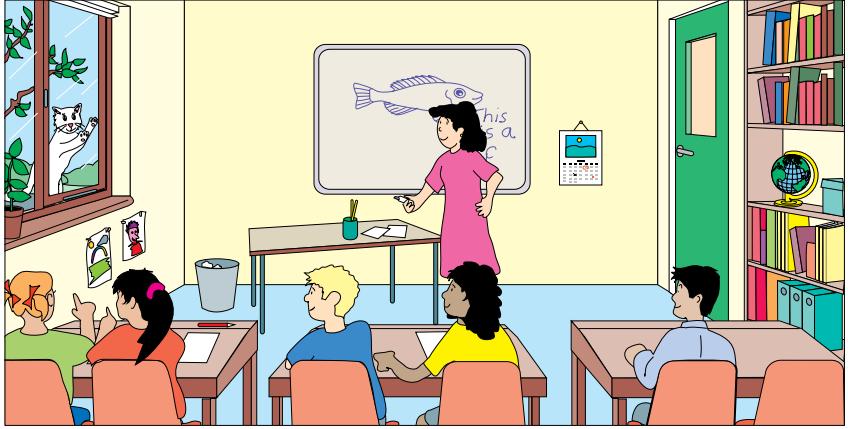


2 Who is holding the cat?

a

3 What is the teacher doing now?

.....



4 Where is the cat now?

at the

5 How many children are looking
at the cat?

.....

■ Speaking

3–5 minutes/5 parts

In the Speaking test someone, perhaps your own teacher, will explain the test to you in your own language. That person will then take you into the exam room and will introduce you to the examiner.

The examiner will give you marks for understanding what he or she says, for saying words or phrases and for pronunciation. At Starters level you are not expected to be able to say more than single words or short phrases in English.

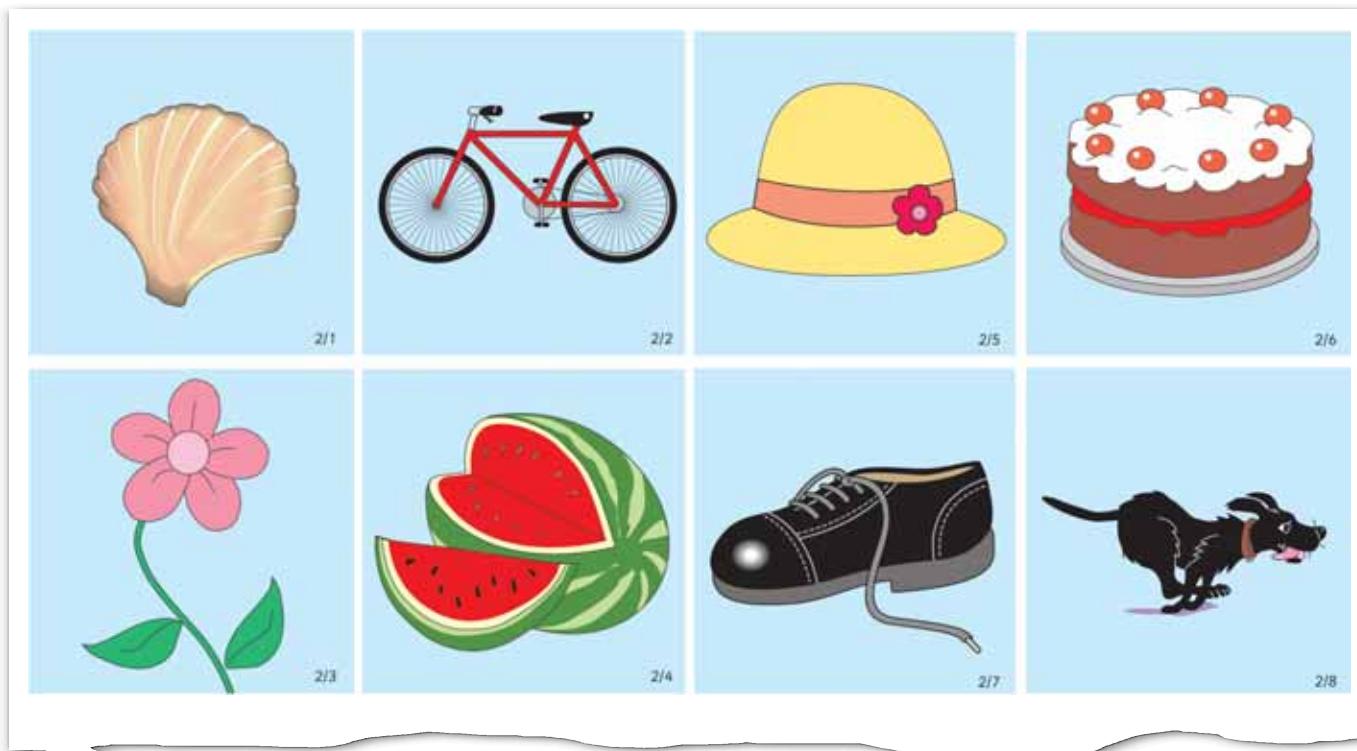
Part 1

First the examiner will greet you and will ask you your name. Then he or she will show you a picture of a big scene like the one below and will ask you to point to some things in the picture. The examiner might ask ‘Where is the monkey?’ or ‘Where are the elephants?’



Part 2

In Part 2 the examiner will show you some small pictures of objects. He or she will then name three objects and will ask you to point to them and then to put them in particular places on the big picture that you looked at in Part 1. The examiner might say, for example, 'Put the shell under the tree.'



Part 3

In Part 3 the examiner will ask you some questions about the big picture. He or she might, for example, point to the frog and ask 'What is this? What colour is it?'

Part 4

In Part 4 the examiner will ask you some questions about the small pictures of objects. He or she might point to the bike and ask, for example, 'What is this?' and then 'Have you got a bike?'

Part 5

In Part 5 the examiner will ask you some questions about yourself. He or she might ask you about your age, your family, your school or your friends.

Preparing for Starters

If you would like more practice material to help you prepare for the revised YLE Starters exam, past paper packs including an audio CD of the Listening test (published by Cambridge University Press), will be available in late 2006. You can find more information, prices and details of how to order on our website at:

www.CambridgeESOL.org/support/pastpapers.htm

Next steps

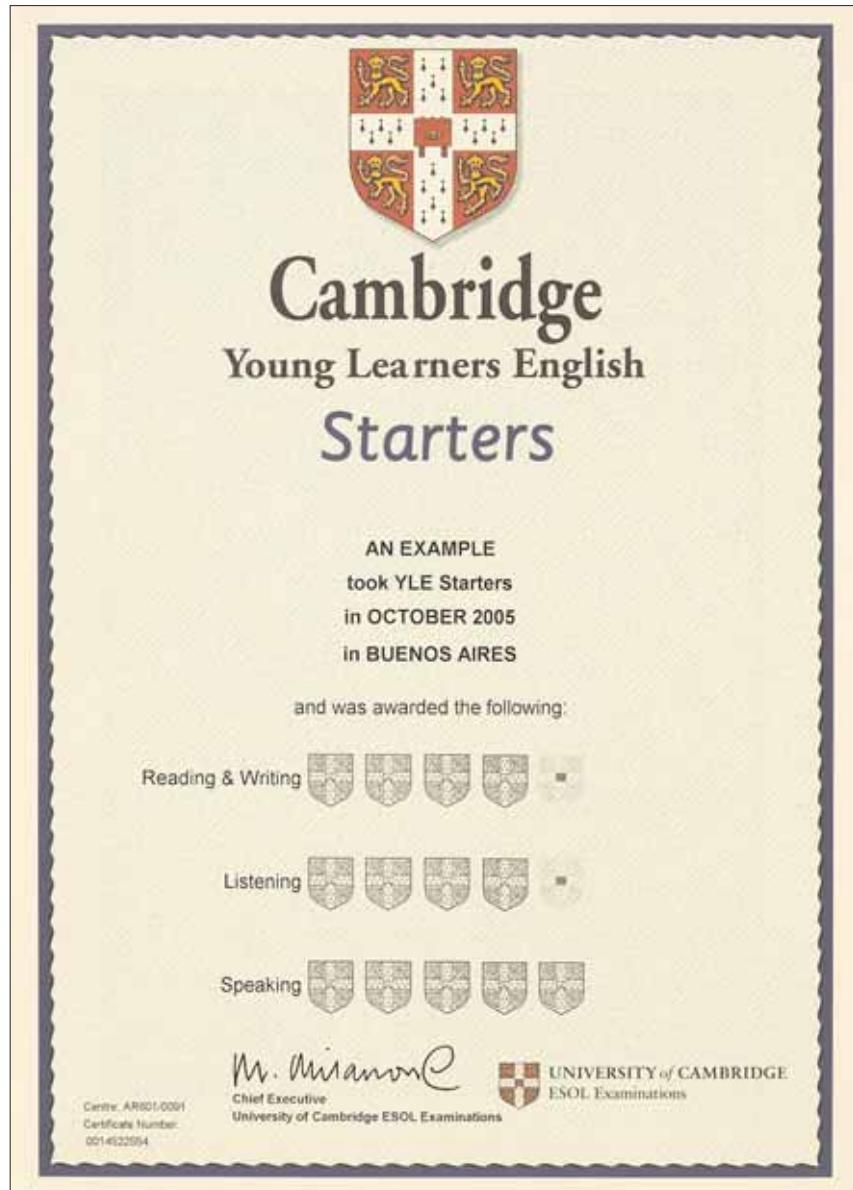
We wish you every success in taking Starters and we hope that you will take other Cambridge ESOL exams in future. Movers is the next level of the Cambridge YLE tests. You can find more information about Movers on our website at:

www.CambridgeESOL.org/exams/yle.htm

What do I get after I take the test?

When you take a Young Learners English test, you get an award from Cambridge ESOL showing how well you have done in each part of the test – Listening, Reading and Writing and Speaking.

For each part of the test you get one or more Cambridge shields (up to a maximum of five, so you could get a total of 15 shields for the whole test if you do really well!). Below is a picture of the award which shows you and your family how well you have done.



www.CambridgeESOL.org/YLE

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