FIRST CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH COURSE for foreign students

ONA LOW



First Certificate in English Course for Foreign Students

(incorporating the 2nd edition of Lower Certificate English Course)

Ona Low



@ Ona Low 1974

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A Key containing answers to all the exercises in this book, along with notes for teachers, is published separately and should be available from booksellers. Further information may be obtained from the publishers.

By the same author:

FIRST CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH COURSE: KEY

FIRST CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH PRACTICE FIRST CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH PRACTICE: KEY

CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY ENGLISH COURSE CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY ENGLISH COURSE: KEY

SPEAK ENGLISH FLUENTLY 1
SPEAK ENGLISH FLUENTLY 2

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Preface

The reading passages in Lower Certificate English Course were designed to introduce a large number of points associated with vocabulary, grammar and construction that often cause difficulties to students. These have been retained within the structure of this edition together with the practice exercises which formed part of most chapters.

With the introduction of a considerably modified examination however, a large part of the earlier book has been rewritten so as to ensure adequate preparation for all sections of the new syllabus. The notes to each chapter have been condensed to essentials to allow additional material to be included together with guidance in pronunciation, special grammatical points and use of prepositions, related in each of these cases to the foregoing comprehension passage.

New sections have been added to most chapters, consisting of multiple choice questions based on the comprehension passage, a number of questions of the type that will appear on the Use of English paper and finally considerable practice in spoken English, including conventional usage, conversations, situations to be dealt with orally and discussion topics.

The chapter on Spoken English has been adapted to the new 'Interview' and 'play extract' reading passage with advice and examples included. Other sections deal with the new type of summary and with composition writing, though each of the proposed types of composition is presented separately as part of a chapter.

The student undertaking this course should already have a good elementary knowledge of English. When classes have as many as ten weekly lessons most of the material can be dealt with in class, but students in groups which meet for not more than 4-5 hours weekly have to do a good deal of preparation at home with class guidance and checking. A Key is available separately and the material is presented clearly enough to enable a student working alone to derive considerable benifit from it.

The vocabulary utilised is more extensive than that of Michael West's General Service List, which is to be used as a general guide in setting papers. While the book is oriented towards the First Certificate, it is intended to be of value to all intermediate level students, whether they intend to take the examination or not, and so seeks to cover as many everyday situations and needs as possible. Moreover many successful candidates will wish to start preparation for a more advanced examination, such as the Certificate of Proficiency or the English Language paper of the General Certificate of Education. Both these examinations demand a very wide vocabulary, much of it based on abstract and intellectual concepts and a student who embarks on a preparatory course for these examinations should have a sure knowledge of a wide range of everyday, practical words and expressions.

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Passage for comprehension

Never trust appearances

Rush hour in a provincial town is certainly not so busy as in London, but even so there are plenty of people moving about. Long, patient queues wait wearily for buses. Never-ending lines of cars are checked while red traffic lights change to green. Thousands of people are packed tightly in trains, the men's faces buried in their evening papers while women try 5 in vain to knit. In a slow train it may well be an hour's journey to their station.

James Saxon is in his usual comfortable corner, quietly smoking a cigarette. When he is travelling by train at this time, he always reaches the station at ten past five by the station clock, but he never catches the 5.14 train. Instead 10 he travels by the train which leaves at twenty-four minutes past five so as to be sure of getting his corner seat. There are no first-class compartments or reserved seats on this train. He appears to be absorbed in the sports news on the back page of his paper and ignores the hurrying crowds.

Facing him this evening there is a Finnish youth of eighteen, Matti Arpola. 15 This is his first visit to England, though he already knows Geoffrey, the eldest son of the Jackson family, with whom he is going to stay.

As there are several people standing, James Saxon is the only person he can see clearly. Matti decides that he is probably a typical Englishman, and he observes James carefully.

'Can he really be typical?' he thinks. 'He has an umbrella, neatly rolled, but no bowler hat; in fact, no hat at all. Of course, he is reading about cricket and he is reserved and not interested in other people. But he is only of average height and his hair is not fair, but as dark as that of an Italian, and curly, with almost no parting. He is not smoking a pipe, and although we foreigners 25 think that a real Englishman ought to have a moustache, he is clean-shaven. His nose is slightly crooked. What a serious face he has! He is frowning a little, but the eyes beneath his worried-looking forehead are sincere and honest. I don't think he is intelligent.

'His clothes are anything but smart. In fact, they are rather old, though 30 well-brushed. Even though he is not wearing a wedding ring, he is probably married, with perhaps three children. His gloves are fur-lined and his trousers well pressed. He keeps far too many things in his pockets, so his suit looks badly out of shape. What dull, old-fashioned leather shoes he is wearing! His briefcase is old too and bulging, so that the zip-fastener does not close 35 properly. There are the initials J.S. on it. Is his name John Smith?

'I think he is probably an office clerk or a shop assistant. Does he look like a teacher, though? Anyhow, he lives with a plain wife and five children in a small worker's house with a tiny garden, where he spends his leisure time 40 digging and weeding and mowing the lawn, or painting the tool-shed. But to-night, first he is helping his wife to put the children to bed and then he is taking her to the cinema as this is pay-day. Or is he visiting the local pub? Does he drink whisky (I believe most Englishmen do) or does he prefer beer? I am sure he very much likes a cup of tea. He seems quite energetic, 45 but his complexion is pale and he is very thin. Does he find it difficult to satisfy the needs of his miserable wife and seven unfortunate children? Poor fellow! I am sorry for him.'

At last, shortly after a quarter past six by Matti's watch, the frain reaches Lakewell Junction, and Matti immediately sees Geoffrey waiting for him. 50 They greet each other. At first Matti cannot find his ticket, but it is discovered in his bulging coat pocket. He gives it up to the ticket-collector and the two boys go off to find Geoffrey's father's car. Near it there stands another car, a magnificent Rolls-Royce, and a handsome, uniformed chauffeur is helding the door open while James Saxon steps in.

55 'Who is that?' Matti asks. 'Why is he getting into that car? Where does he live? He looks like a poorly-paid clerk or a workman.'

Geoffrey laughs loudly as if this is a good joke

'That is Sir James Saxon,' he replies. 'He has a fortune of around two million pounds, and controls forty-two factories in this area alone. He is a 60 bachelor who lives in a fourth-storey luxury flat, so, if he feels like it, he can go off to the Riviera for a month or two. Next week he is flying to Japan on business in his private aeropiane, though people say he very much prefers travelling by train. He is said to have twenty-one suits, but he is always seen in the same old one. By the way, I remember now. His father and mother 65 are both Finns: perhaps that is why he takes no interest in cricket. His real name is Jussi Saksalainen, but he is now a naturalised British subject with an English name. He doesn't look at all Finnish.

'Here's your other case. Put it down a minute while I unlock the car. Do you enjoy gardening? If so, you can help me: digging, weeding and 70 mowing the lawn. And I'm painting the tool-shed to-morrow. You don't know how to play cricket yet, but I'm taking you to a match on Saturday. Can you speak English any better now? You can soon lose that Finnish reserve. Come along! Let's get going! I'm hungry and hot.'

Matti remembers sadly all that his school-teachers say about his over-active 75 and unreliable imagination. Perhaps they are right after all.

Notes on the passage

Vocabulary

line

1 previncial The provinces are the part of the country away from London.

2 plenty of is used with singular and plural nouns. Here are some other expressions with a similar meaning:

Singular forms He has \begin{cases} a great deal of a good deal of very much a lot of \end{cases} \text{work to do.}

Plural forms He has ${many \atop a \text{ lot of}}$ hobbies.

wrong: a good (great) deal of hobbies 'Lots of' is used normally only in conversation.

- 3 queue (N and V) spellings: queueing. Notice also: buses; gases.
- 3 wearily 'tired' has no adverb.
- 3 check (V and N) hold back; stop; possibly temporarily; check a disease; a check to his plans.

and also: make sure of correctness; check figures, oil and batteries; a careful check of examination marks.

(Adj) with coloured squares; a check tablecloth. cheque (N) a travellers cheque; a cheque book.

- 5 their there. Which? (i) are (ii) shoes (iii) over (iv) put it
- 6 a slow train a fast train; an express; a goods train; an excursion train. A through train travels all the way to a certain place so one need not change.
- 8 quietly spelling: a quiet holiday but quite finished.
- 10 a clock on the wall a wrist watch.
- 11 leave BE CAREFUL: leave home early; live at home.
- 13 reserved seats NOT: sitting places.
- 13 the sports news or page. NEVER: sporting.
- 14 ignores takes no notice of: He ignores me when he is angry; is ignorant of: does not know: He is ignorant of his real name.
- 15 youth (Unc N) the time when one is young: Youth is not always the best part of life.
 a (the) youth: a boy (not a girl) between about fifteen and twenty-one.
- 17 eldest elder used only for members of a family: his eldest son. 'elder' cannot be followed by 'than': He is older than his brother.
- 17 the Jackson family NOT: the family Jackson.
- 22 no hat at all I have none at all. He is doing nothing at all. at all makes the negative stronger.
- 23 interested DO NOT MIX THESE:

interested spectators interesting films an absorbed reader absorbing books annoyed parents annoying disturbances

excited children exciting games

bored students boring lessons amused listeners amusing jokes

NOTICE: Anybody interested, please ask for information. (NOT: interesting); I am very interested. (possibly also 'interesting' but not always!)

- 24 fair hair is more normally used than 'blonde hair'—possibly coloured or dyed.
- 25 we foreigners we students. NOT: we other students.
- 30 clothes (AN) cloth (Unc and CN) clothing (Unc N) clothes (Pl N) (see Pronunciation Page 5) cloth either material or a piece of material for a special job: to buy cloth (Unc) tablecloth, floorcloth, dishcloth (all C). clothing (Sing) these mean the same, the second being the more clothes (Pl) commonly used.
 A single piece of clothing is a garment (C).
- 31 well-brushed The adverb well can be used with several past participles to form adjectives. EXAMPLES: well-dressed; well-made; well-spoken (speaking correctly and pleasantly); well-educated; well-known; well-pressed (carefully ironed); well-preserved (still in good condition); well-mannered; well-paid. Opposites usually start with 'badly': badly-made etc. though 'little-known' is normal and 'poorly-paid' (1.56) is possible.

NOTICE: 'So you passed your examination. Well done!'

- 32 fur-lined. An outdoor coat has a lining inside it. What is the meaning of this proverb: Every cloud has a silver lining?
- out of shape The shape of a table, a room, a geometrical figure. What shape is it? NOT: What form?

 That cardigan has been washed twenty times and yet it still keeps its shape. It has not gone out of shape.
- a plain woman (not beautiful); a plain cake (not rich); a plain answer (with no unnecessary words); a plain explanation (clear); a plain (flat land).
- 41 put the children to bed go to bed NOT: to the bed.
- 42 take someone or something to another place: take his wife to the cinema. lead living things by walking in front: Officers lead the soldiers when they march through a town. conduct someone to a place, usually with ceremony: The Bishop will conduct the Queen round the new church.
- a miserable person (OPPOSITE: cheerful); miserable weather.
- 51 a ticket-collector collects or inspects railway tickets. He is NOT a controller who controls them.

 An official examines your passport, though his office may be known as

An official examines your passport, though his office may be known as Passport Control.

The normal meaning of *control* (1.59) is 'have power over' or 'keep under discipline'.

52 another Spelling!

4

- 53 handsome A man is handsome. A woman is beautiful. A child is pretty. Good-looking, with much the same meaning, is used to describe either a man or a woman.
- 61 off fall off the table—SPELLING!
- 62 aeroplane aerodrome but: airport airman Air Force spelling.
- 64 his father and mother NOT: his father and his mother.
- 71 cricket and football are games. We play games.

 'Hamlet' is a play. We act in plays. But: He plays the part of Hamlet.
- 72 Can you speak English? NEVER: Can you English?

Pronunciation

special difficulties: Ítaly [itali] but Itálian [itálian]; Japán [dʒəpán] but Jápanése [dʒápəniːz]; forehead [fórid] or [fórəd]; comfortable [kámf(ə)-təbl]; clerk [klaːk]; magnificent [mægnifisənt]; unreliable [ʌnrɪláɪəbl]; suit [sjuːt]; cloth (kləʊ); clothing (klóuðin); clothes (klouðz).

Day: today [tədéi] (stressed) but yesterday [jéstədi]; holiday [hólədi]; Monday [mándi] and other names of days (ALL UNSTRESSED).

- a (as in ago): absorbed [abzò:bd]; moustache [masta:]]; leisure [lé3a]; miserable [mizrabl]; handsome [hænsam]; bachelor [bætsala]; initials [inisala].
- e (as in city): average [æv(ə)rıdʒ]; crooked [krukıd]; unfortunate [Anfő:tʃənɪt]; business [biznɪs].

SILENT LETTER: knit [nit]; STRESS: cigarette [sigarett]; energetic [enadzétik].
OTHERS: worried [whrid]; gloves [glavz]; bulging [bhldzin]; discovered

[diskávəd]; uniformed [jú:nifo:md]; queue [kju:]; wearily [wiərɪlı]; instead [instéd]; buried [bérɪd]; height [haɪt]; chauffeur [ʃoufə]; area [ɛərɪə]; Riviera [rɪvɪɛərə]; naturalised [nætʃərəlazzd].

Special grammatical and structural points

- (i) When If Do not confuse these.

 Compare: When I get my pay, I spend it. If I get my pay, I spend it.
- (ii) so as to be sure of getting so as followed by an infinitive can express purpose.
- (iii) there are several people standing (1.18) standing, the present participle, shortens and is more normal than 'who are standing'.
- (iv) anything but smart (1. 30) means 'not at all smart'.

 In these two cases but means except. You can choose anyone but me. I want to live anywhere but London.
- (v) look like (1. 31) feel like (1. 60) His garden looks like a park. I feel like something the cat has brought in.

 Second meaning: I feel like having a bathe. I'll go if I feel like it.

look as if feel as if + subject and verb. He is so strongly built that he looks as if he can lift an elephant, but when he is a bit ill, he says he feels as if he is going to die.

- (vi) greet each other (1, 50) greet normally has an object. People do not just greet.
- (vii) am is are hungry, thirsty, hot, cold, right, wrong, ten (years old).
- (viii) trousers; scissors; shears ARE (plural) A pair of trousers, scissors, shears is (singular).
- (ix) laughs as if (though) this is good joke. You are walking as if you are (were) tired.
- (x) not no not makes a verb negative. no, the opposite of 'yes', may also mean 'not any'.
 Which? It is cold. I have money. There is more left. I do need any more. That is business of yours.
- (xi) Notice: person people—the plural form 'persons' is unusual. The word people is always followed by a plural verb form: People are sitting in cafés.
- (xii) Countable and Uncountable Nouns

Most nouns are the names of things of which there can be one (Singular) or more than one (Plural). These are Countable nouns. Some nouns have only a Singular form. These are spoken of as Uncountable. They cannot be preceded by a and they normally have no plural form.

Examples: Countables: coin; table; loaf; box; kick.

Uncountables: money; furniture; bread; shopping; unkind-

- Notice however: (a) some Uncountables may be preceded by a when they are defined in some way: a darkness that made him afraid to go on.
 - (b) some may be Countable or Uncountable according to their meaning: a light/lights—light and darkness.
- Be careful: 1 a hair/hairs = separate ones. hair of the head (Unc).

 Both his and his wife's hair is white now.
 - 2 journey (Countable) A journey from London to Bath, travel (Uncountable) I enjoy travel. Travel broadens the mind. 3 news is singular only. The news is mainly bad. It is worrying.
- (xiii) Verbal Constructions

Deciding the form of the second verb in a séntence group is a difficulty for students as it may take any one of these forms:

- l an infinitive
- 2 a gerund—that is, a noun formed by adding ing to a verb.
- 3 a clause, with subject and verb.

There are few rules to help so examples have to be learned as they occur. Here are some examples from the passage:

- (a) Infinitive try to knit; help to put he is said to be a millionaire know how to play
- (b) Gerund enjoy gardening

 spend time painting but time is spent (in) painting.
- (c) Clause he decides that he is an Englishman; he thinks he is a clerk.

Prepositions

(a) I enjoy travelling by car/aeroplane by on/in a train/bus go by boat be on/in a ship do not use with: I go to town with my dog (but not my car).

(b) read, think, learn, talk about something but discuss something.

(c) interested in/absorbed in a book. (d) stay with a friend. (e) sorry for a person (feel pity). sorry about a thing or event: about your illness. (f) on the back page. (g) a visit to England. (h) of average height. (i) facing him.

(j) wait for a bus. (k) five o'clock by the hall clock. (l) live in a flat on the fourth storey. (m) sure of getting. (n) CAREFUL: near (prep.) NOT near of, near by, near from: near London, near the fire station.

Expressions to introduce into written work

When you write English, you of course never translate from your own language. One of the best ways of improving your style of writing is to make use of expressions you have found in your reading and which you really understand how to use. After each reading passage in this book, a list of expressions for you to learn and make use of is given.

(a) trains/buses/shops can be packed with people. (b) women try in vain to knit.

- (c) he is said to be a millionaire (d) it may well be an hour's journey/there may well be a thousand victims. (e) absorbed in the sports news/in doing a crossword puzzle. (f) of average height. (g) even though he is tired, he is still working. (h) he spends his leisure time painting. (i) he gives up his ticket to the ticket-collector. (j) he looks like a poorly-paid clerk. (k) if he feels like it, he can go to Majorca.
- (1) by the way, I remember now. (m) perhaps they are right after all.

Multiple choice questions

On the examination paper you will find after the comprehension passage or passages a number of questions or unfinished statements about the passage, each with four suggested ways of finishing it. You must choose the one which you think fits best. For the present exercise, write in each case the bracketed number of the question or statement followed by the letters A, B, C, D, and then cross through the letter of the answer you choose. Give one answer only to each question. Read the passage right through again before choosing your answers.

- James Saxon does not eatch the 5.14 train because

 A he does not want to hurry

 B the later train is less crowded when he arrives

 C he has not reserved a seat in it

 D it is a slow train
- Why is Matti uncertain whether James Saxon is really an Englishman?

 A he looks very quiet

 B he is reading about cricket

 C he is not wearing a hat

 D he is not interested in other people
- Which of the following details of his appearance show that James Saxon pays some attention to what he looks like?
 - A his shoes B his briefcase C his suit D his trousers

- 4 Matti thinks James may be a teacher. He clearly thinks that all but one of the following things is characteristic of a teacher. The exception is:

 A he does not take any care of his clothes

 B he looks anxious

 C he carries too much about with him

 D he is probably not intelligent
- 5 Matti is sorry for James for all but one of these reasons. The exception is:
 - A his wife and children give him little happiness B he is thin and so may be underfed C he spends most of his spare time gardening D his life has little variety
- What is the only one of these things that is clear from the passage that Matti and James have not got in common?
 - A their nationality B they both keep too much in their pockets C they have no enthusiasm for cricket D they both seem shy and reserved
- How long does the journey to Lakewell Junction take?
 A less than an hour B about half an hour C nearly an hour and a half D just a little more than an hour
- 8 Geoffrey laughs loudly because

 A he thinks Matti has made a joke

 B he is amused by Matti's mistake

 C he considers James a funny person

 D he thinks it funny for a workman to have a chauffeur
- What is the only right idea Matti has in this story?
 A James Saxon is married B he cares little about his appearance
 C he has a dull badly-paid job D you can judge a person by his appearance
- Why does Matti feel sad?

 A he must help in the garden B his teachers think he is unreliable C he cannot trust his own ideas D he is disappointed in Geoffrey.

Reading comprehension

In this exercise you must choose the word or phrase which best completes each sentence. Write first the number of each sentence followed by the letters A, B, C, D, E, and then cross through the letter of the correct answer in each case. Give one answer only to each question.

- 1 The house was burgled while the family was in a card game.

 A entertained B buried C busy D absorbed E helping
- 2 No one is so as the person who has no wish to learn.
 - A intelligent B ignorant C useless D simple E unwise
- 3 He wrote his name and carefully at the top of the paper.
 A seriously B largely C attentively D obviously
 E clearly

!	Normally he is rather but sometimes he talks freely about himself. A sociable B reserved C serious D peaceful
5	E ignorant Aithough only of intelligence, he speaks four languages fluently. A symmetry B middle C miner D high E slow
6	A average B middle C minor D high E slow He sends his wishes for your future happiness. A honest B deepest C sincere D many E hopeful
, 7 .	The guide is a line of tourists through the narrow passage with the help of his torch. A conducting B taking C leading D guiding E bringing
	He took a with him to clean the windscreen of his car. A garment B cloth C clothing D stuff E towel
	In the room resembles the letter L. A form B pattern C figure D formation E shape
	Why are you always so? You never smile or look cheerful. A angry B sorry C pitiful D unfortunate E miserable
Use	e of English
afternand arrive at the thousa outsid to enjoof goi footba people pheras	Il in each of the numbered blanks with one suitable word. topher is not married yet: he is still a
	nish each of the following sentences in such a way that it means exactly time as the sentence printed before it.
Examp	ple: This is his first visit to England. He is
Answe	er: He is visiting England for the first time.

1	I think it may rain.
	It looks as
2	He will come because he wants to be sure of meeting you. He will come so
3	Walking in the rain gives him pleasure. He enjoys
4	Most of a child's life is spent in playing. A child spends
5	The fox was unsuccessful in reaching the grapes. The fox tried in
6	His briefcase is too full for the zip fastener to close properly. His briefcase is so full
7	People say that he beats his wife. It is
8	He appears to be running away from your fierce dog. It looks

Composition and summarising

- Write five or six short sentences on one of these subjects. Use very simple English. Some of the expressions in the reading passage may be useful.
 - (a) Describe what one of your relations or friends looks like.
 - (b) You are a very rich person with no family. How do you spend your time?
 - (c) What ideas have you about the typical Englishman—his appearance, clothes, manners, interests and ways of spending his time?

Example: Here is a possible beginning to subject (a):

My Uncle Jock is forty-four but he looks much younger. He is of average height and has a round face, red hair and green eyes. He likes to wear

2 Taking your information only from the reading passage, write a paragraph of not more than 120-180 words about all Matti's mistakes in his ideas about James Saxon.

Notice: This is an easy example of the summary-type question which forms part of the Use of English paper. Here are some suggestions about how to answer it.

(i) Read through the passage again. As you do so, make a list of the ideas which answer the question. You must remember that it is only the mistakes that you must write about, so many details about James Saxon's appearance will not be included. In addition, Matti has many ideas that are not proved wong: for example, James may like a cup of tea, enjoy gardening, be not very intelligent (not all millionaires are). So choose carefully. Secondly, you must remember that you must limit