

Cambridge English Key

Brief exam guide



The key to essential English



CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH
Language Assessment
Part of the University of Cambridge

The key to essential English

Success in *Cambridge English: Key* shows that you have mastered the basics in English.

Prove that you have the skills to communicate

The exam shows that you can:

- **understand and use basic phrases and expressions**
- **introduce yourself** and **answer basic questions** about your personal details
- **interact with English speakers** who talk slowly and clearly
- **write short, simple notes.**

Gain 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 A2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). It shows that you can use everyday English at a basic level.

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 10 minutes

Shows that you can understand simple written information and write short messages related to personal information.

Listening:
30 minutes

Shows that you can understand key information in everyday conversations.

Speaking:
8-10 minutes

Shows that you can take part in a 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 and Writing, Listening and Speaking. The score for Reading and Writing is doubled in this calculation.

Download sample papers at
www.cambridgeenglish.org/key

You can take the exam on paper or on computer.



www.cambridgeenglish.org/key



“ I started off with Cambridge English: Key and progressed through all of the exams, finishing with Cambridge English: Proficiency.

When you learn a language it's very important that it's structured. The exams offer you a step-by-step approach. ”

Patrick Fryzlewicz

Cambridge English: Key certificate holder
and trainee doctor

The key to essential English

- Prove that you can use English to communicate at a basic level in simple, everyday 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: Key* is the right exam for you – take our free online test at

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

Step 3 – Get started on your preparation

Find a wide range of support, including official Cambridge English preparation materials, at

www.cambridgeenglish.org/key



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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.

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