

FIRST CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH (FCE) 2 PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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. I don't like driving long distances - I prefer to go __ air.
- A. by
 - B. on
 - C. in
 - D. with
2. The energy saved by sleeping eight hours is approximately what?
- A. the same as energy from eating a piece of toast
 - B. twice the energy from eating a piece of toast
 - C. half as much energy as energy from eating a piece of toast
 - D. much more energy than a piece of toast
3. Which method best improves pronunciation for the Speaking test?
- A. Memorize long speeches without listening to others.
 - B. Ignore pronunciation practice.
 - C. Only read aloud.
 - D. Practice with native models, listen and imitate, and use shadowing techniques.
4. It's not ____ cheap, but high quality too.
- A. only
 - B. very
 - C. quite
 - D. so
5. The boss had ordered _____ to think up a new slogan.
- A. Him
 - B. Her
 - C. Them
 - D. Us
6. What role do 'opinion phrases' play in Speaking?
- A. They help express stance clearly and invite discussion.
 - B. They confuse the listener.
 - C. They are unnecessary.
 - D. They only summarize the question.

7. In the sentence about the holiday, which time expression indicates that the action happened after the holiday?
- A. After
 - B. Before
 - C. During
 - D. Since
8. Televisions and video players have gold components inside, and it is even used in the instruments _____ enable astronauts to travel...
- A. That
 - B. Which
 - C. Who
 - D. Where
9. What is a practical approach to improving pronunciation by using native speech patterns?
- A. Focus on grammar and vocabulary without practicing pronunciation.
 - B. Watch videos with subtitles and imitate the way native speakers talk.
 - C. Read aloud in a monotone to save energy.
 - D. Practice with native models, listen and imitate, and use shadowing techniques.
10. Which ability best describes speaking smoothly and without frequent pauses?
- A. Vocabulary range
 - B. Fluency
 - C. Pronunciation accuracy
 - D. Listening comprehension

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. I don't like driving long distances - I prefer to go __ air.

- A. by
- B. on
- C. in
- D. with

Choosing the correct preposition shows how we express the method of travel. When talking about how you travel, English uses *by* + the mode: *by car, by train, by boat, by air*. In this sentence, the idea is travel *by air*, i.e., *go by airplane*. That makes the phrase natural and clear. *On air* is used for broadcasting, as in *being heard live*; *in air* isn't a standard way to describe travel and sounds incorrect here; *with air* would imply some accompaniment or tool, not the method of travel. So the best fit is *by air*.

2. The energy saved by sleeping eight hours is approximately what?

- A. the same as energy from eating a piece of toast
- B. twice the energy from eating a piece of toast
- C. half as much energy as energy from eating a piece of toast
- D. much more energy than a piece of toast

The idea being tested is how much energy the body uses while sleeping and how that compares to the energy you get from food. Even when you're asleep, your body still burns calories to keep vital functions going, but at a lower rate than when you're awake. Over eight hours, the amount of energy used is roughly similar to the energy you'd get from a small snack. A typical slice of toast provides about seventy to a hundred kilocalories, which is a convenient, everyday reference point for estimating this. So the energy saved by eight hours of sleep is approximately the same as the energy from eating a piece of toast. Of course, individual differences in metabolism mean the exact amount can vary, but the general idea is that a night's sleep saves a snack's worth of energy rather than a much larger amount.

3. Which method best improves pronunciation for the Speaking test?

- A. Memorize long speeches without listening to others.
- B. Ignore pronunciation practice.
- C. Only read aloud.
- D. Practice with native models, listen and imitate, and use shadowing techniques.

Improving pronunciation for the Speaking test comes from active, mimetic practice with native speech. By listening to native models and then imitating them, you hear exactly how sounds are produced, how vowels and consonants link together, and how rhythm and stress shape meaning. This helps your mouth learn the right articulation and your ear learn the subtle differences between similar sounds. Shadowing takes imitation further by having you repeat what you hear in real time. It trains timing, breath control, and fluency, so responses sound more natural and less delayed. With regular shadowing, you internalize patterns of intonation and rhythm, which are crucial for sounding confident and clear in the exam. Other approaches miss essential parts of this training. Memorizing long speeches without listening won't tune your ear or mimic real speech. Ignoring pronunciation practice leaves you without targeted improvement. Reading aloud alone helps articulation but doesn't train you to use natural connected speech and conversational rhythm. So, practicing with native models, listening and imitate, and using shadowing combines listening, accurate reproduction, and fluent delivery—the most effective way to boost pronunciation for the Speaking test.

4. It's not ____ cheap, but high quality too.

- A. only
- B. very
- C. quite
- D. so

The idea being tested is using the correlative structure not only ... but ... to show two positive qualities at once. In this sentence, you want to say something is both cheap and high quality. The natural way to do that is: it's not only cheap, but high quality too. The word after not is only, which completes the common expression and clearly links the two favorable traits. Other options don't fit as well. not very cheap would imply it isn't cheap at all, which clashes with calling it cheap. not quite cheap suggests it's almost not cheap, which again changes the meaning. not so cheap would mean it isn't cheap, which again contradicts the intended sense of having two good qualities together.

5. The boss had ordered ____ to think up a new slogan.

- A. Him
- B. Her
- C. Them
- D. Us

The key idea here is pronoun case after verbs that give orders. After a verb like ordered, you use the object form of the pronoun for the person who is being told to do something. Since the sentence refers to a single person who is female, the correct pronoun is her. So it reads: The boss had ordered her to think up a new slogan. Using him would be for a male recipient, them is plural (or a gender-neutral single form in some contexts), and us would include the speaker, which doesn't fit the structure of someone being ordered.

6. What role do 'opinion phrases' play in Speaking?

- A. They help express stance clearly and invite discussion.
- B. They confuse the listener.
- C. They are unnecessary.
- D. They only summarize the question.

Using opinion phrases in Speaking is about clearly signaling your stance and inviting discussion. When you say things like "In my opinion," "I think," or "As far as I'm concerned," you make your position explicit and guide the conversation toward your viewpoint. This is important in an FCE-style speaking test because examiners want to see that you can express a viewpoint and respond to others, not just repeat questions. Opinion phrases also help the talk flow by framing what you'll say next, showing you're contributing, and encouraging the other person to agree, disagree, or add ideas. They help with coherence by signaling shifts or contrasts, so your talk stays easy to follow. The other ideas don't fit as well because they don't emphasize your viewpoint or invite response. If you're not stating a view, the contribution can feel flat or vague, and simply summarizing the question doesn't move the discussion forward. In short, expressing opinions clearly and inviting discussion is what makes a productive speaking exchange.

7. In the sentence about the holiday, which time expression indicates that the action happened after the holiday?

- A. After
- B. Before
- C. During
- D. Since

Time expressions tell us when something happens relative to another event. Here the reference point is the holiday, and we're looking for a word that shows the action came later. The word after signals that the event occurred subsequent to the holiday—placing it after that time. Before would mean the event happened earlier than the holiday. During would place it inside the holiday period. Since marks the starting point of an action that continues from that time up to the present, which isn't the same as simply occurring after the holiday. So after is the natural choice to show a later action.

8. Televisions and video players have gold components inside, and it is even used in the instruments _____ enable astronauts to travel...

- A. That
- B. Which
- C. Who
- D. Where

The idea being tested is how to use a relative pronoun to introduce a defining (restrictive) clause about things. Here, the word that fits best because it specifies which instruments are being talked about: the ones that have the ability to enable astronauts to travel. When the clause is essential to identify the noun, we use that (for things) without a comma. Using which would typically introduce extra, non-essential information (often set off by commas), and who is for people, not things, while where is for places. The subject instruments is plural, so the verb matches with enable. So the natural, correct construction is the instruments that enable astronauts to travel.

9. What is a practical approach to improving pronunciation by using native speech patterns?

- A. Focus on grammar and vocabulary without practicing pronunciation.
- B. Watch videos with subtitles and imitate the way native speakers talk.
- C. Read aloud in a monotone to save energy.
- D. Practice with native models, listen and imitate, and use shadowing techniques.

Improving pronunciation comes from actively engaging with how native speakers sound and moving your mouth to reproduce that pattern. The best approach combines listening to native models, imitating what you hear, and using shadowing to practice speaking in real time. This works because exposure to native speech gives you an accurate sound, rhythm, and intonation to aim for. Listening and imitation helps your brain learn the correct pronunciation patterns and how words connect in natural speech. Shadowing takes it further by having you echo a native speaker almost simultaneously, which trains your mouth to reproduce the flow, stress, and pace of real conversation. Over time, this builds more natural pronunciation, smoother speech, and better rhythm. Focusing only on grammar and vocabulary ignores pronunciation. Watching videos with subtitles can help you hear sounds but doesn't require you to produce them yourself. Reading aloud in a monotone doesn't capture natural stress, intonation, or linking sounds.

10. Which ability best describes speaking smoothly and without frequent pauses?

A. Vocabulary range

B. Fluency

C. Pronunciation accuracy

D. Listening comprehension

The main idea here is fluency in speaking: how smoothly you can talk with minimal, natural pauses. Fluency is about delivering speech in a continuous, connected way, maintaining a comfortable pace and flow without frequent hesitations while you express ideas. Having a wide vocabulary helps you express more precisely, but it doesn't automatically ensure that your speech will be smooth or free of pauses. Pronunciation accuracy matters for being understood, but it concerns how clearly each word is formed and spoken, not how fluid your overall speech sounds. Listening comprehension is about understanding what you hear, not producing speech yourself. So, the ability that best describes speaking smoothly and without frequent pauses is fluency. To improve it, practice speaking at length, use natural connectors, and work on reducing unnecessary filler pauses.

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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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