Unit 3: Studying English and taking exams

* To take an exam = passer un examen vs. to pass an exam = réussir un examen

**A ‣ How are they getting on?\* (> to get on with someone = bien s’entendre avec qlq)**

This is what Nastya, an English teacher, thinks about some of her students.

Afbeelding met persoon, kleding, Menselijk gezicht, brief

Automatisch gegenereerde beschrijving

“Jade has a **wide vocabulary** (= large >< narrow = étroit) [knows a lot of words] and speaks very **accurately (sans fautes > accurate = précis)** [without mistakes], but she needs to practise her speaking more in order to become more **fluent (= fluide)**[able to speak naturally without stopping].”

“Angel is quite fluent, but his **accent**[the way he pronounces words] is not very good. In particular, he has problems with certain **consonants = (consonnes)**[letters of the **alphabet**(a–z), which are not the **vowels = (voyelles)**a,e,i,o,u]. ”

“Jose has no problem **making himself understood** = (se faire comprendre) [saying things in a way people understand], but he needs to **increase = (argumenté)**his vocabulary [make it bigger], because at the moment it’s quite **basic**[elementary; *syn***simple**]. ”

“Olga is always **willing to** = (bien vouloir) [happy and ready to] **experiment = (to try)**with language [try something new to see what it is like]. For that reason she sometimes **gets things wrong = (se tromper)**[makes mistakes], but she learns from her mistakes and she’s making a lot of progress. ”

“Andreas is a fantastic language learner. He **picks**things **up =(apprendre vite)**[learns things without trying] very quickly, and he **has a good ear for language** = (facilité en langues) [is good at hearing, repeating and understanding sounds and words]. ”

\*What progress are they making?

Common mistakes

We use adjectives with nouns, and adverbs with verbs.

He’s a **fluent**speaker. (NOT He’s a ~~fluently~~ speaker.) She speaks **accurately**. (NOT She speaks ~~accurate~~.)

I need to speak English **well**. (NOT I need to speak English ~~good~~.)

**B ‣ Examinations**

Language help

You can **take**or **do**an exam (NOT ~~make~~ an exam). If you are successful and do well, you **pass**; if you are not successful and do badly, you **fail=(rater)**. Before taking an exam, you **revise for** the exam = (reviser pour). [study /prepare for the exam] Sometimes you can also **retake = (second session)**an exam. [do it again]

“My students are **taking**the Cambridge English: First **exam**in June, and for some of them it will be **hard work**1. I think Angel might fail, but he’s **doing his best**2, so with a bit of luck he might pass. I expect most of the others to pass. Andreas is a strong **candidate**3 (un étudiant ou un participant), and I’m sure he’ll get a good **grade = (abc ou une cote)**(*syn***mark**). I think Jade and Olga will also **do well**.

At the moment I’m trying to **get through**4 = (passer en revue) the course book so that we can do some **revision**5. I think the most important thing is to do some **exam preparation**6. Today I want the students to **do/write an essay**7 = (dissertation). Most of them still find it difficult to write accurately, so I need to **work on** that with them.”

1work that requires a lot of effort  
2making as much effort as he can; *syn***trying his best**  
3someone who is taking an exam  
4finish  
5revise for the exam  
6getting ready for the exam  
7a short piece of writing about a particular subject

**VOCABULARY**

* accent
* accurate(ly)
* alphabet
* basic
* candidate
* consonant
* do well
* do your best
* do/write an essay
* fail (an exam) v
* fluent
* get sth wrong
* get through sth [finish]
* grade
* hard work
* have a good ear for language
* increase n
* make yourself understood
* mark [grade]
* pass an exam
* pick sth up [learn]
* preparation
* retake sth
* revise
* revision
* simple
* take/do an exam
* try/do your best
* vowel
* wide vocabulary
* willing
* work on sth

**Exercises**

#### 33.1 ‣ Choose the correct word to complete the sentences. Sometimes both are correct.

1. We made / got something wrong in the first question. 
2. I had to do / write an essay. 
3. My sister picks up / out languages very quickly. 
4. I will have to revise for / revise my exam next week. 
5. The students always do / make their best. 
6. Tomas wants to do / take the exam in June. 
7. Karin failed / lost the exam, but she can retake it next year. 

#### 33.2 ‣ Complete the sentences.The first letter has been given to help you.

1. There are twenty-six letters in the  .
2. A+ is the highest  you can get.
3. There are over 100  taking the exam.
4. We had to write an  for homework in not more than 200 words.
5. I need to  on my grammar; it’s not very good.
6. I need to  my vocabulary; it’s still very .
7. A and E are ; B, C and D are .
8. Studying for my exam is  , but it will be worth the effort.
9. Our teacher was always  to help us with our exam preparation.

#### 33.3 ‣ Rewrite the sentences on the left starting with the words given. Keep a similar meaning.

1. Can you retake the exam?  
   Can you redo the exam ?
2. They will need to revise for the exam.  
   Study
3. I will work as hard as I can.  
   Work hard
4. We need to prepare for the exam.  
   Revise
5. I make mistakes.  
   Get thing wrong
6. I can listen and repeat things accurately.  
   Make myself understood

33.4 ‣ Complete the dialogues.

1. A: Do you think Natasha will do well?  
   B: Yes, I’m sure she’ll  the exam.
2. A: Is her pronunciation good?  
   B: No, she has quite a strong .
3. A: Can Elke speak naturally without stopping?  
   B: Yes, she’s quite .
4. A: And does she make many mistakes?  
   B: No, she’s quite  when she speaks.
5. A: Does Victor know a lot of English?  
   B: No, but he can make himself .
6. A: Will you finish the book?  
   B: Yeah, we should get  it.
7. A: Did Amy do  in her exam?  
   B: Yes, she got 80%.