

Introduction

Who is *First Trainer 2* for?

This book is suitable for anyone who is preparing to take the *Cambridge English: First (FCE)* exam. You can use *First Trainer 2* in class with your teacher.

What is *First Trainer 2*?

First Trainer 2 contains six practice tests for *Cambridge English: First*, each covering the Reading and Use of English, Writing, Listening and Speaking papers. Guided Tests 1 and 2 consist of both training and practice for the exam, while Tests 3–6 are entirely practice. All six tests are at exam level and are of *Cambridge English: First* standard.

Test 1 contains information about each part of each paper, plus step-by-step guidance to take you through each kind of *Cambridge English: First* task type, with examples and tips clearly linked to the questions. In the Reading and Use of English, Writing and Speaking papers, it also presents and practises grammar, vocabulary and functional language directly relevant to particular task types. This is supported by work on correcting common grammar mistakes made by *Cambridge English: First* candidates in the exam as shown by the **Cambridge Learner Corpus**. For more information on the Cambridge Learner Corpus see page 6.



Test 2 also contains training for the exam, in addition to revision from Test 1. Here too there is language input, as well as some step-by-step guidance to task types with further examples, advice and tips. In Writing, there is a full focus on the task types not covered in Test 1.

Tests 3–6 contain a wide range of topics, text types and exam items, enabling you to practise the skills you have developed and the language you have learnt in Tests 1 and 2.

How to use *First Trainer 2*

Test 1 Training

- For each part of each paper, you should begin by studying **Task information**, which tells you the facts you need to know, such as what the task type tests and the kinds of questions it uses.
- Throughout Test 1, you will see information marked **Tip!** These tips give you practical advice on how to tackle each task type.
- In all papers, training exercises help you develop the skills you need, e.g. reading for gist, by working through example items of a particular task type.
- For Parts 1–4 of **Reading and Use of English**, both parts of **Writing** and all parts of **Speaking, Useful language** presents and practises grammatical structures, vocabulary or functional expressions that are often tested by particular task types.
- Many exercises involve focusing on and correcting common language mistakes made by actual *Cambridge English: First* candidates, as shown by the **Cambridge Learner Corpus** (www.cambridge.org/corpus).

- In **Listening**, you are prompted to use the downloadable audio files, e.g.  1.
- In **Writing**, Test 1 covers Part 1 (essay), as well as the article, review and email tasks in Part 2. You study some **examples** to help you perfect your skills. You finish each part by writing your own text, bringing in what you have learnt in **Useful language**.
- In **Speaking**, you are prompted to use one of the downloadable audio files, e.g.  18, and complete tasks while you listen to examples of each part of the paper. You can practise speaking on your own or with a partner, using what you have learnt in **Useful language**.
- In all papers, an **Action plan** gives you clear step-by-step guidance on how to approach each task type.
- You then work through an exam-style task, often doing exercises based on the guidance in the **Action plan** and then following the exam instructions. As you do so, **Advice** boxes suggest ways of dealing with particular exam items.

Test 2 Training

- Test 2 contains many of the same features as Test 1, including exercises that focus on exam instructions, texts and tasks, **Tip!** information, **Advice** boxes for many exam items and **Useful language**.
- There is further work based on mistakes frequently made by *Cambridge English: First* candidates as shown by the **Cambridge Learner Corpus**.
- Test 2 **Writing** covers Part 1 (essay) plus the report, letter and article tasks in Part 2.
- You should try to do the exam tasks under exam conditions where possible.

Tests 3–6 Exam practice

- In Tests 3, 4, 5 and 6, you can apply the skills and language you have learnt in guided Tests 1 and 2.
- You can do these tests and the four papers within them in any order, but you should always try to keep to the time recommended for each paper. For the Listening paper, you must **listen to each recording twice only**.
- It will be easier to keep to the exam instructions if you can find somewhere quiet to work, and ensure there are no interruptions.
- For the Speaking paper, it is better if you can work with a partner, but if not, you can follow the instructions and do all four parts on your own.

Other features of *First Trainer 2*

- Full-colour **visual materials** for the Speaking paper of all six tests in the Speaking visuals section (pages C1–C22).
- **Photocopiable sample answer sheets** for the Reading and Use of English, Listening, and Speaking are at the back of the book. Before you take the exam, you should study these so that you know how to mark or write your answers correctly. In Writing, the question paper has plenty of lined space for you to write your answers.
- The **downloadable audio files** contain recordings for the Listening papers of the six *First* tests plus recordings of different parts of the Speaking in Tests 1 and 2 to serve as examples.

The *Cambridge English: First* examination

Level of the *Cambridge English: First* examination

Cambridge English: First is at level B2 on the Common European Framework (CEFR). When you reach this level, these are some of the things you should be able to do:

- You can scan written texts for the information you need, and understand detailed instructions or advice.
- You can understand or give a talk on a familiar subject, and keep a conversation going on quite a wide range of subjects.
- You can make notes while someone is talking, and write a letter that includes different kinds of requests.

Grading

- The overall *Cambridge English: First* grade that you receive is based on the total score you achieve in all four papers.
- The Reading and Use of English paper carries 40% of the possible marks, while each of Writing, Listening and Speaking carry 20% of the possible marks.
- There is no minimum score for each paper, so you don't have to 'pass' all four in order to pass the exam.
- You receive a certificate if you pass the exam with grade A (the highest grade), B or C. Grades D and E are fails.
- Whatever your grade, you will receive a Statement of Results. This includes a graphical profile of how well you did in each paper and shows your relative performance in each one.

Content of the *Cambridge English: First* examination

The *Cambridge English: First* examination has four papers, each consisting of a number of parts. For details on each part, see the page reference under the *Task information* heading in these tables.

Reading and Use of English 1 hour 15 minutes

Parts 1 and 3 mainly test your vocabulary; Part 2 mainly tests your grammar. Part 4 often tests both. There is one mark for each correct answer in Parts 1, 2 and 3, but two marks for a correct answer in Part 4. You can write on the question paper, but you must remember to transfer your answers to the separate answer sheet before the end of the test.

The total length of texts in Parts 5–7 is about 2,200 in total. They are taken from newspaper and magazine articles, fiction, reports, advertisements, correspondence, messages and informational material such as brochures, guides or manuals. There are two marks for each correct answer in Parts 5 and 6; there is one mark for every correct answer in Part 7.

Part	Task type	No. of questions	Format	Task information
1	Multiple-choice cloze	8	You choose from words A, B, C or D to fill in each gap in a text.	page 10
2	Open cloze	8	You think of the correct word to fill in each of the gaps in a text.	page 16
3	Word formation	8	You think of the correct form of a prompt word to fill in each gap in a text.	page 20
4	Key word transformations	6	You have to complete a sentence using a given key word so that it means the same as another sentence.	page 23
5	Multiple choice	6	You read a text followed by questions with four options: A, B, C or D.	page 26
6	Gapped text	6	You read a text with some missing paragraphs, then fill in the gaps by choosing paragraphs from a jumbled list.	page 31
7	Multiple matching	10	You read a text divided into sections (or several short texts) and match the relevant sections to statements.	page 34

Writing 1 hour 20 minutes

You have to do Part 1 (question 1) plus any **one** of the Part 2 tasks. In Part 2, you can choose one of questions 2–4. The possible marks for Part 1 and Part 2 are the same. In all tasks you are told who you are writing to and why.

Part	Task type	No. of words	Format	Task information
1	Question 1: essay	140–190	You give your opinion on a topic using the two ideas given, plus an idea of your own.	page 37
2	Questions 2–4 possible tasks: article, email/letter, report or review.	140–190	You write one text, from a choice of three text types, based on a situation.	pages 41, 45, 49

Listening about 40 minutes

You will both hear and see the instructions for each task, and you will hear each of the four parts twice. You will hear pauses announced, and you can use this time to look at the task and the questions. At the end of the test, you will have five minutes to copy your answers onto the answer sheet.

If one person is speaking, you may hear information, news, instructions, a commentary, a documentary, a lecture, a message, a public announcement, a report, a speech, a talk or an advertisement. If two people are talking, you might hear a conversation, a discussion, an interview, part of a radio play, etc.

Part	Task type	No. of questions	Format	Task information
1	Multiple choice	8	You listen to monologues or conversations between interacting speakers, and you choose from answers A, B or C.	page 52
2	Sentence completion	10	You listen to a monologue lasting about three minutes, and you complete the sentences with the missing information.	page 55
3	Multiple matching	5	You listen to five themed monologues of about 30 seconds each, and you select five correct options from a list of eight possible answers.	page 57
4	Multiple choice	7	You listen to a conversation between two or more speakers, for about three to four minutes, and you choose from options A, B or C.	page 59

Speaking 14 minutes per pair of candidates

You will probably do the Speaking test with one other candidate, though sometimes it is necessary to form groups of three. There will be two examiners, but one of them does not take part in the conversation. The examiner will indicate who you should talk to in each part of the test.

Part	Task type	Minutes	Format	Task information
1	Interview	2	The examiner asks you some questions and you give information about yourself.	page 61
2	Long turn	1 minute per candidate	You talk on your own (for about one minute) about two photographs the examiner gives you. Then the examiner asks the other candidate to comment on the same photographs (for about 30 seconds). The examiner then gives the other candidate a different set of two photographs and the process is repeated.	page 63
3	Collaborative task	3 minutes (a 2-minute discussion followed by a 1-minute decision-making task)	You have a conversation with the other candidate. The examiner gives you some material and a task to complete together.	page 66
4	Discussion	4	You have a discussion with the other candidate, guided by questions from the examiner, about the topics in Part 3.	page 69

Further information

The information about *Cambridge English: First* contained in *First Trainer 2* is designed to be an overview of the exam. For a full description of the *Cambridge English: First* examination, including information about task types, testing focus and preparation for the exam, please see the *Cambridge English: First Handbook*, which can be obtained from <http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/teaching-english/resources-for-teachers/>

Cambridge Assessment
 The Triangle Building
 Shaftesbury Road
 Cambridge
 CB2 8EA