

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. Which combination of activities best supports Speaking readiness?**
 - A. Rely solely on reading grammar books.**
 - B. Watch movie subtitles for pronunciation.**
 - C. Practice with a partner, simulate exam conditions, and record yourself for feedback.**
 - D. Write long essays without speaking.**

- 2. There is ___ little time before the exam!**
 - A. So**
 - B. Very**
 - C. Much**
 - D. Few**

- 3. In what year did tea bags originate according to the passage?**
 - A. 1918**
 - B. 1919**
 - C. 1920**
 - D. 1921**

- 4. What is the typical layout of the Speaking test in terms of interaction?**
 - A. Two-part interview**
 - B. Three-part test**
 - C. Spontaneous monologue**
 - D. Four-part format with interaction between candidates and the examiner**

- 5. It seems that for most people, gold still has _____ power to excite and thrill.**
 - A. The**
 - B. A**
 - C. This**
 - D. Such**

- 6. they've got me working ___ a slave! It's not fair!**
- A. like**
 - B. as**
 - C. to**
 - D. so**
- 7. Which feature refers to how clearly you pronounce words so that listeners understand you?**
- A. Fluency**
 - B. Grammar accuracy**
 - C. Clear pronunciation**
 - D. Interaction with others**
- 8. What is a practical note-taking strategy during Listening to capture numbers and dates?**
- A. Write full sentences for every detail.**
 - B. Ignore numbers and dates.**
 - C. Wait until the end to write notes.**
 - D. Use brief symbols or abbreviations and jot essential details quickly.**
- 9. What is the main difference between Reading for gist and Reading for detail?**
- A. They are identical**
 - B. Gist focuses on overall meaning**
 - C. Detail focuses on overall meaning**
 - D. Gist looks for overall meaning; detail focuses on specific information**
- 10. What does Word Formation typically assess?**
- A. The ability to create new words from base forms (prefixes/suffixes) to fit a gap.**
 - B. Understanding the main idea of a text.**
 - C. Listening for details.**
 - D. Recall exact words from a passage.**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which combination of activities best supports Speaking readiness?

- A. Rely solely on reading grammar books.
- B. Watch movie subtitles for pronunciation.
- C. Practice with a partner, simulate exam conditions, and record yourself for feedback.**
- D. Write long essays without speaking.

Speaking readiness comes from active, varied practice with feedback and experience under exam-like conditions. The best approach is to practice with a partner, simulate the actual test environment, and record yourself so you can listen back and get targeted feedback. Working with a partner gives real-time conversation practice, turn-taking, and spontaneous responses that mirror the speaking tasks. Simulating exam conditions helps you manage time, stay calm, and learn how to structure answers under pressure. Recording yourself highlights pronunciation, rhythm, and grammar in live speech, making it easier to spot what to improve and track progress. Relying only on grammar books focuses on rules rather than producing speech. Watching movie subtitles can aid listening and pronunciation but doesn't require you to speak. Writing long essays without speaking develops writing skills, not spoken fluency. So this combination best supports speaking readiness.

2. There is __ little time before the exam!

- A. So**
- B. Very
- C. Much
- D. Few

The idea being tested is how to intensify a small amount for an uncountable noun like time to express urgency. When you want to emphasize just how small the amount is, the pattern so + little is a common, strongly emphatic choice. In this context, there is so little time before the exam! sounds more urgent and expressive than there is very little time, which is more neutral. Time is uncountable, so few wouldn't be correct here. Much little time isn't natural in this construction. That's why so fits best: it heightens the scarcity of time and suits the exclamatory tone.

3. In what year did tea bags originate according to the passage?

- A. 1918
- B. 1919**
- C. 1920
- D. 1921

This kind of question tests your ability to pick out a precise date from the text. The passage states that tea bags originated in 1919, so the year that directly matches the author's information is the best choice. This shows you're accurately locating and using a concrete detail the passage provides about the origin. The other years don't fit the stated timeline in the text, so they wouldn't be supported by what the author says. When you answer, focus on the exact year the passage mentions and connect it to the event described.

4. What is the typical layout of the Speaking test in terms of interaction?

- A. Two-part interview
- B. Three-part test
- C. Spontaneous monologue
- D. Four-part format with interaction between candidates and the examiner**

Two candidates work with an examiner in a four-part format, and interaction with the examiner (and between the candidates) runs throughout the whole test. It isn't a solo monologue or a simple interview; each stage invites speaking, listening, and back-and-forth discussion. The examiner leads the session, asks questions, prompts topics, and participates in the discussion, while the candidates take turns talking, sharing ideas, and negotiating solutions. This structure—four interrelated parts with ongoing interaction—best describes how the Speaking test is laid out.

5. It seems that for most people, gold still has _____ power to excite and thrill.

- A. The**
- B. A
- C. This
- D. Such

Using the definite article before power is natural here because we're speaking about a specific, inherent ability that gold has—the power to excite and thrill. The phrase has the power to is a common way in English to express a subject's ability or capacity. By using the, we indicate this is a recognized, general property of gold, not just one of many possible powers. Other options would sound less natural in a general statement: a power would treat it as one among many, this would need a prior reference, and such would shift emphasis in a way that's less idiomatic for this kind of general claim.

6. they've got me working ___ a slave! It's not fair!

- A. like**
- B. as
- C. to
- D. so

The main idea here is using like to make a comparison about how something is done. In "they've got me working like a slave," the phrase "like a slave" compares the speaker's effort to the way a slave would work, emphasizing the intensity or harshness of the workload. This is a natural, idiomatic way to express that the labor feels extreme or unfair, without claiming the speaker is actually in a slave's role. Using as would point to a role or identity ("as a slave"), which sounds less natural in this context. To/so don't fit the grammar or meaning here; they wouldn't connect with the idea of manner in the same way. So the best choice is the word that signals comparison of how the work is done.

7. Which feature refers to how clearly you pronounce words so that listeners understand you?

- A. Fluency**
- B. Grammar accuracy**
- C. Clear pronunciation**
- D. Interaction with others**

The main idea here is how clearly your sounds and words come across to listeners, i.e., your intelligibility or how easily you're understood. Clear pronunciation focuses on accurate articulation of sounds, correct stress on syllables, and appropriate intonation so words aren't confusing or misheard. This is exactly what determines whether listeners can follow what you're saying. Fluency is about the flow and speed of speech, not necessarily how clear the sounds are. Grammar accuracy concerns whether you use correct forms and structures. Interaction with others covers how well you manage a conversation, including turn-taking and responsiveness. So, the feature that best matches "how clearly you pronounce words so that listeners understand you" is clear pronunciation.

8. What is a practical note-taking strategy during Listening to capture numbers and dates?

- A. Write full sentences for every detail.**
- B. Ignore numbers and dates.**
- C. Wait until the end to write notes.**
- D. Use brief symbols or abbreviations and jot essential details quickly.**

When listening, the idea is to use quick shorthand to capture numbers and dates rather than trying to write everything in full sentences. Numbers and dates often come rapidly, so writing complete sentences for every detail slows you down and makes you more likely to miss later information. By using brief symbols or abbreviations and jotting only the essential details as you hear them, you can keep up with the pace and ensure you have the crucial data recorded. You can later fill in more detail if needed after the listening, but the immediate goal is to preserve the key figures, dates, and times accurately. Ignoring numbers would miss critical information, and waiting until the end to write notes risks forgetting items heard earlier, while full-sentence notes for every detail tend to overwhelm the moment and reduce your overall accuracy.

9. What is the main difference between Reading for gist and Reading for detail?

- A. They are identical**
- B. Gist focuses on overall meaning**
- C. Detail focuses on overall meaning**
- D. Gist looks for overall meaning; detail focuses on specific information**

Understanding how reading for gist differs from reading for detail helps you choose the right approach to a text. Reading for gist is about grasping the overall meaning—the main idea, purpose, and general message of the passage—without getting hung up on exact facts. Reading for detail, on the other hand, means looking for precise information: specific facts, figures, dates, names, or exact statements. So the best way to describe the difference is that gist looks for overall meaning while detail focuses on specific information. This is why the option that states both parts like that is correct. The idea that both approaches are identical or that detail is about the overall meaning isn't accurate, because they target different levels of information in a text.

10. What does Word Formation typically assess?

- A. The ability to create new words from base forms (prefixes/suffixes) to fit a gap.**
- B. Understanding the main idea of a text.**
- C. Listening for details.**
- D. Recall exact words from a passage.**

Word formation tests how you transform a base form into a new word by adding prefixes or suffixes, so the word fits the sentence's meaning and grammar. It checks your ability to use word families and common affixes to change parts of speech or nuance, like turning create into creative (an adjective) or creativity (a noun), depending on what the sentence needs. This isn't about understanding the main idea, listening for details, or remembering exact words from a text; those skills relate to comprehension and memory. The key here is producing the correct word form from a base to suit the sentence.

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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