

Listening test advice for the candidate

Why take an adaptive test?




- Your adaptive test is **personalised**. Some questions might be easy, and some will be more difficult. Your questions are chosen based on your previous answers.
- An adaptive test will give you an **accurate result** and a **better test experience** because it is tailored to your level.
- Your Listening test usually takes approximately 20–45 minutes, depending on your level. However, it could be shorter or longer than this.
- Your results will be available **immediately after** you complete the test.

What do I need to know about my test?

- Look at the [sample test](#) to become familiar with the tasks. The sample test is **not** adaptive. It shows you all the different types of tasks in the Cambridge EST Schools test. When you take your real test, you will see some of these tasks, but **not all** of them. The tasks you see will depend on your level.
- If you are doing Business English, look at the [Business sample test](#).
- Before answering a question, read the task instructions and any context information about the listening audio. This will help your understanding.
- You can change your answer to any question on the same screen.
- Check all your answers carefully before you click on the arrow to move to the next screen. However, do not take too long to read through everything again, try to keep moving at a good, steady pace.
- When you click forward to the next screen, you will not be able to go back.

Cambridge

English Skills Test

Task type 1	<p>(Listening) One-Question Multiple Choice with pictures</p> <p>For this question, choose the correct answer. You have 10 seconds to read the question. You will hear the recording twice.</p> <p>1 How will the friends go to town?</p> <div>    </div> <div> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> </div>
No. of questions in task	1
Testing focus	Listening to identify simple information with the help of pictures
Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have 10 seconds to read the task information, question and options. Look at each picture carefully and think of the words which describe the pictures. Listen to the whole audio carefully. Choose the correct answer. The audio will automatically play two times. You can click on the arrow to move on to the next question when you are ready.
Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to people making plans, talking about likes and dislikes, giving information about holidays, free time and studies. Cambridge English has a variety of activities to help you with pronunciation. Tip: Review vocabulary you have learned in class and focus on the pronunciation of the words.

Cambridge

English

Skills Test

Task type 2	<p>(Listening) One-Question Multiple Choice</p> <div> <p>For this question, choose the correct answer. You have 10 seconds to read the question. You will hear the recording twice. Listen to two friends discussing a concert they've just been to.</p> <p>1 What did they both like about it?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> the unusual music</p> <p><input type="radio"/> the friendly staff</p> <p><input type="radio"/> the price of the tickets</p> </div>
No. of questions in task	1 (with 3 or 4 multiple choice options)
Testing focus	Understanding information in longer audios and piecing together information from non-consecutive chunks of language
Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have ten seconds to read the scene setter, questions and options. Listen to the whole audio carefully. Choose the correct answers. The audio will automatically play two times. You can click on the arrow to move on to the next question when you are ready.
Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to conversations in English – people giving opinions, saying how they feel about something, explaining reasons for doing something, agreeing or disagreeing with others. Tip: Listen to a variety of podcasts, news reports and online tutorials in English.

Cambridge

English

Skills Test

Task type 3	<p>(Listening) Five-Question Multiple choice</p> <p>For these questions, choose the correct answer. You have 45 seconds to read the questions. You will hear the recording twice.</p> <p>Listen to part of a podcast with a computer games developer called Rachel Karlsson.</p> <p>2 How does Rachel feel about her computer games company?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> pleased that it is doing so well</p> <p><input type="radio"/> happy to be running it with her friends</p> <p><input type="radio"/> surprised how long it took to set up</p> <p>3 Why did Rachel decide not to study chemistry at university?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> It looked like a hard subject at university level.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Her future career choices seemed limited.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> She realised she didn't like it enough.</p> <p>4 Rachel originally wanted to study computer science at university in order to</p> <p><input type="radio"/> learn programming languages.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> design mobile devices.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> become a data analyst.</p> <p>5 Rachel chose the university that was</p> <p><input type="radio"/> the most up-to-date.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> in the most attractive area.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> the easiest to get to by car.</p> <p>6 Some of the students Rachel met at university</p> <p><input type="radio"/> were as interested as her in computer games.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> convinced her to study computer games development.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> had already created a number of computer games.</p>
No. of questions in task	5 (with 3 or 4 multiple choice options)
Testing focus	Understanding information in longer audios with one, two or three people speaking about a wide range of topics
Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have 45 seconds to read the task instructions, questions and options. The answers to the questions are in the same order in the audio. Try to identify 'cues' as you listen. These are words or phrases which signal the question you should answer. Try to answer the questions as you listen but move on to the next question if you hear the next cue. You will be able to listen a second time. <p>The audio will automatically play two times. You can click on the arrow to move on to the next question when you are ready.</p>
Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to a variety of talks, interviews, conversations and debates. Choose topics that you find interesting. Tip: Listen with a friend and have a discussion afterwards. This will also help you to practice speaking.
Task type 4	(Listening) Two-Question Multiple Choice



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English

Skills Test

	<div> <div> For these questions, choose the correct answer. You have 15 seconds to read the questions. You will hear the recording twice. </div> <div> Listen to two friends talking about holidays. </div> </div> <div> <div> <div>7</div> <div>How did the woman feel during her childhood holidays?</div> <div> <div><input type="radio"/></div>frustrated by the lack of technology <div><input type="radio"/></div>envious of the locals' lifestyle <div><input type="radio"/></div>inspired by the landscape </div> </div> <div> <div>8</div> <div>What do they both say about their camping holidays nowadays?</div> <div> <div><input type="radio"/></div>They find them challenging to organise. <div><input type="radio"/></div>They try to recreate their childhood experience. <div><input type="radio"/></div>They appreciate the break from the usual routine. </div> </div> </div>
No. of questions in task	2
Testing focus	Understanding information in longer audios with one, two or three people speaking about a wide range of topics
Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have 15 seconds to read the task instructions, questions and options. Listen to the whole audio carefully. Choose the correct answer for each question. The audio will automatically play two times. You can click on the arrow to move on to the next question when you are ready.
Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to a variety of talks, interviews, conversations and debates. Choose topics that you find interesting. Tip: Listen with a friend and have a discussion afterwards. This will also help you to practice speaking.

Task type 5

(Listening) One-Task Multiple Matching

For this question, click in the correct box for each speaker. You have 45 seconds to read the question and look at the table. You will hear the recording twice.

Listen to five short extracts in which people are talking about the trees in their city.

What does each person value most about the trees in their city?

	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5
They lessen the effects of summer heat.					
They can inspire a real community spirit.					
They can have a positive effect on mood.					
They add variety to the urban landscape.					
They compensate for the ugliness of the city.					
They keep people in touch with the natural world.					
They make a major contribution to reducing pollution.					
They encourage people to think about the city's history.					

No. of questions in task

5

Testing focus

Understanding the main ideas in short monologues

Advice

- You have 45 seconds to read the task instructions, question and options.
- Listen to each speaker fully before choosing an option.
- The audio will automatically play two times. You can click on the arrow to move on to the next question when you are ready.

Preparation

- Listen to podcasts where they have variety of guests talking about the same topics. Do they have similar/different opinions/experiences? What do you think about what they say?
- Tip: Popular podcasts often have online forums where people discuss different episodes. Get involved in the discussion.



Cambridge

English

Skills Test

Task type 6	<p>(Listening) Sentence Completion</p> <p>For these questions, complete the sentences with no more than three words in each gap. You have 45 seconds to read the sentences. You will hear the recording twice.</p> <p>Listen to part of a podcast in which a woman called Mel, who is a keen cyclist, is talking about a race called The Iron Horse Bicycle Classic.</p> <p>The Iron Horse Bicycle Classic Race</p> <p>Mel jokingly suggests that the train might have an 20 because of its performance in the race.</p> <p>Mel says that 21 is the key factor cyclists need to complete the Iron Horse Bicycle Classic Race.</p> <p>Mel believes that its 22 is the main reason that cyclists are drawn to the race.</p> <p>Mel is most looking forward to comparing her performance on the 23 when she takes part next year.</p> <p>Mel uses the term 24 ' to explain the effects of the weather in 2008.</p>
No. of questions in task	5
Testing focus	Listening for and writing down specific information from an extended monologue
Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have 45 seconds to read the task instructions and sentences. Think about what word might fill the gap grammatically or logically. For example, are you listening for a noun, verb or adjective? Are you listening for an opinion or factual information? Try to identify 'cues' as you listen. These are words or phrases which signal which question you should answer. The answer will be one, two or three words. Don't try to write long answers. Don't repeat information that is already included in the gapped sentence. All of the answers will be words that are spoken in the recording, so only use the exact word(s) that you hear. Listen again to check your answers, including the correct spelling.
Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to talks, lectures or tutorials which interest you. Make notes on the main ideas and then listen again using subtitles or the transcript. Did you get the main points? Tip: Talk to someone you know about what you listened to. It would be best to do this in English, but you can speak to them in your own language. The main purpose is to communicate something that you have heard in English.

