

CAMBRIDGE CERTIFICATE
ENGLISH

A course for First Certificate

Margaret Archer and Enid Nolan-Woods

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Margaret Archer and Enid Nolan-Woods

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Foreword

This book is primarily intended for students with a basic knowledge of English who are preparing for the Cambridge First Certificate in English. It covers the English and examination techniques the student is likely to need to reach the necessary standard.

The book contains eight Units, each divided into two sections, Oral and Reading/Writing. Each Unit is related to a topic, and is built round a basic structure. Teaching and practice material is given in the use of English, language and composition, and notional uses of English.

The **Oral** sections contain a wide variety of Listening Comprehensions as in Paper Four, and Dialogues, Photographs and Situations relating to Paper Five of the examination.

The **Reading/Writing** sections give instruction in all the Composition forms necessary for Paper One, Reading Comprehension, including Vocabulary and Multiple Choice passages for Paper Two, and essential material for Paper Three, Use of English.


Additional material has been included in each Unit to help the student to become more fluent in English and to avoid making the mistakes common at this level.

The course has been written for use either in class or by a student working on his own. Answers are provided in a separate Key.

The authors are grateful to Joy McKellen for her invaluable help and to Dennis Lewcock for his patience and skill in providing the photographs.

Recorded material

A set of three C60 cassettes, containing Dialogues, Drills, Listening Comprehensions and other material from the Oral sections of the book, is available from the publishers.

The sections recorded are marked  in the margin.

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Unit one: Housing problems



Dialogue

Oral A

A husband and wife are discussing the demolition of some old buildings to make room for the erection of office blocks in an area where there is an acute shortage of housing. 

Mrs Moon It's an absolute scandal! My friend, Mrs Stanley, says at least twenty people have already written to the Council to complain.

Mr Moon To complain about what?

Mrs Moon Haven't you heard? The Gas Company are thinking of pulling down all those old houses in Salt Lane and selling the land to a property company to build office blocks, and the Council are doing absolutely nothing about it.

Mr Moon Well, those old houses are in pretty bad condition.

Mrs Moon That's not the point. The point is it's not fair. There's a housing shortage. There are people who've been living and working in this district for over twenty years and still haven't got a decent place to live. It's a shame!

- Mr Moon** Well, I suppose the Gas Company is in business like everyone else. The land those houses are built on is worth a good price—
- Mrs Moon** Worth a good price! What does that matter when there are families like the ones in Salt Lane who haven't even got a bathroom or an inside toilet? It's a disgrace! What we want are new homes in Salt Lane, not office blocks! One of the cashiers who works in the supermarket lives in Salt Lane and she says she and her husband have been on the housing list since the war. They've been complaining to the Council for years and every time they write, the only reply they get is a printed postcard saying the matter is receiving attention. It's not right.
- Mr Moon** I don't see what that has to do with the Gas Company demolishing those old houses in Salt Lane, particularly if they're in the condition you say they are.
- Mrs Moon** Why don't you listen? I've just told you – the Gas Company have no right to sell that land for office blocks. It's all wrong. The proper thing is for them to put up some high-rise flats and move those families in Salt Lane into them as quickly as possible.
- Mr Moon** Aren't you getting a bit too worked up about it? I mean, I'm sure the Gas Company know what they're doing.
- Mrs Moon** Know what they're doing? They don't know their right hand from their left. I tell you, something will have to be done about it. I'm getting up a petition for a start and everyone I've spoken to so far has promised to sign, and Mrs Stanley has been asking for volunteers for a protest march. The sooner the Gas Company and the Council realise that people won't put up with this sort of thing, the better. And there's another thing—
- Mr Moon** Oh, what's that, dear?
- Mrs Moon** I want you to write to the local paper and make a formal complaint on behalf of the residents of Salt Lane.
- Mr Moon** But we don't live in Salt Lane.
- Mrs Moon** I know we don't, but that cashier in the supermarket does. She says it's terrible, she never knows whether she's lit her cooker properly or not because of the smell from the gasworks.
- Mr Moon** Mmm, before I write, I've got something to tell you.
- Mrs Moon** Oh? Nothing bad, I hope.
- Mr Moon** No, I don't think so. It's just that my firm are moving offices next year.
- Mrs Moon** Moving? Where to?
- Mr Moon** To one of the new office blocks in Salt Lane.

Listen to the dialogue again and then answer the following questions. Be careful to use the correct Present Tense in your answer. This means that you must listen carefully to the tense in which the question is put. For example:

Has anyone written to the Council yet about the proposed demolition in Salt Lane?
 Yes, at least twenty people *have already written* to complain.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 What sort of condition are the houses in Salt Lane in?</p> <p>2 Why does Mrs Moon consider the Gas Company's plans are unfair?</p> <p>3 What are some of the disadvantages of the houses in Salt Lane?</p> | <p>4 How long have the supermarket cashier and her husband been on the housing list?</p> <p>5 What is the Council's reply to letters of complaint?</p> |
|---|--|

- 6 What is Mrs Moon doing about the situation?
- 7 In what way has Mrs Stanley been helping?
- 8 Why doesn't Mr Moon want to write to the local paper?
- 9 What special problem has the smell from the gasworks caused the supermarket cashier?
- 10 What does Mr Moon tell his wife?

Now listen to the dialogue again and practise reading it aloud with someone. You take the part of Mrs Moon.

Making Protests

Oral B

In the dialogue Mrs Moon uses the following expressions of protest:

It's an absolute scandal!

It's a shame!

It's a disgrace!

It's not right.

It's all wrong.

It's not fair.

Now use these expressions to protest about similar situations.

For example:

The house is damp. The roof leaks. The landlord doesn't care.

It's an absolute scandal! The house is damp because the roof leaks and the landlord doesn't care.

Mrs Brown has three children. There's no bathroom in her house.

It's a shame! Mrs Brown has three children and no bathroom in her house.

- 1 The windows in the Robinsons' house are always dirty. They never clean them.
- 2 People are always throwing litter into our front garden. It's very untidy.
- 3 Old Mr Stevens is 83. He lives alone. No one ever visits him.
- 4 Our house is smaller than yours. We pay more rent.
- 5 The children next door have broken our door bell. Their father refuses to pay for a new one.
- 6 The Andersons have been on the housing list six months. They've just been offered a Council flat. We've been on the list six years.

Listening and Choosing

Oral C

Students preparing for the Cambridge First Certificate will have to practise listening to not more than four comprehension passages, and answering five questions on each one. For each question there will be four possible answers, A, B, C, and D, from which the student chooses the best in relation to the text.

Each passage is read twice: the first time at normal speed, and the second time with pauses to allow the student to check his answers. The student is allowed about a minute to look at the questions before the first reading, between the first and second readings, and after the second reading.

By listening attentively, and with regular practice, the student soon becomes skilled in differentiating between what at first sight looks like the obvious answer, and what is

in fact the right answer. In the examination the student will not of course see the text, but in the early stages of practising this form of test, it is helpful for the student to be able to check his answers against the text, in order to understand clearly any mistakes he has made. Therefore, the passages on which the Listening Comprehension questions are based are printed in the Appendix of this book.

First, listen to the following letter, and then see how to choose the correct answers. This is a letter from a girl to her friend and it's about the terraced houses in Salt Lane.

I hope you're getting on well in your new flat. It must seem funny moving up North after all these years, but I expect you and John will soon get used to it. Anyway, I thought you might like to know what's been going on down here.

I enclose a copy of a letter in this week's local paper. It's quite exciting.

- 5 Everyone's talking about it. As you see, it's about those terraced houses in Salt Lane near the gasworks. Maureen, one of the girls who works in the supermarket, says her mother-in-law lived there at one time, and she says the condition of the houses is an absolute disgrace. There's damp everywhere, no proper kitchens or bathrooms and – would you believe it? – a lot of the tenants actually have to share a sink on the
- 10 landing. As for privacy, the walls are like paper and you can hear your next-door neighbour turn over in bed. I think it's a shame for people to have to live like that, don't you? Maureen says the Council have been promising to do something about it for ages, but of course it's not really their business because they don't own the land. They agree it's all wrong, but that's about as far as it goes. No one really seems to care.
- 15 Maureen says the only thing to do is to blow up the lot, gasworks included, and then perhaps they'd have to move the people into decent homes. Anyhow, Pat and I are going along to the protest meeting at the Town Hall. There are sure to be fireworks.

Questions on text

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 What does the writer enclose in her letter?
<i>A</i> a copy of the local newspaper
<i>B</i> a letter from a friend
<i>C</i> an extract from a newspaper article
<i>D</i> a copy of a letter to someone else | 4 With regard to Salt Lane, we understand that the Council
<i>A</i> have refused to do anything
<i>B</i> are always promising to do something
<i>C</i> have promised to listen to tenants' complaints
<i>D</i> are too busy to listen to tenants' complaints |
| 2 How is it that the writer's friend, Maureen, knows so much about Salt Lane?
<i>A</i> her mother still lives there
<i>B</i> her mother once lived there
<i>C</i> her husband's mother once lived there
<i>D</i> her husband's mother recently moved there | 5 What does Maureen think would be the best way to call attention to the problem?
<i>A</i> to cause an explosion
<i>B</i> to bomb the Town Hall
<i>C</i> to set fire to Salt Lane
<i>D</i> to create a diversion |
| 3 It is difficult to have any privacy in the Salt Lane houses because the walls
<i>A</i> are made of paper
<i>B</i> are not papered
<i>C</i> are too thick
<i>D</i> are not thick enough | |

Answers

Now check the answers against the text.

1 What does the writer enclose in her letter?

Answer D (a copy of a letter to someone else)

See line 4 'I enclose a copy of a letter in this week's local paper'

A Wrong The writer did not enclose a copy of the local newspaper, but a copy of a letter printed in it

B Wrong The writer did not enclose a letter from a friend

C Wrong The writer did not enclose an extract from a newspaper article, i.e. part of a contribution by a journalist

2 How is it that the writer's friend, Maureen, knows so much about Salt Lane?

Answer C (her husband's mother once lived there)

See lines 6-7 'Maureen . . . says her mother-in-law lived there at one time'

A Wrong There is no reference to Maureen's mother, but only to her mother-in-law

B Wrong This is incorrect for the same reason as A

D Wrong Maureen's mother-in-law has not recently moved to Salt Lane, i.e. she is not living there now

3 It is difficult to have any privacy in the Salt Lane houses because the walls

Answer D (are not thick enough)

See line 10 'the walls are like paper'

The expression 'like paper' is used to describe something very thin.

A Wrong The walls are not made of paper, but as thin as paper

B Wrong 'The walls are not papered' means that they have no wall-paper on them. The text does not tell us whether they are papered or not

C Wrong The idea of the walls being 'too thick' does not connect with the lack of privacy

4 With regard to Salt Lane we understand that the Council

Answer B (are always promising to do something)

See lines 12-13 ' . . . the Council have been promising to do something about it for ages'

A Wrong We are not told that the Council have 'refused'

C Wrong Not stated in the text

D Wrong Not stated in the text. Do not confuse with line 13, 'not really their business'

5 What does Maureen think would be the best way to call attention to the problem?

Answer A (to create an explosion)

See line 15 'Maureen says the only thing to do is to blow up the lot'

'To blow up' means to cause an explosion by a bomb or some other means.

B Wrong There is no reference to blowing up the Town Hall

C Wrong Maureen does not suggest setting fire to Salt Lane. Her idea is to blow up everything, including the gasworks

D Wrong 'To create a diversion' means to do something to distract people's attention from another action

Further practice in listening comprehension

Passage 1 *A letter to a local paper*

- 1 From the passage we understand that the houses in Salt Lane are
 - A built on terraces
 - B built back to back
 - C on one side of the road
 - D joined together
- 2 The writer tells us that the Gas Company
 - A only employs people who live in Salt Lane
 - B only employs workers from abroad
 - C employs a number of foreign workers
 - D employs very few immigrants
- 3 The Council are not prepared to do anything about the houses in Salt Lane because
 - A they are too old to demolish
 - B they are too expensive to repair
 - C they are owned by immigrants
 - D they are not Council property
- 4 The writer complains that the tenants in Salt Lane
 - A have never had a hot bath
 - B have had to live in damp rooms
 - C have no light on the stairs
 - D have had to share a bathroom
- 5 What is the main purpose of the meeting to be held at the Town Hall?
 - A to protest about what is being done
 - B to decide what is to be done
 - C to sympathise with what hasn't been done
 - D to complain about what has been done

Passage 2 *A letter from the export manager of a firm to a business friend*

- 1 From the passage we understand that the writer
 - A has heard something that interests him
 - B occupies some offices in Salt Lane
 - C is moving into one of the Salt Lane houses
 - D is building an office block in Salt Lane
- 2 In his letter the writer points out that his firm
 - A has been wanting to move for two years
 - B has moved to new offices every two years
 - C is unable to move from Salt Lane for two years
 - D is able to move to Salt Lane in two years' time
- 3 What has contributed to the difficulties under which the writer is working at present?
 - A an increase in the number of staff
 - B an increase in the amount of business
 - C the installation of new telephones
 - D the shortage of secretarial help
- 4 What is the writer's main reason for wanting to move to new offices?
 - A he dislikes the sales manager
 - B the offices are badly staffed
 - C there aren't enough telephones
 - D there isn't enough room for the staff
- 5 Why does the writer refer to his present offices as 'an absolute disgrace'?
 - A there are no facilities for lunch
 - B there are no facilities for exercise
 - C he is ashamed of their size
 - D he is ashamed of his size

Passage 3 A letter from the managing director of a firm to a property company

- 1 The writer understands that the company he is writing to
 - A has recently sold some land in Salt Lane
 - B proposes to buy the land in Salt Lane
 - C has erected office blocks in Salt Lane
 - D owns the land in Salt Lane
- 2 The writer's firm requires not less than the following accommodation:
 - A five rooms and usual offices
 - B five rooms including storage room
 - C six rooms including the managing director's office
 - D five rooms suitable for the managing director's office
- 3 It would seem that the writer's firm is prepared to pay
 - A a fixed rent
 - B an inflated rent
 - C a fair rent
 - D a controlled rent
- 4 What kind of business is the writer's firm concerned with?
 - A manufacturing office furniture
 - B selling office equipment
 - C supplying official equipment
 - D importing office furniture
- 5 From the writer's letter we learn that his firm
 - A has a branch office in Amsterdam
 - B has a branch office in Hamburg
 - C has plans for an office in Amsterdam
 - D has no plans for an office in Hamburg

Look and Learn

Oral D

This is a photograph of some houses built by a very famous architect called Nash; they are situated near a park in London. Look at the photograph carefully and then be prepared to talk about it.



Questions

- 1 Describe the houses in the photograph.
- 2 Why do you think there are figures on the roof?
- 3 Do you think it would be comfortable to live in a house like this? Give reasons.
- 4 What is the purpose of the columns at the front of the house?

Topics

Styles in architecture.
Advantages and disadvantages of living in big houses.
The attraction of living near a park.

Situations

Oral E

- 1 You have just visited an old lady who is living in damp and insanitary conditions in one room. Nothing is being done to re-house her. Telephone your local Council and protest.
- 2 Your dustbins haven't been emptied for three weeks. The dustmen are next door. Complain.
- 3 You have been waiting since 9 a.m. for the gasman to come and connect your new gas cooker. The man arrives at 4 p.m. What do you say to him?
- 4 You are telephoning an estate agent about a flat in which you are interested. You want to know how many bedrooms there are and if there is any garden. What do you say?
- 5 The children opposite are always ringing the front doorbell of the old lady on the third floor of your block of flats. Tell their mother what you think of this behaviour.

Topics for Discussion

Oral F

Is it better to live in the country or the town?

Old and modern style buildings.

City parks and gardens.

Structures: Present Tenses

Reading/Writing A

The Simple Present Tense

Regular and irregular verbs form the Simple Present with the addition of 's' or 'es' in the third person singular. They use the forms 'does' and 'do' followed by the infinitive without 'to' for affirmative questions and answers, and 'doesn't' and 'don't' in negative questions and answers.

He pays rent to the landlord every month.

Does he pay rent to the landlord every month?

He doesn't pay rent to the landlord every month.

They pay rent to the landlord every month.

Do they pay rent to the landlord every month?

They don't pay rent to the landlord every month.

The Simple Present Tense is used:

- i to express habitual actions:
Mr Brown generally leaves the house at eight o'clock in the morning.
(Adverbs of frequency and adverb phrases such as *always, generally, often, sometimes, never, usually, every day*, etc., are often used.)
- ii to express natural and scientific laws, and simple fact:
The sun rises in the east and sets in the west.
Gas expands on heating.
Mr Brown owns three houses in this street.
- iii for planned future actions often associated with travel:
Mr Brown's plane leaves at 8.30 tomorrow morning.
- iv in place of the Present Continuous form of certain verbs which are not used in the Continuous (verbs of opinion such as *believe, like, doubt*, and verbs of perception: *see, hear, know, understand*, etc.):
I believe this house is haunted.
I often hear strange noises at night.
- v sometimes for dramatic narrative, particularly when the action of a play or a sport is being described:
The batsman hits the ball hard and it goes straight through the window of the house.

The Present Continuous Tense

The Present Continuous Tense is formed with 'am / is / are' (or their short forms) followed by the Present Participle of the verb '—ing' in affirmative and question form. The negative is formed by 'isn't / aren't' followed by the Present Participle of the verb '—ing'.

He's painting the front door dark blue.
Is he painting the front door dark blue?
He isn't painting the front door dark blue.
They're redecorating the sitting-room again.
Are they redecorating the sitting-room again?
They aren't redecorating the sitting-room again.

The Present Continuous Tense is used:

- i for an action happening now:
The builders are mending the roof.
- ii for an action not necessarily happening at the moment but occurring about this time:
My husband is rebuilding the garage.
- iii for the arranged future:
The nursery is sending the plants for the garden next Monday.
- iv with *always* to suggest a frequently occurring action which annoys or surprises the speaker:
She is always leaving the front door open.
- v for a temporary habit:
He is paying extra premiums on his house insurance this month.

The Present Perfect Tense

N.B. Although this tense is described as a Present Tense, it really refers to a past that is in some way connected with the present.

The Present Perfect Tense is formed with 'has / have' (or their short forms) followed by the Past Participle in the affirmative and question forms. The negative is formed with 'hasn't / haven't' followed by the Past Participle.

*Mr Brown has tried to mend the gate before.
Has Mr Brown tried to mend the gate before?
Mr Brown hasn't tried to mend the gate before.
They've just signed the new lease for the flat.
Have they signed the new lease for the flat?
They haven't signed the new lease for the flat.*

The Present Perfect Tense is used:

- i for actions which happened in an indefinite past time, where the action is more important than the time:
The builders have finished the foundations of the new flats.
- ii for an action begun in the past and not yet finished:
The Smiths have lived in that house all their lives.
- iii with *just* to express a recently completed action:
The children have just come home from school.
- iv with *for* and *since* to denote a period of time extending into the present.
Since is used from a point of time in the past until now:
He has worked as a plumber since he left school.
For is used as a period of time:
He has worked as a plumber for 10 years.
- v with *ever* to express at any time in the past until now:
Have you ever been to South America?
- vi for an action which occurred in the past but may be repeated in the future:
He has built many beautiful houses.

The Present Perfect Continuous Tense

The Present Perfect Continuous Tense is formed with 'has / have been' followed by the Present Participle '—ing' in the affirmative and question forms. The negative is formed with 'hasn't / haven't been' followed by the Present Participle.

*The builders have been working hard for the last hour.
Have the builders been working hard for the last hour?
The builders haven't been working hard for the last hour.
They've been sitting in the garden since lunchtime.
Have they been sitting in the garden since lunchtime?
They haven't been sitting in the garden since lunchtime.*

The Present Perfect Continuous Tense is used:

- i for an action which began in the past and is still continuing (see also Present Perfect), or a past action which the speaker feels has been continuous for a period:
I have been expecting a call from my solicitor all day.