

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, or on your own at home.

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. The **Keys** tell you which answers are correct and why, and explains why other answers are wrong.



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, e.g.  1. If you are working on your own, you will need to be able to access the downloadable audio files.
- 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. The **Keys** contain answers to the exercises, plus **sample answers**. 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.
- Answers to all items are in the **Keys**.

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, **Useful language** and **Keys**.
- There is further work based on mistakes frequently made by *Cambridge English: First* candidates as shown by the **Cambridge Learner Corpus**.
- There is also an emphasis on revision, with cross-references for each task type to the relevant **Task information** and **Action plan** in Test 1. You should refer back to these before you begin working through each part.
- Test 2 **Writing** covers Part 1 (essay) plus the report, letter and article tasks in Part 2, along with **sample answers** for some of the tasks.
- 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.
- You can check your answers for yourself, and also study the Listening audioscripts after you have completed the tasks.

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).
- For Tests 1 and 2, the **Keys** tells you which answers are correct, and why. In some cases, it also explains why the other options are wrong. The answers to Tests 3–6 are also provided.
- **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 from 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.