



English Placement Test Study Guide

Overview The English Placement Test (EPT) evaluates language proficiency to place students in an appropriate English course. The test focuses on five areas: Listening, Vocabulary, Reading, Writing, and Speaking. The duration is 115 minutes.

Score Descriptor Rubric

CEFR Level	Total Test Score	Eligibility/Course Code	Descriptor
(A1-A2)	0 - 31	Not eligible	No rateable language unless memorized/ Very limited resource/ Little communication possible
(A2/B1)	32 - 48	ENGL 088	Limited ability; struggles with basic tasks; frequent errors.
(B1)	49 - 64	ENGL 098	Capable of basic communication with regular errors; systematic errors may hinder or detract communicative effect.
(B1/B2)	65 - 80	ENGL 099	Usually able to handle more complex language; occasional and/or systematic errors persist in unfamiliar contexts.
(C1)	81 - 100	ENGL 100	Handles complex language fairly well; however, occasional misunderstandings and/or inconsistencies persist in unfamiliar situations.



Test Structure

1. **Listening** (25 minutes)
2. **Vocabulary** (20 minutes)
3. **Reading** (30 minutes)
4. **Writing** (30 minutes)
5. **Speaking** (10 minutes)

Please see below sample questions and resources for all five sections on the exam.

Part I: Listening

What to Expect:

- Listen to passages and respond to comprehension questions.
- Skills: Understanding main ideas, details, and synthesizing information.

Example Question Types:

1. Multiple Choice:

- What is the main purpose of the lecture?
 - a) To discuss climate change solutions
 - b) To explain the water cycle
 - c) To analyze economic growth trends
 - d) To critique social media's impact
- What does the speaker suggest about renewable energy?
 - a) It is too expensive
 - b) It is unreliable
 - c) It is sustainable
 - d) It is outdated
- According to the lecture, what is a major benefit of public transportation?
 - a) Reduced carbon emissions
 - b) Faster commute times
 - c) Higher costs
 - d) Greater privacy

2. Gap Fill:

- Listen and complete the sentences:
 - The speaker stated that the global population is expected to reach _____ billion by 2050.
 - Renewable energy sources, such as solar and _____, are becoming increasingly popular.
 - One challenge with electric vehicles is the limited availability of charging _____.

3. Short Answer:

- What are the key advantages of urban gardening?
- Name two methods to reduce water consumption in households.
- What is the speaker's main recommendation for tackling air pollution?

• Study Resources:

- [Randall's ESL Cyber Listening Lab](#)
- [BBC Learning English](#)
- [ESL Fast Listening Exercises](#)

Part II: Vocabulary

What to Expect:

- Questions involve fill-in-the-blank, matching, and sentence completion.
- Skills: Recognizing word meanings, forms, and usage in context.

Example Question Types:

• Fill-in-the-Blank:

- The rise of e-commerce has _____ traditional retail practices.
(a) disrupted (b) disrupt (c) disruption (d) disrupting
- The committee decided to _____ the budget proposal.
(a) approve (b) approving (c) approved (d) approves



- She is highly _____ in her field of expertise.
(a) regarded (b) regarding (c) regard (d) regards
- **Matching:**
 - Match the words to their meanings:

▪ Sustainable	a) Able to maintain over time
▪ Resilient	b) Able to recover quickly
▪ Innovate	c) Introduce something new
 - Match the terms to their contexts:

▪ Subsidy	a) Government financial aid
▪ Legislation	b) Enacted law
▪ Infrastructure	c) Fundamental systems
- **Sentence Completion:**
 - The _____ between the two political leaders was evident during the debate.
(a) tension (b) harmony (c) cooperation
 - She worked _____ to finish the project before the deadline.
(a) diligently (b) reluctantly (c) lazily
 - The report _____ that air quality has improved in urban areas.
(a) concluded (b) concludes (c) concluding
- **Study Resources:**
 - [Academic Word List](#)
 - [EngVid Vocabulary Lessons](#)

Part III: Reading

What to Expect:

- Analyze and interpret passages, focusing on main ideas, details, and inferred meanings.

Example Question Types:

- **True/False/Not Given:**
 - "The financial crisis of 2008 was caused solely by subprime mortgages."
 - "Renewable energy sources are more expensive than fossil fuels."
 - "The UK has the highest rate of recycling in Europe."
- **Matching Headings:**
 - Match these headings to the correct paragraph:
 - Causes of Climate Change
 - Solutions for Food Insecurity
 - The Impact of Deforestation
 - Match these to the appropriate sections:
 - Economic Recession Indicators
 - Benefits of Urbanization
 - Challenges in Global Trade
- **Comprehension Questions:**
 - What is the main argument in paragraph 3?
 - Identify two examples of how technology has changed education.
 - How does the author explain the concept of "shared economy"?
- **Study Resources:**
 - [Breaking News English](#)
 - [BBC Learning English](#)



Part IV: Writing

What to Expect:

- Write essays in response to prompts, focusing on clarity, grammar, and organization.

Example Prompts:

- **Agree or Disagree:**
 - "Technology has made people more productive at work."
 - "Schools should focus solely on academics, leaving practical skills to be taught at home."
 - "Social media brings more harm than good."
- **Discuss Both Views:**
 - "Some believe history is essential in school curricula, while others think science is more important. Discuss both views and give your opinion."
 - "Some people think art is unnecessary in education, while others believe it enhances creativity. Discuss both views."
 - "Online shopping is replacing traditional retail. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages."
- **Problem-Solution:**
 - "Visitor numbers at art galleries have been declining. What are the possible reasons, and how can this be addressed?"
 - "Plastic pollution is a growing problem. What steps can individuals and governments take to reduce it?"
 - "Traffic congestion is a major issue in urban areas. What are the causes, and how can it be solved?"
- **Study Resources:**
 - [Purdue Online Writing Lab](#)
 - [EngVid Essay Tips](#)



Part V: Speaking

What to Expect:

- Personal response and descriptive tasks evaluated for fluency, pronunciation, and grammar.

Example Questions:

- **Personal Response:**
 - Describe your favorite book or movie and why it is special to you.
 - Talk about a time you faced a challenge and how you overcame it.
 - Share your opinion on whether public transportation should be free.
- **Describe a Situation:**
 - Describe an invention that has changed the world.
 - Talk about a memorable vacation and what made it special.
 - Describe an old person you admire and why.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 - "Do advertisements influence people's buying decisions?"
 - "Is advertising necessary in modern society?"
 - "What are the advantages of living in a city compared to a rural area?"
- **Study Resources:**
 - [British Council Speaking Activities](#)
 - [YouTube Speaking Tips](#)

By familiarizing yourself with the test structure and practicing with the recommended resources, you can enhance your proficiency and confidence. Good luck!