



OXFORD
TEST OF ENGLISH
for Schools

B2 PRACTICE TEST 1



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Test 1

Speaking

Parts 1 & 2

Part 1 Interview

1.01 You are going to answer eight questions. You have 10 seconds per question for questions 1 and 2, and 20 seconds per question for questions 3–8. Start speaking when you hear this tone.

Part 2 Voicemail 1

1.02 You are going to leave a voicemail message. First read and listen to the task, then decide what you want to say. You have 40 seconds to leave your voicemail. Start speaking when you hear the tone.

You went to a party at your friend's house yesterday. You left something there. Leave a voicemail message for your friend. In your message, you should:

- explain who you are
- describe the problem
- say what you want your friend to do.

You now have 20 seconds to think about what you want to say.

Part 2 Voicemail 2

1.03 You are going to reply to a voicemail message. First read and listen to the task, then decide what you want to say. You have 40 seconds to leave your voicemail. Start speaking when you hear the tone.

Listen to the message from your friend about a competition. Then, leave a voicemail message for your friend. In your message, you should:

- congratulate your friend
- ask some questions about the competition
- suggest what your friend could do to celebrate

Now listen to the message.

You have 20 seconds to think about what you want to say.

Part 3

1.04 You are going to give a talk. Read and listen to the task, and start speaking when you hear the tone.

You are going to give a talk to your English class about different types of holidays.

Choose **two** photographs. Tell your class what the advantages and disadvantages of these two types of holidays might be.

You now have 30 seconds to think about what you want to say.

You now have one minute to give your talk.



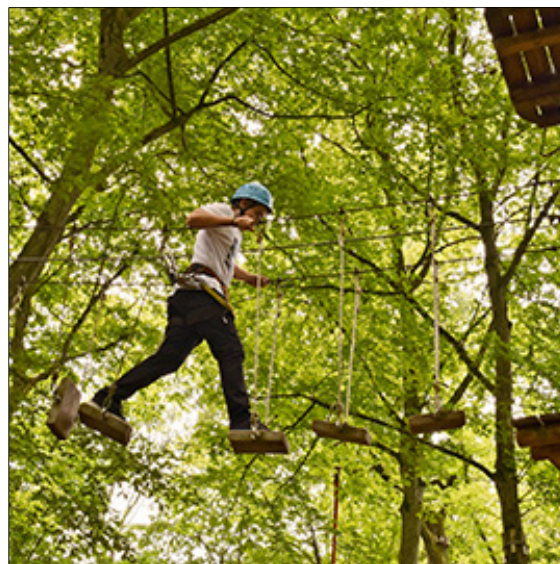
A sailing holiday



A camping holiday



A beach holiday



An adventure holiday

Part 4

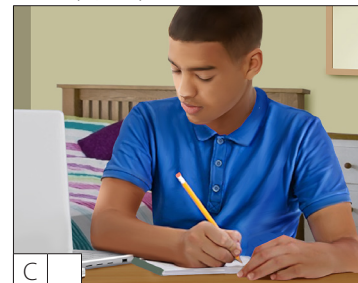
1.05 You are going to answer six questions about your talk. You have 30 seconds to answer each question. Start speaking when you hear the tone.

Listening

Part 1

1.06 Listen and choose the correct picture (A, B, or C).

1 A teenage boy is leaving a voicemail for a friend. Why can't he go to the birthday party?



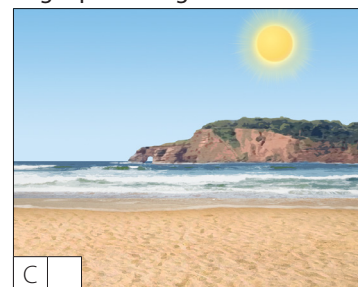
2 A girl is showing some photos to a classmate. Which photo did they both like?



3 A radio presenter is talking about a survey. Which activity are most people going to start next year?



4 A girl is talking to her father about holiday arrangements. Where would the girl prefer to go?



5 A teacher is talking to a student about possible jobs. What job does she think would be suitable for him?



Part 2

1.07 Listen to a young actress giving a talk in a drama class. Choose the correct answer (A, B, or C) for each gap (1–5). The first one (0) has been done for you. You now have 30 seconds to look at the task.

Actress

How she started

0 Millie started acting because of **C**.

A a parent

B a teacher

C a TV programme

Theatre studies

1 When she had to travel to perform, she to keep up with her studies.

A had private tuition

B maintained contact with her teachers

C communicated with her friends from school

First opportunity

2 She got her first big role because

A an actor was ill

B the director knew her

C she had rehearsed a lot

Preferences

3 In the theatre, she prefers to act in

A children's plays

B dramas

C musicals

Future plans

4 She's planning to next.

A go back to her studies

B act in the cinema

C become a blogger

Advice

5 She advises young actors to

A give priority to their career over studies




B prepare very well for any part

C choose their jobs carefully




Part 3

1.08 Listen to two cousins talking about taking photos on holiday. Match the people (the girl, the boy, or both) to the opinions below. The first one (0) has been done for you. You now have 30 seconds to look at the task.




- 0 People are becoming more concerned with sharing an experience online than enjoying it.

		
girl	boy	✓ both




- 1 People who are obsessed with taking photos spoil the experience for others.

		
girl	boy	both




- 2 Taking photos is the best way to keep good memories of trips.

		
girl	boy	both




- 3 Other people's photos are a good source of inspiration for your own trips.

		
girl	boy	both

- 4 The link between social media and tourism can benefit certain destinations.

		
girl	boy	both

- 5 People should be more careful who they are taking photos of.

		
girl	boy	both

Part 4

1.09 Listen and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

- 1 You will hear two classmates talking about an online course. What is the problem with the course?**
 - A a lack of opportunities for communication
 - B limited online resources to control progress
 - C the complexity of subjects

- 2 A boy is leaving a voicemail message for his friend. Why is the boy leaving the message?**
 - A to reschedule an arrangement
 - B to reject an invitation
 - C to resolve a misunderstanding

- 3 You will hear two cousins talking about a series. What does the girl say about the latest episode?**
 - A It has a fast pace from the beginning.
 - B The ending is very unexpected.
 - C It is better than the previous episode.

- 4 You will hear a girl leaving a voicemail. How does she feel about her performance?**
 - A disappointed
 - B confused
 - C satisfied

- 5 You will hear two cousins playing a computer game. What is the main objective of the game?**
 - A to get as many points as possible
 - B to finish the race before the other teams
 - C to help team members

Reading

Part 1

1 Read the blog and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).



www.loveforphotos.oup.uk

Everyone knows that lighting is important when taking photos, but they don't always remember to consider the background. In most cases, try to keep it neutral – you don't want it to distract from the main focus of the image – but bear in mind that if the background itself is interesting, you can always ask any people in the shot to move slightly to the side.

In his blog, the writer advises photographers to ...

- A always be consistent in their approach.
- B think about attempting something new.
- C consider what they are trying to achieve.

2 Read the text message and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

Andrea – sorry to hear about your driving theory test. I remember finding it tricky, too, mainly because everyone had told me that it wasn't worth worrying about at all. They said I'd be able to guess the right answers but that really wasn't the case! The second time, I bought a book with the questions in so I could practise, and that was a massive help. I'd recommend it. Eliana

Eliana says that when she did her first driving theory test, she ...

- A found it a stressful experience.
- B didn't know how to prepare.
- C received some bad advice.

3 Read the email and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

FROM: Headmaster
SUBJECT: Sponsored cycle

Dear parents,

Following the tremendous success of the students' sponsored cycle, it's now your turn! As before, please spread the word in the community and encourage people to give generously. You must raise at least £50 in order to join in on the day. All funds will be distributed to good causes. There are more details on our website – please sign up by 19th October.

Regards,
Mr Collins

The head teacher is writing to parents to ...

- A ask them to contribute financially to charity organizations.
- B explain the steps they need to take to participate in an activity.
- C inform them how much it costs for their child to attend an event.

4 Read the review and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

Lingua4all

This week, I'm talking about Lingua4all, the new app to help you learn English. This heavily promoted launch brings all the features we've already seen in competitor products, but with the addition of a useful new 'find a friend' tool. The monthly fee, however, is considerably higher than other products on the market, and as great as the app is, I'm not sure there's enough to justify the investment.

What does the writer think of the app?

- A** He is unconvinced that it offers good value for money.
- B** He is frustrated that it is so similar to existing apps.
- C** He is disappointed that it is less impressive than suggested in adverts.

5 Read the sign and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

Library computers

Following a number of recent incidents, please remember that we cannot take responsibility for any loss of personal data. As such, when using the computers, please take sensible precautions and avoid:

- ticking any 'remember my details' options
- making online purchases
- connecting any personal devices.

Furthermore, please be considerate to other users and bear in mind that these facilities are primarily intended for educational research purposes.

The main purpose of this sign is to ...

- A** ask students to follow some new rules.
- B** remind students to limit their computer usage.
- C** promote a number of online safety measures.

6 Read the note and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).



Dear guests,

We're delighted to have you in our flat.

In the folder on the kitchen table, you'll find essential information about the apartment, as well as leaflets giving details of places to visit in town.

I'll pop in soon to check if everything's OK, but please email me with any questions you have (the Wi-Fi password is AnaClara1973, by the way).

All the best,

Ana Clara

What is the main purpose of the note?

- A** to welcome the guests to their accommodation
- B** to explain to the guests how to contact the owner
- C** to inform the guests about how they can access the Internet

Part 2

Young authors

Three writers who made it big in their teens talk about their experience



Emily

I've always loved literature and I'm very lucky to have made a career out of something I'm so fascinated with. I just get so involved in my stories that I become entirely unaware of what is going on around me. I really lose myself in my own little world. I usually start off with the main character, which is when something rather odd happens: it's as if I really become that person. Once that happens, the words just flow onto the page. What people don't realize is that you don't need to do a writing course or have a degree in literature to be an author. It's human nature to tell stories. That doesn't mean things were always simple for me. Before my big hit, I had published several books. They were quite popular with readers, but none of them got much attention from critics or fellow authors. For me, writing is all about how much I grow with each and every one of my books. That's why I want to move into other areas now. I'm thinking of writing a children's book next, but I'm not expecting it to be easy!



Declan

It's amazing to be famous from doing what I love, but it also has its disadvantages. My first novel won a bunch of awards and got fantastic reviews from other authors, some of whom were well known. The problem with being really successful early in your career is that people want something even better every single time. That can be quite tricky. It's especially true with the age range that reads my stories. Many authors don't take children's literature seriously, but kids are really smart. In some ways, I'd say it's a lot more difficult to write for them than for adults. I like to think that, through my stories, I help my readers develop as human beings. That's why I don't usually change my style much. My stories tend to be quite black and white, reflecting the struggle between good and evil. I once wrote a book where the main characters had complicated personalities, but it didn't go down well. That's not to say I never do anything new. I've started to experiment with alternative formats, for instance. My latest novel was published online, in weekly episodes. I think it was a big success because it kept readers guessing about what would happen next.



Kelsey

People ask me what my secret is, and I just say the most incredible stories are right in front of our eyes. My books are usually inspired by walking the streets, looking at people and imagining what their lives are like. Life is complicated and so fiction should be, too. All my heroes have faults, and my villains have soft spots. This lack of certainty generates a great deal of discussion among readers, which, it seems, is good for my career. My last book was a huge hit because of all the debate on the web about the main character. The stories themselves don't come easily, though. I know some authors can write with very little effort because their books are ready to come to life. For me, it's a long and hard process. I often get stuck in the middle of a book, but that's where knowing about story structure can help. I studied literature at college, and I think having that background gives you confidence about the quality of what you've written. Besides, I'm not at all bothered by what other people think of my writing as long as I'm happy with the result. That way I'm being true to my heart.

Read the questions (1–6) and match them to the correct text about the young authors (A–C).

- 1 Who thinks formal training can be useful for writers?
A Emily B Declan C Kelsey
- 2 Who believes stories ought to have complex characters?
A Emily B Declan C Kelsey
- 3 Who thinks some groups of readers are more demanding than others?
A Emily B Declan C Kelsey
- 4 Who only received approval from other writers later in their career?
A Emily B Declan C Kelsey
- 5 Who has recently tried a different approach in their work?
A Emily B Declan C Kelsey
- 6 Who has their personal development as their main motivation?
A Emily B Declan C Kelsey

Part 3

Six sentences are missing from this text. Choose the correct sentence (A–G) for each gap (1–6). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

An unexpected travel companion

Dean Nicholson was fed up with his nine-to-five job and decided to throw everything up in the air to travel round the world on a bike. He planned his route carefully and set off from his home town in Scotland for his solo adventure. What he didn't know was that soon enough he would have the company of a cute little animal.

Three months into his trip, he'd already crossed nine countries. He was ready for whatever the world could throw at him.¹ It changed not only his trip, but also his life.

He was pedalling up a hill when he heard something behind him. He looked back and saw a kitten. He stopped, gave the cat some food to eat, and considered whether he should take her with him.² However, he couldn't just leave her there, so he rearranged his equipment to make a cosy place for her in his bike basket.

He named the kitten Nala, after a character in one of his favourite movies. He got her checked by a vet to make sure she was healthy. It turned out that she was fine; she just needed more food. Soon, Dean

and Nala developed a strong bond. During the day, she would usually ride in the basket with her head sticking out.³ Wherever they went, they got a lot of curious looks.

A few weeks later, they were caught in a heavy rainstorm and got absolutely soaked.⁴ Dean took her back to the vet, who gave her some medicine, and they stayed in a hostel for a few weeks so she could recover.

From then on, it was all about Nala. Dean bought a more suitable basket for her, which was waterproof and had a little window.⁵ This was a great success and meant that they were able to visit Greece together. Nala even has her own passport.

Even now, Dean and Nala are still visiting new countries. Along the way, Dean has also helped other animals who didn't have owners. One of these was a puppy called Balou.⁶ Instead, a family in London adopted him. As well as this, Dean has also found homes in Germany for two kittens that he discovered in Greece.

- A If the road was particularly bad, however, she would jump on his shoulders where it was more comfortable.
- B He also set up a website where people could donate money to help him and Nala to carry on travelling.
- C Or so he thought: what happened next took him entirely by surprise.
- D He did not travel with them on the bike for very long, however.
- E He couldn't remember the last time he had felt so confident or so happy.
- F Nala developed a nasty chest infection so they interrupted their trip.
- G With so much road to cover still, it certainly would delay his plans considerably.

Part 4

Read the article about a new form of technology. For each question (1–4), choose the correct answer (A, B or C).

Get ready for emotion AI

Anthony Ward discusses a new technology

Artificial intelligence, or AI, is currently used in a range of fields, from agriculture to entertainment. Despite its tremendous capacity to make calculations and even teach itself, it has always proved ineffective when dealing with human emotions. AI has a powerful brain, but no heart. Until now, that is. In the near future, tech companies will be incorporating into their devices software called 'emotion AI', capable of reading our expressions and comparing them to a database of basic emotions in order to understand our mood.

This technology has many possible uses, but there seems to be an obvious market in advertising. Your personal devices will identify how you react to commercials and new products, which companies claim would allow them to display more relevant content. However, added to your browsing history, which companies already make extensive use of, this extra layer of information would give businesses a worrying amount of access to your likes and dislikes.

However, if you consider that we spend more time looking at our phones than at our mothers, partners or any other person, it makes sense that we would benefit from them understanding us better. They could, for instance, identify signs of stress or tiredness and advise us accordingly. As hard as it may be to argue against your phone taking care of you, there is a danger that tech companies will use this information for other less desirable uses.

There is indeed a much darker side to this technology. Emotion AI has the potential to increase the degree of monitoring we already experience on a daily basis. For instance, social media sites already have the **means** to recognize our faces in photos – do we really want them to know how we're feeling, too?

It seems a matter of time before emotion AI is present in other areas of our lives, whether we like it or not. As with other technological breakthroughs, there will be advantages and disadvantages. One thing is for sure, there needs to be a thorough debate in society about how it will be regulated.

- 1 What will emotion AI be able to do in the near future?
 - A record feelings using new technology
 - B assess feelings by analysing faces
 - C react to feelings in an appropriate way
- 2 How will emotion AI affect advertising?
 - A Businesses will be able to measure more accurately the effects of advertisements.
 - B Businesses will start to gain an understanding of your shopping preferences.
 - C Businesses will be able to access data stored on your computer for the first time.
- 3 In the fourth paragraph, what is the meaning of 'means'?
 - A methods
 - B finances
 - C averages
- 4 What is the writer's attitude towards emotion AI?
 - A He is reluctant to accept that it will become a reality.
 - B He is unwilling to consider any positive side to it.
 - C He is cautious due to the risk of people misusing it.

Writing

Part 1

You have 20 minutes to write an email. Write 80–130 words.

You recently went on a school trip with your English class. First read the email about the school trip. Then write an email to Mrs Townsend, including the three notes you have made.

FROM: Mrs Townsend
SUBJECT: School trip

Dear Student,

I am very happy you could join the school trip last weekend.

I am writing to ask your opinion about the trip.

I think ...

I am already planning the next one, possibly on Sunday 20th October. Are you able to come on a trip that day?

No, because ...

I am looking for ideas on where to go for our next trip. Do you have any suggestions?

What about ...

Best wishes,

Mrs Townsend
School Secretary

Part 2

For Writing Part 2, choose one question, the essay **OR** the review.

Part 2 Essay

You have 25 minutes to write an essay. Write 100–160 words.

You have had a class discussion on education. Your teacher now wants you to write an essay.

The title of the essay is:

Some people believe that students should learn life skills such as cooking and dealing with money at school. Do you agree?

Write your **essay**.

Part 2 Review

You have 25 minutes to write a review. Write 100–160 words.

You have seen the following advert in an online magazine for English language students.

Write a review for the magazine.

Reviews wanted

A great shopping experience

Have you been to an interesting shop recently? What was special about it?

Write a review of the shop and your experience there. We will publish the best reviews in the next issue of *All English!*

Write your **review**.

Great Clarendon Street, Oxford, OX2 6DP, United Kingdom

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