

First Certificate in English (FCE) 2 Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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1. It seems that _____ is no set amount of time that everyone needs to sleep each night.
 - A. There
 - B. Like
 - C. Although
 - D. When

2. Many acts are performing at Sonar, ____ as the Pet Shop Boys and Modeselektor.
 - A. such
 - B. including
 - C. for
 - D. and

3. There were as ____ as 200 people at a poorly attended match.
 - A. Few
 - B. Many
 - C. Several
 - D. Lots

4. These days, in millions of homes around the world, people make cups of tea _____ tea bags.
 - A. With
 - B. By
 - C. Using
 - D. Through

5. Michael Taylor came up ___ the idea of walking around the world after a trekking holiday in the Himalaya.
 - A. With
 - B. For
 - C. At
 - D. In

- 6. Who did the cousin call to discuss the slogan?**
- A. Her Boss**
 - B. Her Friend**
 - C. Her Mother**
 - D. Her Colleague**
- 7. ____ first, nothing seemed very inspiring.**
- A. At**
 - B. In**
 - C. On**
 - D. Before**
- 8. I am very puzzled ____ this Use of English question.**
- A. By**
 - B. At**
 - C. About**
 - D. With**
- 9. Three weeks ____ I returned from my holiday, I received something interesting in the post.**
- A. After**
 - B. Before**
 - C. During**
 - D. Since**
- 10. It was an American, in 1919. At _____ time, the bags were mainly used by tea companies to allow customers to try the tea before buying it.**
- A. That**
 - B. Which**
 - C. When**
 - D. Where**

Answers

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1. A
2. A
3. A
4. A
5. A
6. A
7. A
8. A
9. A
10. A

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Explanations

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1. It seems that _____ is no set amount of time that everyone needs to sleep each night.

A. There

B. Like

C. Although

D. When

The idea being tested is using there to express existence. After a phrase like “It seems that,” English often continues with a clause that has “there is/there isn’t” to state what exists or doesn’t exist. In this sentence, the natural choice is the word that starts the clause “there is no set amount of time,” because you’re saying that no fixed amount of sleep applies to everyone. So the full sentence reads: “It seems that there is no set amount of time that everyone needs to sleep each night.” The other words wouldn’t fit here. “Like” isn’t used to introduce the idea of existence in this structure, and “although” would require a different arrangement with a contrasting idea, not a simple existence claim. “When” would introduce a time clause and doesn’t work with the meaning of the sentence.

2. Many acts are performing at Sonar, ___ as the Pet Shop Boys and Modeselektor.

A. such

B. including

C. for

D. and

Such as is used to introduce specific examples after a general claim. In this sentence, “Many acts are performing at Sonar” is a broad statement, and you want to name examples of those acts. Placing “such as” after a comma signals that the following names are representative examples, as in “Many acts are performing at Sonar, such as the Pet Shop Boys and Modeselektor.” The other options don’t fit: alone, “such” leaves the phrase incomplete; “for” isn’t used to introduce examples; “and” would just join items without introducing a sample. While “including” could work in some contexts, the natural, standard way to present examples here is with “such as.”

3. There were as _____ as 200 people at a poorly attended match.

A. Few

B. Many

C. Several

D. Lots

Using as few as is a handy way to stress that a quantity is surprisingly small. In this sentence, the match being poorly attended sets up a context where you’d expect only a small crowd. Saying there were as few as 200 people emphasizes just how low that turnout was for the situation. The word few describes a small number, and pairing it with as as part of the pattern as few as highlights that the actual count is smaller than one might assume. Other options don’t fit the same way. Saying as many as would point to a large crowd, which clashes with “poorly attended.” The forms as several as and as lots as aren’t natural collocations in this structure.

4. These days, in millions of homes around the world, people make cups of tea _____ tea bags.

A. With

B. By

C. Using

D. Through

This question tests how we express the tool or instrument used to do something. When you describe making tea, the tea bags are the tool that helps you perform the action, so the natural way to say it is with. Saying “make cups of tea with tea bags” foregrounds the means you use to prepare the tea, which sounds smooth and typical in everyday English. Using another preposition wouldn’t fit as well: by suggests the tea bags themselves are the actor or agent, which isn’t right here; through is about a path or channel and doesn’t convey the idea of using a specific tool; and using is grammatical but less common in this fixed, everyday phrasing. So the sentence reads naturally with with, indicating the instrument used.

5. Michael Taylor came up __ the idea of walking around the world after a trekking holiday in the Himalaya.

A. With

B. For

C. At

D. In

Think of the phrasal verb come up with, which means to think of or produce an idea. In this sentence, Michael Taylor conceived the idea of walking around the world, so the natural form is “came up with the idea.” The word that fits is with, because the idiom is came up with, a single unit that links to the object the idea. The other prepositions don’t form this common idiom with the verb in this context, so they wouldn’t sound natural here.

6. Who did the cousin call to discuss the slogan?

A. Her Boss

B. Her Friend

C. Her Mother

D. Her Colleague

Discussing a slogan is a work-related matter that usually needs someone with decision-making authority. The cousin would call her boss because a boss is the person who can review the idea, give feedback, and approve any changes or next steps in a branding or marketing effort. A friend or mother is outside the professional context and wouldn’t typically have the responsibility or role to discuss a slogan. A colleague could be involved, but the scenario points to seeking guidance or approval from the person in charge, which is why the boss is the best fit.

7. ____ first, nothing seemed very inspiring.

A. At

B. In

C. On

D. Before

The key idea is how we express timing with prepositions for moments. The natural way to say the initial moment is “at first,” a fixed expression meaning initially or in the beginning. So the sentence fits perfectly: it sets the scene from the very start, before anything else happens. Other options don’t work as a natural time expression with “first.” “In first” isn’t a standard collocation for marking a moment in time, and “on first” isn’t used to indicate the initial stage here. “Before” would require a different structure to express what comes earlier, not a simple preposition before the word “first.”

8. I am very puzzled ____ this Use of English question.

A. By

B. At

C. About

D. With

When you’re puzzled by something, the preposition marks the source of the confusion—the thing that’s causing the puzzlement. With this sentence, the source is the Use of English question itself, so the natural choice is to say you’re puzzled by it. Puzzled by this Use of English question is the most natural, because “by” points to the thing that’s causing the feeling. The other options sound less idiomatic in this context: “puzzled at” isn’t the usual way to express the source of confusion, “puzzled about” tends to shift the focus to the topic itself rather than what’s causing the confusion, and “puzzled with” isn’t standard for describing confusion caused by something.

9. Three weeks ____ I returned from my holiday, I received something interesting in the post.

A. After

B. Before

C. During

D. Since

The main idea being tested here is how to show that one past event happened later than another. When you want to say that something occurs after an event, you use after. In this sentence, returning from the holiday happened first, and three weeks later, something arrived in the post. “Three weeks after I returned” is the natural way to express that timing. Using the other options would change the meaning or sound odd: - before would place the event earlier than returning, which doesn’t fit the idea of something happening later. - during would refer to the same period as the act of returning, not a separate moment after it. - since would point to a span from a past point up to now and sounds off with the simple past “I received,” unless you rework the sentence with a present perfect structure.

10. It was an American, in 1919. At _____ time, the bags were mainly used by tea companies to allow customers to try the tea before buying it.

A. That

B. Which

C. When

D. Where

Refer back to a specific moment using a demonstrative before the noun. "At that time" points to the moment already mentioned (in 1919) and is a natural, common way to connect the past reference to what followed. The other options don't fit as smoothly: "at which time" is grammatically possible but sounds formal and less natural here, while "at when time" and "at where time" aren't correct English. So the natural choice is "that," giving the phrase "At that time."

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://firstcertinenglish2.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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