

Cambridge Young Learners
English Tests

Cambridge Starters 4 Answer Booklet

Examination papers from
University of Cambridge
ESOL Examinations:
English for Speakers of Other Languages



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Introduction

The *Cambridge Young Learners English Tests* offer an elementary-level testing system for learners of English between the ages of 7 and 12. The tests include 3 key levels of assessment: *Starters*, *Movers* and *Flyers*.

Starters is the lowest level in the system. Test instructions are very simple and consist only of words and structures specified in the syllabus.

The complete test lasts about 45 minutes and has the following components: Listening, Reading and Writing, and Speaking.

	length	number of parts	number of items
Listening	approx. 20 minutes	4	20
Reading and Writing	20 minutes	5	25
Speaking	approx. 3 – 5 minutes	5	–

Candidates need a pen or pencil for the Reading and Writing paper, and coloured pens or pencils for the Listening paper. All answers are written on the question papers.

Listening

In general, the aim is to focus on the ‘here and now’ and to use language in meaningful contexts. In addition to multiple choice and short answer questions, candidates are asked to use coloured pencils to mark their responses to one task. There are 4 parts. Each part begins with a clear example.

	main skill focus	input	expected response	number of questions
1	listening for words and prepositions	picture and dialogue	carry out instructions and position things correctly on a picture	5
2	listening for numbers and spelling	illustrated comprehension questions and dialogue	write numbers and names	5
3	listening for specific information (present tenses)	3-option multiple choice pictures and dialogues	tick correct box next to picture	5
4	listening for words, colours and prepositions	picture and dialogue	carry out instructions, locate objects, and colour correctly (range of colours is: black, blue, brown, green, grey, orange, pink, purple, red, yellow)	5

Reading and Writing

Again, the focus is on the ‘here and now’ and the use of language in meaningful contexts where possible. To complete the test, candidates need a single pen or pencil of any colour. There are 5 parts, each starting with a clear example.

	main skill focus	input	expected response	number of questions
1	reading short sentences and recognising lexis	lexical items, pictures, and sentences	tick or cross to show if sentence is true or false	5
2	reading sentences about a picture and writing one-word answers	1 picture and sentences	write ‘yes’/‘no’	5
3	spelling of single words	pictures and sets of jumbled letters	write words	5
4	reading a text writing missing words (nouns)	cloze text words and pictures	choose and copy missing words correctly	5
5	reading questions about a picture story writing one-word answers	story presented through 3 pictures and questions	write one-word answers to questions	5

Speaking

In the Speaking test, the candidate speaks with 1 examiner for about 4 minutes. The format of the test is explained in advance to the child in their native language, by a teacher or person familiar to them. This person then takes the child into the exam room and introduces them to the examiner.

Speaking ability is assessed according to various criteria, including comprehension, the ability to produce an appropriate response and pronunciation.

	main skill focus	input	expected response
1	understanding and following spoken instructions	scene card	point to the correct part of the picture
2	understanding and following spoken instructions	scene card and 8 small object cards	place the object cards on the scene card as directed
3	understanding and answering spoken questions	scene card	answer questions with short answers
4	understanding and answering spoken questions	3 object cards	answer questions with short answers
5	understanding and responding to personal questions	no visual prompt	answer questions with short answers

Further information

The topics, structures, words and tasks upon which the *Cambridge Young Learners English Tests* are based are comprehensively described in the Handbook, so teachers or parents can know exactly what to expect.

Further information about the *Cambridge Young Learners English Tests* can be obtained from the Local Secretary for Cambridge ESOL examinations in your area, or from:

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