



Test Analysis

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Test Selection

Criteria for selection:

- Self tests that can be ascribed to the categories of diagnostic, proficiency or placement tests;
- Tests which are open and free (tests requiring free subscription are included);
- Tests composed by minimum 20 items.

Criteria for exclusion:

- Websites characterized by the use of only one, non-English, vehicular language;
- Tests in pdf format that need to be printed and whose keys are provided in a separate document (these are to be considered as paper and pencil tests).

Description of the analysis model

First part – the frame: this first section provides the basic elements to identify the test, the website which hosts it, its reliability and its main characteristics.

- Address
- Title
- Other tests or subtests (the presence of other tests can offer precious information)
- Institutional author (this element is useful to assess the credibility of the provider)
- Update (a regular update and the absence of dead links are relevant for the reliability of the test and the provider)
- Availability (free or upon subscription)



Second part – the language assessment: this section studies the most relevant characteristics of language tests, i.e. the skills they test and how they do it.

- Self assessment (some tests require users to choose the most adequate test to their language level)
- Computer adaptive: (a test “programmed to deliver questions based on a test taker’s previous response. If the test taker successfully answers the question correctly, a more difficult question is delivered. If, however, the test taker answers the question incorrectly, an easier question is delivered.” See Ockey, 2009, p. 837)
- Skills assessed (listening, reading, speaking, writing, use of language (grammar and vocabulary))
- Tasks typologies (multiple choice, single or multiple answer, cloze and gap-filling, text selection – randomized or permanent).
- Revision (does the test allow the user to modify the answer given?)
- Feedback (what standard or criterion (frameworks, proficiency scales) are used? Does the test provide immediate feedback? Does it give feedback on wrong answers?)
- Multiple attempts
- Time (is there a time limit?)
- Number of items

Third part – the website: this section takes into consideration aspects of the test as a web-based tool which may influence its usability and user-friendliness.

- Interface download time – response time
- Browser – system compatibility, plugins
- Interface design, page design, navigation, terminology (visual ergonomics, legibility)
- Help facilities: does the test provide information to help the users?
- Multimedia
- Stepping out of test (does the test allow users to browse other website?)

Excel Grid

The selected web-based tests were given a total score based on the features described above. For every feature, points were given according to set criteria.

Credibility: 0-5

Tasks: 1 point per typology (max 8)

Update: 0-2

Randomized: 0-5

Availability: 0-2

Revision: 0-1

Computer adaptive: 0-10(5 points for semi-adaptive)

Immediate feedback: 0-1

Feedback (points, criterion, level): 1 point each

Skills: 1 point each



Feedback on wrong answer: 0-10 (5 points for feedback on wrong/right answers, 5 points for explanations)

Multiple attempts: 0-1

Time: 0-1

Items: 1 point every ten

Interface download and compatibility: 0-2

Design and navigation: 0-2

Help facilities: 0-2

Multimedia: 0-8 (4 points for audio, 4 points for video)

1. LCCI Placement Test

Address: <http://www.lcci.org.uk/test-your-skills.asp>

Title: Placement Test

Other tests or subtests: sample tests on many other subjects (other languages, marketing, business, etc.)

Institutional author: LCCI International Qualifications (London Chamber of Commerce) and EDI (Educational Development International acquired by Pearson)

Update: good

Availability: free

Language:

- Self assessment: no
- Computer adaptive: no
- Skills assessed: use of English (grammar)
- Tasks typologies: multiple choice, not randomized
- Revision: yes (but the test shuffles the answers)
- Feedback: immediate score, no direct criterion but suggestion for courses or certifications.
- Multiple attempts: yes

Time: no

Items: 42

Website:

- Interface download time – response time: good
- Browser – system compatibility: good, no plugins
- Interface design, page design, navigation, terminology (visual ergonomics, legibility): good
- Help facilities: no
- Multimedia : no
- Stepping out of test: yes



2. University of Cambridge, Test of English

Address: <http://www.cambridgeesol.org/test-your-english/index.php/>

Title: Test of English – adults

Other tests or subtests: school learners

Institutional author: University of Cambridge – ESOL Examinations. High Credibility

Update: good

Availability: free

Language:

- Self assessment: no
- Computer adaptive: no
- Skills assessed: use of language
- Tasks typologies: multiple choice. Not randomized.
- Revision: no
- Feedback: points and indication of Cambridge course level to enroll in. Immediate feedback on wrong answers, no explanations.
- Multiple attempts: yes.

Time: no

Items: 25

Website:

- Interface download time – response time: good
- Browser – system compatibility, good, no plugins
- Interface design, page design, navigation, terminology (visual ergonomics, legibility): good
- Help facilities, no
- Multimedia , no
- Stepping out of test, yes

3. TOEFL Practice Test

Address: <http://www.stuff.co.uk/toefl.htm>

Title: Free TOEFL Practice Test

Other tests or subtests: IELTS listening test

Institutional author: Not easily identifiable (low credibility).

Update: good

Availability: free



Language:

- Self assessment: no
- Computer adaptive: no
- Skills assessed: use of language, grammatical
- Tasks typologies: fill in the blanks with 4 multiple choices, find the mistake with multiple choice. Always the same
- Revision: no
- Feedback: only score, immediate (as you proceed), with feedback on mistakes, no explanation.
- Multiple attempts: yes

Time: 20 min. (only indicative)

Items: 20

Website:

- Interface download time – response time good
- Browser – system compatibility, good, no plugins
- Interface design, page design, navigation, terminology (visual ergonomics, legibility) good
- Help facilities: yes
- Multimedia : no
- Stepping out of test: yes

4. ToLearnEnglish.com Free Placement Test

Address: <http://www.tolearnenglish.com/placement-test.php>

Title: Free Placement Test: Grammar

Other tests or subtests: beginners, vocabulary, spelling, university

Institutional author: (low credibility) private ESL teacher from France

Update: good

Availability: free

Language:

- Self assessment: no
- Computer adaptive: no
- Skills assessed: spelling, use of language
- Tasks typologies: gap-filling,. Not randomized.
- Revision: yes
- Feedback: beginner, intermediate, confirmed, advanced. immediate, with revision mistakes
- Multiple attempts: yes

Time: no



Items: 30

Website:

- Interface download time – response time: very fast
- Browser – system compatibility good, plugins no
- Interface design, page design, navigation, terminology (visual ergonomics, legibility): very poor design but easy to navigate.
- Help facilities: no
- Multimedia : no
- Stepping out of test: yes

Notes: in one case, the instructions are in French and the verb tenses are indicated with French denominations

5. EasyEnglish.com Free Test

Address: <http://www.easyenglish.com/>

Title: Free Test

Other tests or subtests: randomized

Notes: customizable tests

Institutional author: (medium credibility) ESL USA Teacher, website now part of the English Club group

Update: good

Availability: free

Language:

- Self assessment: yes (easy, medium, difficult)
- Computer adaptive: no
- Skills assessed: use of language (grammar and vocabulary)
- Tasks typologies: (multiple choice, gap-filling, etc.).Not randomized.
- Revision: yes
- Feedback: percentage, immediate, with revision of wrong answers and explanation
- Multiple attempts: yes

Time: no

Items: 10/25 (the user can choose)

Website:

- Interface download time – response time : good
- Browser – system compatibility good, no plugins



- Interface design, page design, navigation, terminology (visual ergonomics, legibility): acceptable
- Help facilities: no
- Multimedia : no
- Stepping out of test: yes

6. English Online: My English Level

Address: <http://www.english-online.org.uk/course.htm>

Title: My English Level

Other tests or subtests: Progress Test

Notes: the site recites “This test will help to give you an idea of which of the ESOL exams - KET, PET or FCE - you should consider. Once you have finished the test, you can do one of the practice papers on this website and see how difficult it is for you. If it is too easy, you should think about doing the next most difficult exam. If it is too hard, then perhaps you need to practice some more!”

Institutional author: (low credibility): not retrievable

Update: ok

Availability: free

Language:

- Self assessment: no
- Computer adaptive: no
- Skills assessed: reading, use of language (vocabulary and grammar)
- Tasks typologies: (multiple choice, text selection, re-arrangements and match). Not randomized.
- Revision: yes
- Feedback: immediate, total score and Cambridge exam indication, no revision of mistakes
- Multiple attempts: yes

Time: 1 minute per section

Items: 10 per section (grammar and vocabulary), variable for reading tasks

Website:

- Interface download time – response time : good
- Browser – system compatibility good, no plugins
- Interface design, page design, navigation, terminology (visual ergonomics, legibility): medium
- Help facilities: no
- Multimedia : no
- Stepping out of test: yes



7. Forum Education

Address: <http://www.test-your-english-now.net/>

Title: Test your English Now!

Other tests or subtests: more tests after registration (free)

Institutional author: (medium credibility) Private company that provides courses, tests and materials online

Update: OK

Availability: FREE

Language:

- Self assessment: no
- Computer adaptive: no
- Skills assessed: vocabulary, listening,
- Tasks typologies: multiple choice. Always the same
- Revision: yes
- Feedback: points + indication of level, immediate. Feedback on wrong answers, no explanation.
- Multiple attempts: yes

Time: only for listening (indicative)

Items: vocabulary: 80, listening 32

Website:

- Interface download time – response time: good
- Browser – system compatibility, plugins (1 audio file didn't work)
- Interface design, page design, navigation, terminology (visual ergonomics, legibility): ok
- Help facilities: no
- Multimedia : audio
- Stepping out of test: yes

8. World English: English Grammar Placement Test

Address: <http://www.world-english.org/test.htm>

Title: English Grammar Placement Test

Other tests or subtests: no

Institutional author: (medium credibility) organization that provides online teaching services and books



Update: no (one dead link)

Availability: free

Language:

- Self assessment: no
- Computer adaptive: semi
- Skills assessed grammar
- Tasks typologies: multiple choice. Always the same
- Revision: yes
- Feedback: points + proficiency scal, immediate, with revision of mistakes, no explanation.
- Multiple attempts: yes

Time:no

Items: 7+9-10+9= 35

Website:

- Interface download time – response time : good
- Browser – system compatibility, plugins: good
- Interface design, page design, navigation, terminology (visual ergonomics, legibility): poor
- Help facilities: no
- Multimedia : no
- Stepping out of test: yes

9. Learn English: Placement tests

Address: <http://www.learnenglish.de/english-test-page.html>

Title: Placement Tests

Other tests or subtests: yes (skills, ESP, etc)

Institutional author: (medium credibility) LEO Network: free online tools and materials for learners and teachers.

Update: good

Availability: free

Language:

- Self assessment: yes (beginner, low intermediate, upper intermediate, advanced)
- Computer adaptive: no
- Skills assessed: use of language (grammar and vocabulary)
- Tasks typologies: multiple choice. Not randomized.
- Revision: no



- Feedback: points and percentage, immediate, no feedback on mistakes
- Multiple attempts: yes

Time: no

Items: 10 for vocabulary, 20 for grammar

Website:

- Interface download time – response time good
- Browser – system compatibility, plugins, good
- Interface design, page design, navigation, terminology (visual ergonomics, legibility), ok
- Help facilities: no
- Multimedia : no
- Stepping out of test: yes

10. English Hilfen: Test your English

Address: http://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/exercises_list/test.htm

Title: Test your English (test 1,2,3)

Other tests or subtests: yes many

Institutional author: (low credibility) German private ESL teacher

Update: good

Availability: free

Language:

- Self assessment: no
- Computer adaptive: no
- Skills assessed: use of language (grammar and vocabulary)
- Tasks typologies: multiple choice. Randomized.
- Revision: yes
- Feedback: points, percentage, immediate, with revision of the mistakes made
- Multiple attempts: yes

Time: no

Items: from 5 to 15, you choose

Website:

- Interface download time – response time : good
- Browser – system compatibility, plugins: good
- Interface design, page design, navigation, terminology (visual ergonomics, legibility): ok



- Help facilities: no
- Multimedia : no
- Stepping out of test: yes

Notes: a question with no correct answers.

11. Exam English

Address: <http://examenglish.com/leveltest/index.php?gclid=CJ2vqbHZ0rICFY1P3godnxAABQ>

Title: Test your Level of English+ listening test

Other tests or subtests: many

Institutional author: (medium credibility) private English ESL examiner and web developer

Update: 2 dead links, low

Availability: free

Language:

- Self assessment: no
- Computer adaptive: yes
- Skills assessed: use of language, grammar and vocabulary, listening comprehension
- Tasks typologies: multiple choice. Not randomized.
- Revision: no
- Feedback: no final score, Cambridge levels (elementary to proficiency), + approximate IELTS and TOEFL scores. Immediate, no revision of the mistakes made
- Multiple attempts: yes

Time: only indicative, 10 minutes

Items: 15 + 15

Website:

- Interface download time – response time: good
- Browser – system compatibility, plugins: good
- Interface design, page design, navigation, terminology (visual ergonomics, legibility): good
- Help facilities: no
- Multimedia: audio tracks
- Stepping out of test: yes



12. English Town

Address:

http://googleit.englishtown.com/online/dp/skill_test.aspx?ctr=it&lng=it&ps=y&etag=GGITS_TST_ONL_Test#

Title: Test your English

Other tests or subtests: no

Institutional author: High credibility, it is part of EF group, a multinational company with decades of experience, which sells online courses all over the world.

Update: good

Availability: needs free subscription

Language:

- Self assessment: no
- Computer adaptive: no
- Skills assessed: listening, reading, grammar
- Tasks typologies: multiple choice. Not randomized
- Revision: no
- Feedback: final score and proficiency level, immediate, with revision of the mistakes made
- Multiple attempts: no

Time: no

Items: 10 grammar, 10 reading, 10 listening

Website:

- Interface download time – response time: good
- Browser – system compatibility, plugins: good
- Interface design, page design, navigation, terminology (visual ergonomics, legibility): good
- Help facilities no
- Multimedia: audio tracks
- Stepping out of test: yes

13. Net Languages:

Address: <http://www.netlanguages.com/info/english/popups/leveltest.php?test=generalenglish>

Title: Level Test

Other tests or subtests: different tests according to the language level but the structure is always the same (shorter or longer according to the difficulty) + a written test to send by email



Institutional author: medium-high credibility, it is offered by International house, a company providing online courses, mainly based in Spain

Update: good

Availability: free

Language:

- Self assessment: possible but not necessary
- Computer adaptive: no
- Skills assessed: vocabulay, grammar, syntax
- Tasks typologies: fill in the blanks. Not randomized.
- Revision: yes
- Feedback: level (basic, intermediate, advanced + a1//c2), no final score, immediate, no revision of mistakes
- Multiple attempts: yes

Time: no

Items: 100

Website:

- Interface download time – response time: good
- Browser – system compatibility, plugins: good
- Interface design, page design, navigation, terminology (visual ergonomics, legibility): medium
- Help facilities: no
- Multimedia : no
- Stepping out of test: yes

14. Vancouver Centre, Vancouver English Grammar Test.

Address: <https://secure.vec.bc.ca/vec/online-test.cfm?>

Title: VEC English Grammar Test

Other tests or subtests: no

Institutional author: medium credibility, it is offered by the Vancouver English Center

Update: good

Availability: needs free registration

Language:

- Self assessment: no
- Computer adaptive: no
- Skills assessed: grammar and vocabulary



- Tasks typologies: multiple choice. Randomized.
- Revision: partial
- Feedback: percentage, almost immediate (by email), no revision of mistakes
- Multiple attempts: only once a day

Time: no

Items: 140

Website:

- Interface download time – response time: good
- Browser – system compatibility, plugins: good
- Interface design, page design, navigation, terminology (visual ergonomics, legibility): medium
- Help facilities no
- Multimedia: no
- Stepping out of test yes

15. International House London

Address: http://www.testmylevel.com/test_info.asp?testcode=EX

Title: Test my level – Executive English

Other tests or subtests: general English (the link is not valid)

Institutional author: medium-high credibility, it is a language school based in London

Update: poor

Availability: needs registration (but it can also be taken anonymously).

Language:

- Self assessment: no
- Computer adaptive: no
- Skills assessed: grammar and vocabulary
- Tasks typologies: multiple choice. Not randomized
- Feedback: language level, final score, percentage, immediate, no revision of mistakes
- Multiple attempts: yes

Time: 20 minutes

Items: 50

Website:

- Interface download time – response time: ok
- Browser – system compatibility, plugins: ok



- Interface design, page design, navigation, terminology (visual ergonomics, legibility): ok
- Help facilities: no
- Multimedia: no
- Stepping out of test: yes

16. Oxford House college

Address: <http://enrolment.oxfordhousecollege.co.uk/grammartest/testyourenglish10.asp>

Title: Test your English

Other tests or subtests: no

Notes:

Institutional author: medium-high credibility, Oxford House College is an English language schools in the UK.

Update: good

Availability: needs registration

Language:

- Self assessment: no
- Computer adaptive: (semiadaptive, Ockey) no
- Skills assessed use of language
- Tasks typologies: multiple choice. Not randomized
- Revision: yes
- Feedback: language level (A, B etc + intermediate, advanced etc) and final score, immediate, no revision of mistakes
- Multiple attempts: yes

Time: no

Items: 50

Website:

- Interface download time – response time: ok
- Browser – system compatibility, plugins: ok
- Interface design, page design, navigation, terminology (visual ergonomics, legibility) poor
- Help facilities: no
- Multimedia: no
- Stepping out of test: yes