

# Cambridge English Preliminary

Brief exam guide



*Practical English for everyday use*



CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH  
Language Assessment  
Part of the University of Cambridge

## Boost your practical language level

Every year, thousands of people who want to use English to improve their work, study and travel prospects prepare for *Cambridge English: Preliminary*.

## Gain real-life English skills

The exam shows that you can:

- **understand the main points** of straightforward instructions or public announcements
- **deal with most of the situations you might meet when travelling** as a tourist in an English-speaking country
- **ask simple questions** and take part in factual conversations in a work environment
- **write letters/emails** or make notes on familiar matters.

## Get a certificate that is accepted globally

The exam is accepted by thousands of leading businesses and educational institutions worldwide.

## What level is the exam?

The exam focuses on Level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). It shows that you have an 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.

**Reading  
and Writing:**  
1 hour 30 minutes

Shows that you understand written information, and use structure and vocabulary correctly.

**Listening:**  
30 minutes

Shows that you can understand a range of spoken materials, including everyday conversations.

**Speaking:**  
10-12 minutes

Shows how good your spoken English is in conversation. You take the test face-to-face with one or two other candidates.

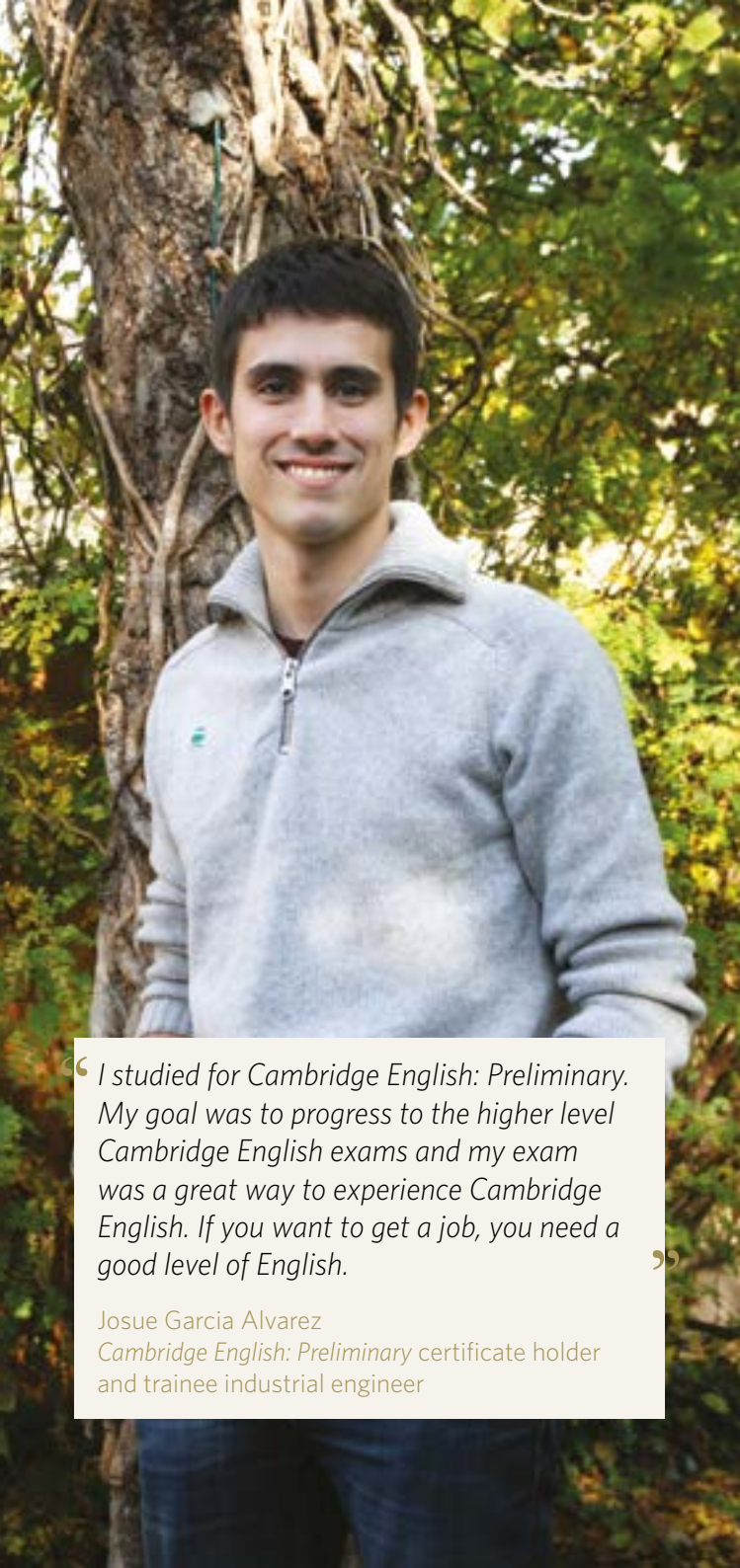
Your overall performance is calculated by averaging the scores you achieve in Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking. The weighting of each of the four skills is equal.

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

You can take the exam on paper or on computer.



[www.cambridgeenglish.org/preliminary](http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/preliminary)



*I studied for Cambridge English: Preliminary. My goal was to progress to the higher level Cambridge English exams and my exam was a great way to experience Cambridge English. If you want to get a job, you need a good level of English.*

Josue Garcia Alvarez  
Cambridge English: Preliminary certificate holder  
and trainee industrial engineer

## Practical English for everyday use

- Develop your ability to communicate in English for practical tasks and situations.
- Gain a valuable qualification that is accepted worldwide.
- Improve your work, study and travel prospects.

Over

**20,000**

organisations worldwide trust

Cambridge English exams

### What's next?

#### Step 1 - Test your level

See if *Cambridge English: Preliminary* 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/centresearch](http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/centresearch)

#### Step 3 - Get started on your preparation

Find a wide range of support, including official Cambridge English preparation materials, at [www.cambridgeenglish.org/preliminary](http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/preliminary)



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

## Contact us

Cambridge English  
Language Assessment  
1 Hills Road  
Cambridge  
CB1 2EU  
United Kingdom

[www.cambridgeenglish.org/helpdesk](http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/helpdesk)



[www.cambridgeenglish.org/preliminary](http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/preliminary)



[facebook.com/CambridgeEnglish](https://facebook.com/CambridgeEnglish)



[twitter.com/CambridgeEng](https://twitter.com/CambridgeEng)

You Tube

[youtube.com/CambridgeEnglishTV](https://youtube.com/CambridgeEnglishTV)

Cambridge English Language Assessment is part of the University of Cambridge. We develop and produce the most valuable range of qualifications for learners and teachers of English in the world. Over 5 million Cambridge English exams are taken each year in more than 130 countries. More than 20,000 universities, employers, government ministries and other organisations accept our certificates.

Cambridge English Language Assessment – a not-for-profit organisation.

All details are correct at the time of going to print in March 2015.

