

Practice Test

This is the Preliminary English Test for Schools. There are four parts to the test. You will hear each part twice.

Now open your question paper and look at Part One.

PART ONE

There are seven questions in this part. For each question, there are three pictures and a short recording. For each question, choose the correct answer. Before we start, here is an example.

What is the girl going to have?

- F: Hi! I'd like a sandwich, please. The one with tomato and lettuce.
- M: Sure. Would you like anything to drink?
- F: Erm, I'm not fond of cola, so could I have an orange juice, please?
- M: There isn't any orange juice, but there's a pineapple and banana mix. Do you fancy that?
- F: Hmm ... not really. Just water will be fine, then.
- M: No problem. Here you go. That'll be two pounds fifty, please.

The answer is B.

Look at the three pictures for question 1 now.

Now we are ready to start. Listen carefully. You will hear each recording twice.

1 What is the girl going to take to the park?

- F: What a beautiful sunny day! Why don't we go out? Shall we go to the park?
- M: Good idea! I'll get my MP3 player to listen to some music. I've got Justin's new album!
- F: OK, I'll take this with me: my favourite science-fiction book!
- M: Weren't you reading that at school? I thought you'd finished it already!
- F: Nearly! I'm in the middle of the last chapter! It's so good!
- M: I know. That's where the spaceship captain discovers the truth! Come on! Let's go!

Now listen again.

2 What did the singer like most?

- F: James, you've just finished your European tour. Tell us about it!
- M: Well, my fans here in Europe are wonderful – but what I enjoyed most about this tour was my new team; they're fantastic. I had a great time with them during the concert and after it!
- F: And you must have enjoyed staying in the most famous hotel in London!
- M: Yes, it was beautiful, but I'm used to staying in big hotels.
- F: Thanks, James. Good luck with your new album!

Now listen again.

3 When will they go on holiday?

- F: I really want to go to Cuba this year. Shall we go in August?
- M: I suppose I could take a week off. But they say it's really hot between June and August. Why don't we go in December?
- F: We could ... but wait! Your sister's coming over from Australia then, remember?
- M: Yes, you're right. How could I forget that? So we can't go in December. I say we leave it till next year, in spring. Maybe in April or May.
- F: Promise?
- M: Yes, I promise!

Now listen again.

4 What exam does the teacher announce for Friday?

Sit down and be quiet, please. I've got the exam results from Monday here. You've all passed the maths test, but you didn't do as well in physics. I'll give you your marks on Friday after your geography exam. This last one will be on European rivers and mountains. Remember to hand in your projects on historical battles on Thursday. You know this is a busy week, so plan your study time – don't waste it!

Now listen again.

5 What time is it now?

- M: Mum! What time are you picking me up today?
- F: The same time I always pick you up. Why?
- M: Well, I've got football practice today and I can't be late!
- F: Don't worry! You'll make it in time! But hurry up now! It's five past already! You'll miss the bus!
- M: The bus comes at half past eight. I still have twenty-five minutes!
- F: Well, come on! You're still in your pyjamas! You know it takes you ages to get ready!
- M: All right ...

Now listen again.

6 What is the girl drinking?

- M: Don't drink that now! We're going to have lunch in a minute!
- F: I've nearly finished it, Dad.
- M: You shouldn't have anything sweet before lunch! Now you're not hungry and you won't eat your lunch.
- F: It's not sweet, Dad! It's not like cola! It says it's 100% pineapple and there's no sugar in it. Anyway, weren't you drinking a cup of tea five minutes ago?
- M: I was, but that's different! Come on! Your mum's calling.
- F: Don't worry, Dad! I'll leave a clean plate, you'll see!

Now listen again.

7 Who is going to take the dog for a walk?

F1: Mary, could you take Max for a walk? He's been inside all day. He needs a bit of fresh air.

F2: Oh, Mum, I can't. I'm riding my bicycle to the park. Why can't Dad take him? A little bit of walking would do him good.

F1: He's not here. He's coming home late today. And your brother is upstairs; he's not feeling very well.

F2: Oh, all right, Mum. I'll walk to the park, then.

F1: Thanks, Mary. Don't be late for lunch, please!

F2: I won't!

Now listen again.

That is the end of Part One.

PART TWO

Now turn to Part Two. You will hear six short conversations. For each question, choose the correct answer.

8 You will hear two friends talking about a film they've seen.

F: Have you seen that film I recommended?

M: Yes, I watched it a few days ago. I really enjoyed it and I thought the characters were so realistic. It proves that you don't need famous actors to make a successful film. I am sure that the actors will become famous one day though.

F: I know what you mean. It really was well acted. The only thing was that it got a little bit boring in the middle.

M: Oh, I found it exciting all the way through although the ending was no surprise.

Now listen again.

9 You will hear a boy telling a friend about a canoeing trip.

F: How did your canoeing trip go?

M: I am so tired after it. It was my first time canoeing on a river and it was a lot harder than I thought it would be. I've practised many times in a swimming pool but that's nothing compared to the real thing. It was quite scary as we were canoeing on a fast-flowing river and you had to concentrate all the time.

F: It sounds very exciting. Will you go again?

M: I'm certainly going to give it another go.

Now listen again.

10 You will hear two friends talking about a school project.

F1: How is your school project going?

F2: I'm lucky because I'm in a good group and everyone is working hard. How about your group?

F1: Well, we shared the work amongst the three of us, but it's not working out very well. One of our team is doing absolutely nothing. The person is so lazy and expects the rest of us to do everything for him.

F2: Have you spoken to him?

F1: Yes, we have but he doesn't care.

F2: I think you need to explain what's happening to the teacher because you don't want to hand in your project late.

F1: Yes, I think we'll have to because it's so unfair.

Now listen again.

11 You will hear two friends talking about a new shopping mall they have been to.

F: So, how did you like the new shopping mall?

M: It was brilliant. It has everything and not just shops. There are so many nice cafés and restaurants and the choice is incredible. We had lunch in a Vietnamese restaurant which was amazing. It was my first time to eat that kind of food!

F: I'm glad that you liked the mall. I knew you'd enjoy it. It's easy to spend a whole day there and not get bored. You can even go tenpin bowling and play indoor football.

M: The next time I go, I might see a film. The cinema has ten screens and they show all the latest films.

Now listen again.

12 You will hear two friends talking about learning to play golf.

M1: I've been playing golf for a year now and I'm finding it difficult to get any better at it. I've had so many lessons and I play almost every week.

M2: Do you play with someone or on your own?

M1: I usually play by myself.

M2: Having lessons and playing often are important but I think it's hard to motivate yourself when you are not playing against someone. Does the golf club have an open day when you can team up with another player?

M1: That's a good idea. I'll have to check at the club. If they don't do this, I'll have to find another club that does.

Now listen again.

13 You will hear two friends talking about a music festival they've been to.

M: What did you think of the music festival?

F: It was great. I've seen bands before but not so many in one day. The only thing was that I found it difficult to decide which band to watch. There were six stages and sometimes I missed a band I really wanted to see.

M: I know what you mean. I had the same problem.

- F:** The organisers did a good job though considering the thousands of people that were there.
- M:** I think the entry system could have been better as we had to queue for over two hours to get in. What did you think of the food?
- F:** I don't like fast food and they didn't have any healthy food outlets.

Now listen again.
That is the end of Part Two.

PART THREE

Now turn to Part Three. You will hear some advice on how to decorate your bedroom. For each question, write the correct answer in the gap. Write one or two words or a number or a date or a time. Look at Questions 14 – 19 now. You have 20 seconds.

Now we are ready to start. Listen carefully. You will hear the recording twice.

Is your room still painted in those kids' colours your parents chose? Do you still have shelves full of teddy bears and toys? Then maybe it's time to redecorate your bedroom. First of all, you should clean up the place and put things that you don't need any more into boxes. Don't be afraid to throw away your old toys, although it's better to give them to a charity shop. But don't throw out any furniture without asking your parents first. When you finish cleaning up, push all your furniture to the middle of your room. This will help you to imagine how much space there is and what different positions you could put things in. Draw a plan of where you would like each piece of furniture to go.

Then decide what the best style for you is. You could have an environmental theme or a sporty one – whatever you like. It could even be a rock or pop music room! It doesn't matter what style you choose – the important thing is that you focus on one main style.

Now it's time to start decorating. Keep your room personal and comfortable. If you can't buy new furniture, then be creative with what you have. Paint your desk a different colour, put your shelves on a different wall and put up some new posters. If your parents can afford to buy new sheets for your bed and new curtains, make sure you let them know what colours you prefer. And when it comes to painting your bedroom, be careful to choose the right colour. If it's too bright, it might give you a headache – and colours that are too dark could be depressing. Soft colours are the best for teenage bedrooms. They will help you relax after a long day. Many designers also recommend having a small sofa or a big armchair in the bedroom. A cheaper idea is to put a couple of big cushions on the floor. Put them in one of the corners, where you can sit and read a book or listen to music. Now, if you'd like

more tips on how to decorate your bedroom, go online and check out our website.

Now listen again.
That is the end of Part Three.

PART FOUR

Now turn to Part Four. You will hear part of an interview with Stacey Peterson, a young designer who makes theatre costumes. For each question, choose the correct answer. Look at questions 20 – 25 now. You have 45 seconds.

Now we are ready to start. Listen carefully. You will hear the recording twice.

- M:** Stacey Peterson is a costume designer. She's only 25 years old, but she has been working in the theatre for years. How did it all start, Stacey?
- F:** When I was at university, I used to live with Mary, a good friend of mine. She worked as an actress and one day she gave me a ticket to see her play at the theatre. That was my lucky day because I met her director. She loved the coat I was wearing and when I told her I had designed and made it, she offered me a job!
- M:** And what do you enjoy most about making theatre costumes?
- F:** It's hard to say really. I like to see the actors perform the play for the first time in my costumes. I must admit I get a little nervous in the beginning, especially when it's a famous play, because I'm not sure whether the audience will like the costumes. But what I really like is working in different teams in each play. People are always friendly and very creative!
- M:** Is it a difficult job?
- F:** Some designers think it's very stressful. For instance, for our next play we have to create thirty costumes in just one month. I'm very organised, so I'm the only one in our team who doesn't feel stressed! But I am going to use recycled leather for the first time and that worries me a bit.
- M:** And what about inspiration? Where do you get your ideas from?
- F:** There are a lot of fashion shows here in London and I wish I had time to go and see them – but I don't. In the early days I used to go to the library and borrow books on fashion, but these days I spend a lot of time researching photos online.
- M:** What plans have you got for the future?
- F:** I would like to go back to university and do another degree – maybe something to do with film directing. But I probably won't. Studying and working at the same time is very hard. I'll keep working, but I might stop making clothes for a while. I'd love to design and make hats and shoes.
- M:** And what should our teenage listeners do if they want to be like you in the future?

F: Well, it's not necessary to know a lot about theatre. I mean, if they like seeing plays, that's fine, but they will learn a lot about it when they start working. It's more important to do a degree in fashion at a good university and do different creative courses such as photography and drawing.

M: It's been a pleasure talking to you, Stacey. Thank you for being with us today.

F: Thank you.

Now listen again.

That is the end of Part Four.

That is the end of the test.