



The English Certification Test may be used to evaluate:

- English Proficiency Level
- Academic Skills
- College Entrance
- Course Progress
- Hiring
- Promotions

Developed at  
Brigham  
Young University



The best way to certify you can speak  
English





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## What is the purpose of the Test?

The purpose of the English Certification Test (ECT) is to assess your English language abilities. It is given on a computer and tests speaking, listening, reading, and writing. It may be helpful when seeking employment or entrance to a college in the United States.

### ***Reading***

You will read a passage and answer two to four multiple-choice questions about what you read. All reading tasks have a time limit.

### ***Listening***

You will listen to a short passage or dialog. Then you will answer three or four multiple-choice questions about what you have heard. There is no time limit, but you may only listen twice.

### ***Speaking***

You will respond in English to a question or situation. Use your headset microphone to record your response. You will have one time limit to prepare your response and another to record it.

### ***Writing***

In English, you will type a response to a question, topic, or situation. You must type your answer. All writing tasks have a time limit.





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## What does the test look like?

The tasks for the four skill areas — speaking, listening, reading and writing — are connected by a storyline that uses real-life situations. The skills' tasks are distributed throughout the test.

## How is the test scored?

The multiple-choice questions for listening and reading are scored by computer. The speaking and writing responses are scored by two trained raters. Test results are usually available within eight weeks after the test.

## What if I don't have much computer experience?

The test begins with a tutorial that is designed to familiarize you with the test's tasks. If you do not have computer experience, you may practice using the mouse at the beginning of the tutorial.

There are three levels of the test.

An examinee may choose which level to take.





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## 1

The Level 1 test is designed for high-beginning ESL learners who can understand and use basic, common vocabulary and simple language structures. They can communicate about familiar and personal topics in simple social situations.

The following language tasks will be assessed on the Level 1 test:

- Introducing self and others
- Describing self and others
- Describing a location
- Discussing routine activities
- Giving directions
- Ordering fast food



## 2

The Level 2 test is designed for ESL learners who can communicate effectively in a variety of social situations. They are able to describe objects, people and places using common vocabulary and can give a few details. The examinees can also communicate about the future and express personal preferences on a variety of topics.

The following language tasks will be assessed on the Level 2 test:

- Making an appointment
- Making purchases
- Discussing personal preferences and future goals and plans
- Describing the climate and atmosphere of a place
- Describing familiar sites
- Giving directions
- Taking phone messages
- Visiting the doctor



## 3

The Level 3 test is designed for ESL learners who can use language for a variety of communicative functions such as expressing an opinion, persuasion, making a complaint, or giving an excuse. They can use and understand details and can read about or listen to long passages on familiar topics. The examinee also communicates effectively in all time references (past, present, and future) and can handle difficult social situations.

The following language tasks will be assessed on the Level 3 test:

- Narration (telling a story)
- Comparison and contrast
- Complaint and persuasion
- Making excuses
- Giving an opinion
- Reporting on a familiar topic





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### **Could you give me some test taking hints?**

Speak loudly and clearly in your speaking tasks.

Speak about the topic given and include all the information requested.

During the writing tasks, pay attention to details such as capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. Write about the topic and include all of the information requested.

If you do not know an answer in the listening and reading tasks, use the "I don't know" option.

Pay attention to the time limits for speaking, reading, and writing tasks.

***If you receive a score of less than 3.5 in any one skill area, you will not receive a certificate.***

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