Introduction

Who is this book for?

If you are aged between 12 and 16 and want to take Cambridge English: First for Schools (FCE), this book is for you!

Why is this book called ‘Trainer’?

This book is called ‘Trainer’ because it is full of exercises to help you get better and better at doing each part of Cambridge English: First for Schools. So, complete all the exercises then do all the practice papers! If you train and work hard, you’ll soon be ready to take Cambridge English: First for School.

How do I use this book?

First, do the grammar and vocabulary exercises on each Training page. Then do the task on the Exam practice page and check your answers.
On Training pages you will find:

Cambridge Learner Corpus
This shows information about mistakes that some Cambridge English: First for Schools candidates make. If you do these useful exercises, you will learn not to make these mistakes when you do Cambridge English: First for Schools.

The authors used the Corpus to see how English is really used and to identify typical learner mistakes.

Tip!
These are ideas to help you do well in the exam. For example: You may find that Listening Part 3 options include adjectives to describe the speaker’s feelings, which you then have to match carefully to what the speaker says.

Remember!
These are quick hints about grammar points or vocabulary that you should learn. For example:
To change direct questions to indirect questions:
Wh- questions: What’s the time? → Do you know what the time is?
Yes/No questions: Is John here? → Do you know if John is here?

On Exam practice pages you will find:
- a Cambridge English: First for Schools exam task for you to try and complete
- advice to help you with different parts of the task.

Tests 3, 4, 5 and 6:
When you finish Tests 1 and 2 you will be ready to do complete Cambridge English: First for Schools practice tests.
Tests 3, 4, 5 and 6 are just like real Cambridge English: First for Schools Reading and Use of English, Writing, Listening and Speaking papers. Doing these tests will give you extra help to prepare for the exam.

Keep a record of your scores as you do the tests. You may find that your scores are good in some parts of the test but you may need to practise other parts more. Make simple tables like this to help record your scores.

Paper 3 Listening

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<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Part 1</th>
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Other features of the First for Schools Trainer

● Visual material
In the Speaking test the examiner will give you a booklet with pictures and photographs in it. The visual material in the colour section from pages C1–C24 will help you practise and become familiar with the type of photographs and written questions you will see in the test and help you increase your confidence.

● Answer sheets
Look at these to see what the Cambridge English: First for Schools answer sheets in the test look like and learn how to complete them. Ask your teacher to photocopy them so that you can use them when you do your practice tests.

● Downloadable audio online
Listen to these to practise the Listening paper. You will need to listen to these to practise some parts of the Speaking paper too.

Cambridge English: First for Schools

Contents
Cambridge English: First for Schools has four papers:

Reading and Use of English: 1 hour 15 minutes
The paper contains seven parts. For Parts 1 to 3, the test contains texts with grammar and vocabulary tasks. Part 4 has separate items with a grammar and vocabulary focus. For Parts 5 to 7, the test contains a range of texts and reading comprehension tasks.

Writing: 1 hour 20 minutes
The paper contains two parts. You will have to complete two tasks: a compulsory one in Part 1 and one from a choice of four in Part 2. Each question on this paper carries equal marks.

Listening: about 40 minutes
The paper contains four parts. The text types are monologues (answerphone messages, information lines, commentaries, radio documentaries and features, instructions, lectures, news, public announcements, advertisements, reports, speeches, stories and anecdotes, talks) and interacting speakers (conversations, discussions, interviews, quizzes, radio plays, transactions). For each correct answer you will receive one mark.

Speaking: 14 minutes
The Speaking test contains four parts: short conversations with one examiner and another student; a one-minute ‘long turn’ on your own; a task where you speak with the other student; and a discussion. Usually you will take the Speaking test with just one other student, but sometimes students take the Speaking test in groups of three (only when there’s an odd number at the end of the session – it isn’t an option normally). You will be marked on your performance throughout the test.