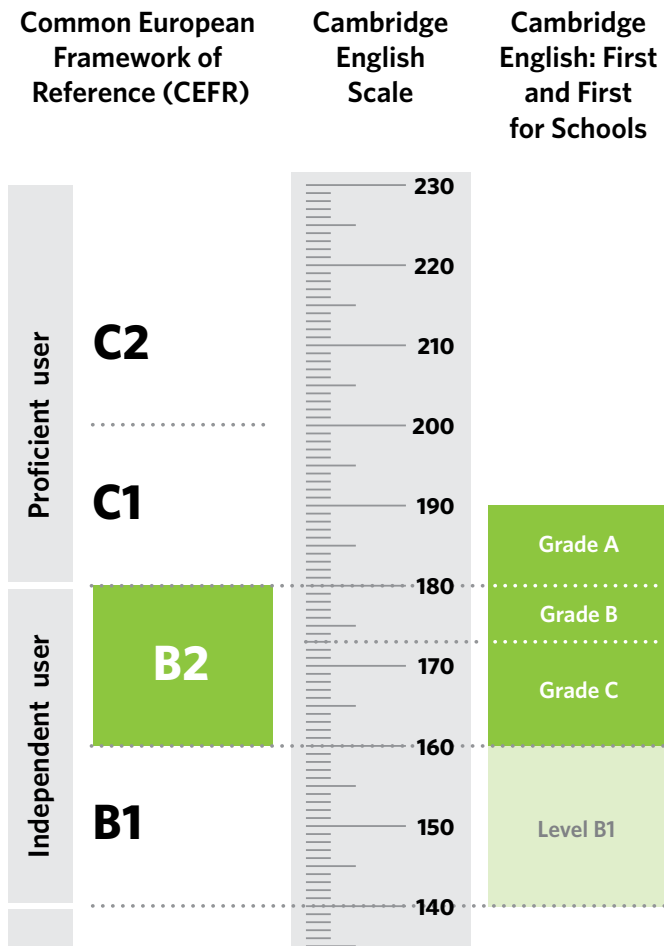


Cambridge English

The Cambridge English Scale explained

A guide to converting *Cambridge English: First* and *First for Schools* practice test scores to Cambridge English Scale scores



Cambridge English: First and *First for Schools* are now reporting results on the Cambridge English Scale. For these exams, candidates receive an individual score for each of the four skills – reading, writing, listening, speaking – and Use of English. In the live exams, each of the skills and Use of English are equally weighted, and a candidate’s overall score is calculated by adding all of the individual scores together and dividing by five (and then rounding to the nearest whole number). A candidate’s grade and CEFR level are based on their performance across the whole test, and there is no requirement to achieve a minimum score in each paper.

The following tables can be used as guidance to help you convert practice test scores to Cambridge English Scale scores.

Please note that these only apply when using official Cambridge English practice tests.

The conversion tables are intended to help you provide an indication of your students’ readiness to take the exam. The scores you provide may not always reflect the results the students may achieve in the live exam. They should not be used to try to predict precise scores in the live exam, but can be a useful diagnostic tool, indicating areas of relative strength and weakness.

The scores needed on any given test to achieve the scores on the Cambridge English Scale shown in the tables below will vary due to a number of factors, so scores close to CEFR boundaries need to be reviewed carefully. We recommend that this is approximately three Cambridge English Scale score points above and below the score needed to achieve the level, e.g. 157-163 for Level B2. Students who achieve only slightly higher than the Cambridge English Scale score for a given level on a practice test may not achieve that level in the live exam, and we recommend that they continue working to improve so that they reach the desired level.

Cambridge English First

Cambridge English First for Schools

Reading

The Reading section consists of Parts 1, 5, 6 and 7 of the Reading and Use of English paper. Correct answers in Parts 1 and 7 are worth 1 mark each. Correct answers in Parts 5 and 6 are worth 2 marks each. There are 42 possible marks in the Reading section.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
37	180	Level C1
24	160	Level B2
16	140	Level B1
10	122*	-

*minimum score reported for *First*

Use of English

The Use of English section consists of Parts 2, 3 and 4 of the Reading and Use of English paper. Correct answers in Parts 2 and 3 are worth 1 mark each. In Part 4, answers which are partly correct receive 1 mark and answers which are completely correct receive 2 marks. There are 28 possible marks in the Use of English section.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
24	180	Level C1
18	160	Level B2
11	140	Level B1
7	122*	-

*minimum score reported for *First*

Writing

Candidates' answers in the Writing paper are marked by trained examiners who are certificated to mark at the level. Answers are marked using assessment scales which are linked to the Common European Framework of Reference. 0–5 marks are given for each of the following criteria: Content; Communicative Achievement; Organisation; and Language. Whole marks only are awarded; there are no half marks given. Marks for each of the criteria are combined to give 20 possible marks for each question. There are 40 possible marks for the whole paper.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
34	180	Level C1
24	160	Level B2
16	140	Level B1
10	122*	-

*minimum score reported for *First*

Listening

Correct answers in the Listening paper are worth 1 mark each. There are 30 possible marks in the Listening paper.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
27	180	Level C1
18	160	Level B2
12	140	Level B1
8	122*	-

*minimum score reported for *First*

Speaking

Candidates take the test in pairs, but are assessed on their individual performance by trained examiners certificated to examine at the level. Candidate speaking performances are assessed using scales which are linked to the Common European Framework of Reference. The assessor gives 0–5 marks for each of the following criteria: Grammar and Vocabulary; Discourse Management; Pronunciation; and Interactive Communication. Marks for each of these criteria are doubled. The interlocutor gives a mark of 0–5 for Global Achievement. This mark is then multiplied by four. Examiners may award half marks. Marks for all criteria are then combined, meaning there are 60 marks available in the Speaking test.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
54	180	Level C1
36	160	Level B2
24	140	Level B1
14	122*	-

*minimum score reported for *First*