

50

TESTS

IN

ESSENTIAL
ENGLISH

B. Elizabeth Pryse

B. Elizabeth Pryse Ph.D., F.R.S.A.

FIFTY TESTS

IN ESSENTIAL ENGLISH

Basil Blackwell

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INTRODUCTION

In this book, intended for learners of English in the United Kingdom and overseas, I have endeavoured to gather as wide a range of questions as possible on every aspect of the English language – structures, vocabulary, idioms, punctuation, etc. – that students are required to be familiar with, not only for passing examinations, but for everyday use of the language. The material is roughly graded for a gradual progression from easier exercises to more difficult and advanced work.

The Test Goal set out at the beginning of each test explains which areas of linguistic competence the test deals with in particular. The Model Answers at the end of the book show students how to go about answering the questions, and frequently contain guidance on technique and the presentation of answers, in the form of Points of Technique to Note. Technique, after all, plays a large part in convincing an examiner of one's ability to use a language proficiently. To gain the maximum benefit from the tests, I would suggest that students attempt to answer as many questions in a test as possible on their own before consulting the answers.

Although this book is intended mainly to provide practice material for the written sections of English examinations, a few of the tests are designed to help with the oral component. These are: Description of a Picture, Role Play, Reading Aloud and Prepared Talks.

Some students using this book will be working for particular examinations, and they will want to know which tests most closely resemble the tests used in those examinations. The tests most closely tailored to Cambridge First Certificate in English and Certificate of Proficiency in English and to the Royal Society of Arts English as a Foreign Language examinations are as follows:

First Certificate (1984 syllabus):

- Paper 1 (Reading Comprehension) – Tests 2, 4, 14 and 18
- Paper 2 (Composition) – Tests 16 and 20
- Paper 3 (Use of English) – Tests 8, 13, 22 and 25
- Paper 5 (Interview) – Tests 7, 24 and 26

Proficiency (1984 syllabus):

- Paper 1 (Reading Comprehension) – Tests 31, 34 and 42
- Paper 2 (Composition) – Tests 32, 35 and 41
- Paper 3 (Use of English) – Tests 36, 39, 46 and 48
- Paper 5 (Interview) – Tests 24, 26 and 40

RSA II

- Part I (Objective Test) – Tests 3 and 17
- Part II (Comprehension and Composition) – Tests 10, 12 and 20
- Oral Examination – Tests 7 and 24

RSA III

Part I (Objective Test) – Test 43

Part II (Comprehension and Composition) – Tests 29, 32 and 35

Oral Examination – Test 26

Examination candidates will, however, find that many other tests will be useful to them, besides those listed above – such as the preliminary exercises on Paragraphing and Composition, or the tests which practise particular skills, like Sentence Construction and Word Order.

Tests and exercises like this give students practice in presenting their knowledge to an examiner, but it is important to remember that this knowledge can only come in the first place from constant practice in listening to, speaking, reading and writing English. No amount of completing tests can substitute for this.

B. Elizabeth Pryse

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TEST 1

Definite and Indefinite Articles, Singular and Plural

TEST GOAL

The first part of this test shows the student's familiarity with the basic principles behind the use of the definite and indefinite articles in English. The second part tests the ability to recognise and convert singular and plural nouns and to choose the correct verb form for them.

1 Rewrite the following sentences, putting **a** or **an** in the blank spaces where you think they are necessary.

- 1 cigarette is made of tobacco and paper.
- 2 milk comes from cow.
- 3 window is made of glass.
- 4 He is untidy worker and not good student.
- 5 ring can be made of gold or silver.
- 6 bread is made from flour, and flour is made from wheat.
- 7 If you eat orange every day it will keep you healthy.
- 8 fruit is very good to eat.
- 9 Do you like sugar in your tea?
- 10 garden usually has flowers and trees in it.

2 Rewrite the following sentences, putting **a**, **an** or **the** in the blank spaces where you think they are necessary.

- 1 aeroplane can fly from north to south of country in hour or two.
- 2 I like to read book in evening.
- 3 car made loud noise when engine started.
- 4 My friend was sitting at back of class, reading newspaper.

- 5 Do you have pen and pencil?
- 6 page of book is torn and cover looks very old.
- 7 I should like to have house in country with swimming pool.
- 8 They often play game of tennis in afternoon.
- 9 youngest brother is old enough to go to school now.
- 10 Who was child who ran across street and nearly got run over?

3 Say which of the following are countable and carry **an** or **a** before them and which are not.

air	day	party	happiness
apple	shop	meat	peace
tea	smoke	horse	bird
mountain	water	newspaper	knowledge
friend	cup	library	nonsense
grass	news	office	problem
music	furniture	bread	material
sunshine	information	rain	honesty
woman	ink	policeman	advice
food	sand	animal	thing

4 Put the following sentences into the plural.

Example: A dog is a man's best friend.

Answer: Dogs are men's best friends.

- 1 A teacher can be a man or a woman.
- 2 We can make a cake with an egg, flour and milk.
- 3 A cabbage is a plant.
- 4 A room can be a living-room, a bedroom, a dining-room or a kitchen.
- 5 A fly is an insect.
- 6 In the room there is a chair, a table, a carpet and a cupboard.
- 7 A mother is always kind to her child.
- 8 A car, a lorry, a bus and a motor cycle had stopped at the traffic lights.
- 9 A mountain is hard to climb.
- 10 A cloud in the sky often means that it will rain.

5 Put the following sentences into the singular.

Example: Babies always cry.

Answer: A baby always cries.

- 1 Dogs are animals.
- 2 Cities are large towns.
- 3 Hungry boys eat a lot of food.
- 4 Germans are Europeans.
- 5 Orange trees are fruit trees.
- 6 Houses have roofs and doors.
- 7 Roses are beautiful flowers.
- 8 Football teams have captains.
- 9 Policemen direct the traffic.
- 10 Doctors are kind people.

TEST 2

Reading Comprehension (Sentences)

TEST GOAL

This kind of test requires the student to understand the meaning of a sentence sufficiently well, and to have a wide enough vocabulary, to complete the sentence by filling in a blank space from a choice of words. The alternatives supplied often have very similar meanings, so this is also a test of ability to select the appropriate word for a particular context. A computer answer sheet is often supplied, in which case the answer is given by indicating one of the letters **a**, **b**, **c** or **d** as instructed.

Choose the word or phrase which best completes each sentence. Give one answer only to each question.

- 1 When we arrived in Paris it was with rain.
a) running b) dropping c) pouring d) falling
- 2 The name of the book was on the of my tongue, but I just could not think of it.
a) end b) tip c) top d) point
- 3 He promised to mend the broken wheel next day without
a) failure b) default c) trouble d) fail
- 4 I should be very if you would accept the invitation to the party.
a) thanking b) honourable c) pleased d) pleasing
- 5 If you drive from the airport, go on the motorway and follow the to the city.
a) points b) signs c) plans d) ways
- 6 I have always that my university was the best in the country.
a) trusted b) respected c) considered d) regarded
- 7 Please don't to put stamps on the letters I gave you to post.
a) forget b) remind c) realise d) remember
- 8 Her mother asked her to the table for the evening meal.
a) place b) put out c) serve d) lay

- 9 His sister was full of for the way in which he had so quickly learned to drive a car.
a) pride b) admiration c) surprise d) jealousy
- 10 "You will not find kangaroos anywhere else on", said the Australian.
a) soil b) world c) earth d) ground
- 11 The bus only stops here to passengers.
a) get off b) pick up c) alight d) get on
- 12 Will you me your pen for my examination this afternoon?
a) borrow b) lend c) allow d) permit
- 13 He has very good manners and is very when he speaks to people.
a) polite b) simple c) discourteous d) proud
- 14 The picture was sold for a great of money.
a) cost b) sum c) value d) price
- 15 No one was able to explain the of the old custom.
a) beginning b) origin c) starting point d) reason
- 16 It was difficult for him to buy good shoes because he had such a big of feet.
a) couple b) size c) number d) pair
- 17 It is very difficult to a secret from my family.
a) keep b) learn c) take d) hear
- 18 She said that she could not a new dress on her small salary.
a) spend b) save c) afford d) spare
- 19 If you want a cheap air ticket you must well in advance.
a) book b) engage c) reserve d) buy
- 20 He tripped on the stairs and could not falling.
a) resist b) prevent c) stop d) avoid
- 21 He could not keep his family because his wages were too
a) short b) low c) few d) tiny
- 22 He applied for a in the offices of a local newspaper.
a) work b) duty c) career d) job
- 23 When Ali arrived in London he spent all his time and visited all the important museums and buildings.
a) sight-seeing b) travelling c) looking d) touring
- 24 He climbed the tree and picked all the fruit reach.
a) near b) inside c) within d) beyond

- 25 It was necessary to the factory building as the company was doing more and more business.
- a) extend b) increase c) lengthen d) grow

TEST 3

Objective Test from Pictures

TEST GOAL

In this test students are given a picture, or a series of pictures, that tell a visual story. The students must select the correct answers from a series of multiple choice questions which tell the story verbally. This tests students' ability to make deductions from visual material and to match these against the correct language forms. There is often a computer-marked answer sheet, in which case the answer is given by indicating one of the letters **a**, **b**, **c** or **d** as instructed.

Use the pictures below to complete the following sentences.



Picture 1

- 1 Sam and Maria are going for on the beach.
a) the picnic b) a picnic c) picnic d) some picnics
- 2 They are carrying a with food and drink.
a) bag b) sack c) basket d) carrier bag
- 3 It is obvious that Sam and Maria a picnic.
a) are looking forward to having b) look forward to having
c) have had d) have
- 4 Sam's shirt has a pattern of boats
a) in it b) all over it c) down it d) round it
- 5 Sam's shirt is
a) plain b) multi-coloured c) with pattern d) patterned
- 6 Maria's dress has a belt
a) in the waist b) on a waist c) around the waist
d) through the waist
- 7 A sailing boat is
a) on the beach b) behind them in the water
c) so far away in the water d) in front of them in the water
- 8 The sea looks
a) choppy b) rough c) calm d) quiet
- 9 When they find a suitable spot, they sit down and start their picnic.
a) might b) would c) shall d) can
- 10 "I'm glad it's Sunday," says Sam, "..... we can enjoy a day by the sea."
a) so that b) therefore c) in order that
d) with the result that

Picture 2

- 11 "..... a drink?" Maria asks.
a) Should you have b) Will you like c) Would you like
d) Shall you have
- 12 "Yes please, I a drink," says Sam.
a) have need of b) feel like c) feel for d) don't want
- 13 Sam his shoes.
a) pulls out b) pulls up c) takes off d) takes out
- 14 "There are not many people on the beach,?" says Maria.
a) are there b) is there c) will there be d) aren't there

- 15 "I think I'll just,," Sam says.
 a) walk along the beach b) go for a paddle
 c) walk in the water d) step to the water
- 16 There is a notice on the beach that tells people
 a) they can swim safely b) they can swim with permission
 c) they can swim if they wish d) it is not safe to swim
- 17 Sam the notice.
 a) obeys b) refuses c) laughs at d) ignores
- 18 Sam runs the water.
 a) towards b) at c) near d) on
- 19 There are on the beach.
 a) a few people b) a little people c) some few people
 d) few persons
- 20 Maria is busy the food on the cloth.
 a) eating b) setting out c) laying down d) putting up

Picture 3

- 21 he puts his feet in the water, Sam feels a pain in his toe.
 a) Immediately that b) Instantly c) As soon as
 d) At once
- 22 Sam by a crab.
 a) is bitten b) was bitten c) has been bitten
 d) will be bitten
- 23 Sam shouts, "Help,"
 a) I'm bitten b) it bites me c) I've been bitten
 d) or it will bite me
- 24 A crab is Sam's toe.
 a) hanging from b) clawing c) swinging on d) biting
- 25 Sam is trying to
 a) jump on the crab b) send the crab away from his toe
 c) take his toe off the crab d) free his toe from the crab
- 26 The children playing cricket on the beach are to hear Sam shout.
 a) too far away b) too far c) so far away d) so distant
- 27 If you are bitten by a crab, it very much.
 a) pains b) wounds c) burns d) hurts
- 28 Sam have paddled in dangerous water.
 a) should not b) could not c) would not d) must not