

# English Language Proficiency Test: Course 1, Level 2

## Variants 1 and 2

### Introduction

#### Discover Your Language Proficiency Level!

**Subtitle:** English Language Testing

This variant includes three sections: Listening, Reading, and Writing.

**The purpose of this test** is to determine your level of English proficiency according to the international scale. You will be presented with **several** tasks.

The difficulty level of each subsequent task will depend on the number of correct answers in the previous task.

You will have **80 minutes** to complete the entire test.

Once you start the test, the timer will begin.

If the time runs out, the test will be **automatically completed** without providing results!

Upon completion of the test, you will immediately learn your language proficiency level.

**Good luck!**

### Variant 1: Course 1, Level 2, Variant 1

#### Listening. Task 1. MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

**Level:** B1

**Exercise:** Listen to the talk about the Museum of the History of Science in Oxford. Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS OR A FIGURE** for each answer.

1. The building of the museum of the History of Science was built in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The building originally contained a \_\_\_\_\_ in the basement, and lecture space for Experimental Natural Philosophy, what we today might call \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The showcases on either side of the exit contain the kind of things that we used in this room in \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The museum of the History of Science opened in \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The museum is particularly famous for its collection of early \_\_\_\_\_.
6. In the four corners of the entrance gallery, there are four of the museum's important \_\_\_\_\_.

**Keys:**

1. 1683
2. chemical laboratory
3. science
4. the 18th century / the eighteenth century / 18th century
5. 1926
6. scientific instruments
7. individual collections

#### Listening. Task 2.

**Level:** B1

**Exercise:** Listen to the podcast about wolves in Yellowstone National Park. Mark statements 1-6 as TRUE or FALSE.

1. The Government decided to get rid of wolves in 1926. \_\_\_\_\_
2. In the past, the population of wolves disappeared not only in Yellowstone National Park. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The main function of wolves in the ecosystem was to keep the population of elk at a certain level. \_\_\_\_\_
4. One species of trees was completely destroyed by wolves. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The reappearance of wolves in the National Park restored the balance only partly. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Other elements of the Yellowstone ecosystem now need to be restored too. \_\_\_\_\_

**Keys:**

1. FALSE
2. TRUE
3. FALSE
4. FALSE
5. TRUE
6. TRUE

**Reading. Task 1. The Coconut Tree**

**Level:** B1

**Exercise:** For questions 1–8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

The coconut tree is thought to be one of the most valuable trees in the world. It is mostly found by the sea where there is a hot and wet (1). The coconuts often fall into the sea and float on the water until they (2). another beach, where more trees then begin to grow. Holiday makers often see the coconut tree as no more than an attractive sun umbrella that provides (3). However, this amazing tree has hundreds of (4). and more are still being discovered. People have made houses, boats and baskets from the coconut tree's wood and leaves for centuries. Even today, if you take a (5). in your cupboards, you will find coconut oil in products as (6). as medicine and desserts.

1. A) temperature B) condition C) climate D) weather
2. A) reach B) go C) travel D) arrive
3. A) cloud B) shade C) dark D) cold
4. A) uses B) jobs C) roles D) things
5. A) scene B) sight C) look D) view
6. A) opposite B) separate C) strange D) different

**Keys:**

1. climate
2. reach
3. shade
4. uses
5. look
6. different

## Reading. Task 2. TIME MANAGEMENT

**Level:** B1

**Exercise:** Use the words given in CAPITALS to form a word that fits into the gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Are you a good (0) of your own time? If you realize (1) you have problems with that, you should understand why you're always late. This will help you to work (2) to find a (3) to this problem. When someone is always late by the same amount of time, like five minutes, it is a (4) example of a psychological barrier. But if you're late by (5) amounts of time, you have a technical problem. You may have a (6) understanding how long it can take you to get from the point of (7) to your destination. And don't get back home if you forgot something of (8)! Being on time is your priority.

- 0 MANAGE: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1. CLEAR: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. ACTIVE: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. SOLVE: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. TYPE: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. DIFFERENCE: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. DIFFICULT: \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. DEPART: \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. IMPORTANT: \_\_\_\_\_

**Keys:**

- 0 manager
- 1. clearly
- 2. actively
- 3. solution
- 4. typical
- 5. different
- 6. difficulty
- 7. departure
- 8. importance

## Reading. Task 3. Karaoke

**Level:** B1

**Exercise:** Read the text. Use the sentences to complete the text. Choose the correct sentence for each gap. There is one extra sentence you will not need.

There are many different types of popular entertainment. The most successful of these are usually very simple. (1). Karaoke is a Japanese word which translates as 'empty orchestra.' The idea is that the music of a song is played without the words. (2). The result may not always be of great musical quality. It is, however, usually great fun. (3). It has been around for as long as people have made music. Karaoke has basically developed a tradition which already existed. (4). In a word – technology. Karaoke records both music and words and lets people put them together. We don't usually know who first had the idea for any type of popular entertainment. These things seem to develop by themselves. (5). In fact, it is generally accepted that the idea for Karaoke as we know it today belongs to someone named Daisuke Inoue. Unfortunately, he never registered the name officially and missed the chance to make a lot of money. He did win an award for 'a

new way for people to tolerate each other.' (6).

**Sentences:**

- A The idea of singing along to background music is not new
- B With Karaoke, however, this is not the case
- C What it has done is to use something which did not exist in earlier times
- D Nobody knows how Karaoke became so popular
- E People read these from a screen and sing along to the music
- F If Karaoke has done this, it is truly priceless
- G Karaoke is a perfect example of this type of success story

**Keys:**

- 1. G
- 2. E
- 3. A<sup>1</sup>
- 4. C
- 5. B
- 6. F

**Reading. Task 4. Terry Gelder the kitchen man**

**Level:** B1

**Exercise:** Read the text. For each question, choose the correct answer.

Terry Gelder is a kitchen fitter - he installs kitchens in people's homes. After leaving school, he got an apprenticeship in a house-building company owned by his uncle. He also got a college diploma in kitchen installation. Terry knew there was always a lot of work in this and decided to start his own small business. His uncle advised him on this, and also contracted work to him. Terry did well as a self-employed fitter. He took a laptop with him to show equipment to his customers. They were always very pleased and wrote good references for him. With these he was able to get well-paid work from insurance companies. This was to fit new kitchens after house floods or fires.

Terry has to be good at solving problems and making things that fit into the spaces in a kitchen exactly. He has to draw plans and measure things correctly. If he's installing a whole kitchen, he needs really good creative design skills. He also needs good communication skills, because any mistake could be expensive for him.

The regulations for kitchen installation often change from year to year, which is annoying for him. For example, he now has to pay a special electrician to come in and do the electrical work. Until recently, this special electrician could simply look at Terry's electrical work and give him a certificate of quality.

Terry's work can be hard, with lots of heavy lifting of washing machines, fridges and dishwashers. Working in people's houses isn't always easy as sometimes people want to chat to him all day. Also, Terry has to be very careful when he's putting in new equipment. He could easily break water pipes and electricity cables hidden behind walls. But despite all this, Terry loves his job!

- 1. What do we learn about Terry's uncle?
  - A He offered to employ Terry full-time.
  - B He owned a kitchen business.
  - C He helped Terry in various ways.

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<sup>1</sup>Note: The JSON key "d" is incorrect; the correct answer is A, as "d" does not fit the context.

2. How did Terry manage to get some very well-paid work?
  - A through fitting kitchens in certain workplaces
  - B through his customers recommending him
  - C through a website he set up
3. In the third paragraph, we are told that Terry has to be good at
  - A working to deadlines.
  - B paying attention to detail.
  - C negotiating prices and discounts.
4. What does Terry dislike about the regulations for installing kitchens?
  - A trying to understand them
  - B having to keep up to date with them
  - C the fact that they always involve more work for him
5. What problem does Terry have in his job?
  - A damaging things he can't see
  - B not having enough space to work in
  - C customers who aren't clear what they want

**Keys:**

1. C Hi everyone! Well, I'm heading off to study abroad soon! I've already started thinking about what I'll miss most from home. From Naberezhnye Chelny, it's definitely our embankment – my favourite place where I spent so much time watching sunsets. I'll also really miss just being able to speak my mother tongue – Russian, fluently, without pausing to translate in my head! And also the traditional holidays of Tatarstan. Especially День города (City Day) and Sabantuy! Remember how great and fun it was? All those contests, like climbing the pole or the flower installations, the evening concerts, and of course, the fireworks! Most importantly, I'll miss how we spent those holidays all day long together, with friends. I'll really miss that shared atmosphere and those moments!
2. B
3. B
4. B
5. A

**Writing**

**Exercise:** You are going to study at the university in another country. Write a blog for your chat about things you think you would miss the most. You can write about:

- a place in your home town
- your mother tongue
- a tradition of your country.

Write about 100 words.

**Note:** You must finish Writing and click the “Continue” button before the timer runs out; otherwise, the result will not be counted.

**Keys:** [No specific keys provided for writing task as it is open-ended.]

**Variant 2: Course 1, Level 2, Variant 2**

**Listening. Task 1.**

**Level:** B1

**Exercise:** You will hear a talk about the biography of William Shakespeare. Complete the information. Use no more than **TWO** words.

1. There are at least \_\_\_\_\_ buildings in Stratford connected with the life of William Shakespeare.

2. His father took part in the work of the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The last known date in Shakespeare's biography before 1592 was \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Nothing is known about his life during the period called \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Wallace found documents about the legal case in which Shakespeare was a \_\_\_\_\_.
6. All new \_\_\_\_\_ of Shakespeare do not add a lot to what is already known about his life.

**Keys:**

1. 2 / two
2. city government
3. 1585
4. lost years
5. participant
6. mentions

**Listening. Task 2. WHY DO PEOPLE GOSSIP?**

**Level:** B1

**Exercise:** You will hear a talk about why people love gossiping. Mark statements 1-6 as TRUE or FALSE.

**Glossary:** gossip – сплетничать, сплетня

1. Gossiping is fine if nothing negative is said about other people. \_\_\_\_\_
2. In business, gossiping about competitors can be a team-building activity. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Sharing true information is not a form of gossip. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Gossip is always a bad thing. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The most popular reason why people gossip is to harm somebody. \_\_\_\_\_
6. People gossip at work for the same reason as with friends. \_\_\_\_\_

**Keys:**

1. TRUE
2. FALSE
3. FALSE
4. FALSE
5. FALSE
6. TRUE

**Reading. Task 1.**

**Level:** B1

**Exercise:** For questions 1–8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

(0) first aeroplane that would fly (1) perfect control of the operator was built by the Wright brothers at Dayton, Ohio. When they were boys, Bishop Wright gave his two sons, Orville and Wilbur, (2) toy flyer. From that time (3), the thought of flying through the air was in their minds. A few years later the death of Otto Lilienthal, who was killed by a fall with his glider in Germany, stirred (4), and they took up the problem in earnest. They read all (5) writings of Lilienthal and became acquainted with Mr. Octave Chanute, an engineer of Chicago (6) had made a successful glider. They soon built a glider of (7) own, and experimented with it each summer on the huge

sand-dunes of the North Carolina coast. A glider is an aeroplane (8) a propeller. With it one can cast off into the air from a great height and sail slowly (9) the ground. (10) attempting to use a motor and propeller, the Wrights learned to control the glider perfectly.

- 0 A) the
- 1. A) at B) under C) in D) with
- 2. A) the B) — C) an D) a
- 3. A) on B) off C) away D) too
- 4. A) it B) him C) them D) this
- 5. A) — B) the C) such D) these
- 6. A) that B) which C) whose D) who
- 7. A) their B) them C) his D) they
- 8. A) without B) with no C) with any D) without any
- 9. A) on B) from C) to D) over
- 10. A) when B) before C) while D) as

**Keys:**

- 0 the
- 1. under
- 2. a
- 3. on
- 4. them
- 5. the
- 6. who
- 7. their
- 8. without
- 9. to
- 10. before

**Reading. Task 2. THE MAN OF GREAT TALENT**

**Level:** B1

**Exercise:** For questions 1–8 read the text below. Use the word given in CAPITALS to form a word that fits in the space.

Everyone knows the name of Leonardo da Vinci. He was a wonderful (0), sculptor, architect and engineer. Being a man of an (1) talent, (2) of character and marvelous mind, he was interested in everything. He showed his (3) as a civil and military engineer and as a great inventor. It is a well-known fact that he was sometimes employed as a (4) too. He made plans for Milan, finishing its (5) cathedral and organizing theatres. There, in 1497, he finished his painting “The Last Supper”, which is one of his best-known pictures. Having a (6) mind, he showed a great interest in everything. In one of his notebooks, he wrote the following words: “A (7) desire of people is to learn”. His (8) are as impressive as his great paintings.

- 0 PAINT: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1. USUAL: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. STRONG: \_\_\_\_\_

3. ABLE: \_\_\_\_\_
4. MUSIC: \_\_\_\_\_
5. FAME: \_\_\_\_\_
6. CURIOSITY: \_\_\_\_\_
7. NATURE: \_\_\_\_\_
8. INVENT: \_\_\_\_\_

**Keys:**

- 0 painter
1. unusual
2. strength
3. ability
4. musician
5. famous
6. curious
7. natural
8. inventions

**Reading. Task 3. AUSTRALIA**

**Level:** B1

**Exercise:** Read the text. Use the sentences A-G to complete the text. Choose the correct sentence for each gap. There are two extra sentences you will not need.

**Glossary:** marsupials – сумчатые, platypus – утконос

It is widely known that Australia is home to many unique creatures: the wombat, kangaroo, platypus, koala bear and echidna are just some of them. Nowhere else in the world can one come across animals that get their babies to pouches or, being mammals, lay eggs like birds. (1) Why is this continent so unique?

In the distant past, Africa, South America, Australia, Antarctica and parts of today's Eurasia made one huge continent. In science, it is called Gondwana. (2) One of them included modern Antarctica and Australia. Later, around 30 million years ago, what is now Australia moved North from Antarctica and it became completely separated from all other continents. During big climate changes, animals in the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa were able to migrate, while Australian species developed in isolation. (3) Let's have a look at marsupials. When a kangaroo is born, it is as small as a fingernail. The pregnancy period for this species is much shorter than for other mammals and they can keep their small ones safe in their pouches until they are ready for independent life. Mother kangaroos can have a baby who has just left the pouch, a small one in the pouch and be pregnant at the same time. (4) Platypus and echidnas are the exception to all rules: their small ones hatch from eggs but are fed with milk by their mothers.

Australian flora is also interesting, as the continent is home to 10% of all plants in the world, all of them unique to it. (5) After World War II, Australian scientists carried out massive research on the local flora to identify their chemical composition and potential use in medicine. (6) As well as Australia's fauna, its flora is also a priceless source for a deeper understanding of evolution.

**Sentences:**

- A Australia has more diverse flora than all European countries taken together.
- B This early separation from the rest of the world helped them to preserve their unique features.
- C Both parts of the mega-continent developed completely independently
- D Out of about 3,000 species living in Australia, 90% can be seen only there or on nearby islands.



- E This is a unique survival mechanism of this species. When a kangaroo is born, it is as small as a fingernail.
- F They discovered that many local plants have combinations of elements that are not present anywhere else in the world.
- G About 180 million years ago it split – first into two parts.

**Keys:**

- 1. D
- 2. G
- 3. B
- 4. E
- 5. A
- 6. F

**Reading. Task 4. WHY DO PEOPLE HAVE CURIOSITY?**

**Level:** B1

**Exercise:** Read the text. For each question, choose the correct answer.

Why do humans have curiosity? Our desire to know and understand is the driving force behind our development as individuals and even our success as a species. Curiosity helps us learn as babies and survive as adults. William James, one of the first modern psychologists, called it "the impulse towards better cognition." We are not the only species that has this quality. Ivan Pavlov observed that dogs get curious when they see or smell something new because they have the "what-is-it?" reflex. Other mammals also share this feature. It is not simply for survival. Curiosity makes them focus on something new that comes into their environment. Exploration and curiosity are undoubtedly important components of bird behaviour. Even crabs and tiny nematode worms demonstrate something similar to it.

Most living creatures practice so-called 'information seeking'. It means looking for information on what is around them. Sensory organs supply this information to the brain. The brain, in turn, helps one understand one's environment and make better choices. To the human brain, new information is like delicious food. A recent study at the University of Reading found an interesting detail. Participants of the experiment were asked to try and understand how a magic trick worked. When people were trying to find out the answer, a certain area of their brains demonstrated the highest activity. It is amazing that this was the same area that is responsible for reacting to hunger. In other words, wanting food and wanting to learn something new create similar brain reactions and activities.

Most probably, curiosity helped our early human ancestors to survive. They had to get food by gathering and hunting and, at the same time, avoid being killed by stronger animals. So, they had to explore everything around them carefully and attentively. Curiosity about the environment helped them to stay alive. How did they learn which plants and berries were fine to eat? How did they learn to use fire? Our most curious ancestors had an advantage over those who weren't curious. They survived, reproduced and provided us with curiosity. So, it will not be an exaggeration to say that curiosity has been the key not only to human progress but also to our very survival.

- 1. People need curiosity because:
  - A It is impossible to be successful without it
  - B They are born with it.
  - C They are a part of the animal world
- 2. Curiosity helps animals to:
  - A Explore something that is new for them

- B Understand what is around them
- C Survive in their environment
- 3. 'Information seeking' is done by:
  - A Eyes
  - B All sensory organs
  - C Our brain
- 4. When some people tried to understand a trick
  - A They used the same part of the brain that is active when people want to eat
  - B Their whole brain was very active
  - C They felt hungry.
- 5. In the past curiosity
  - A Helped people to find plants they could eat
  - B Was necessary during hunting
  - C Saved people's lives

**Keys:**

- 1. A
- 2. B
- 3. C
- 4. A
- 5. C

**Writing**

**Exercise:** Write a blog about 3 things that you think make your university special. Write about 100 words.

**Note:** You must finish Writing and click the "Continue" button before the timer runs out; otherwise, the result will not be counted.

**Keys:** [No specific keys provided for writing task as it is open-ended.]

Hi all! Checking in today to share what I think makes my university, MIPT, special.

First, it's the **community**. MIPT gathers incredibly talented people from our big country and even from abroad. We learn so much from each other through discussions, complex projects, and research. The student council also organises cool events like Phystech Days to help us relax from intense studying.

**Another key aspect is** the **teachers**. They are truly passionate about their subjects, and their goal is to give us a deep understanding, teach us their way of thinking, and show us how to come up with solutions so we can dig deeper and tackle more complex tasks.

**And last but not least**, it's the **facilities**. Our labs are equipped with top-tier equipment, making it exciting to conduct research of varying complexity.

These three things – the community, the passionate teachers, and the excellent facilities – are what really make MIPT stand out for me!