duolingo english test

Official Guide for Test Takers

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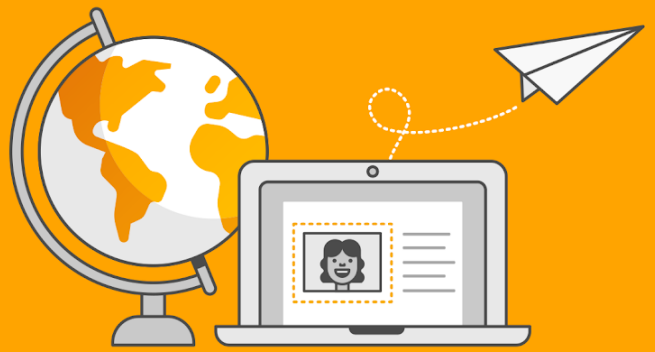
introduction



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Introduction

Overview
Welcome to the Duolingo English Test Official Guide for Test Takers! In this section, you will learn what the Duolingo English Test is, some advantages of taking the test, and how institutions use the test.

ABOUT THE TEST

The Duolingo English Test is an English test designed for you—convenient, fast, affordable, and trusted around the world. The test is brought to you by Duolingo, the most popular way to learn a language online. Duolingo's mission is to develop the best education in the world and make it universally available.

The Duolingo English Test is:

Convenient
Take the test online from your computer at any time, anywhere in the world.

Fast
Complete the test in under 1 hour and receive your results in 2 days.

Affordable
Only $49, and you can share your results with an unlimited number of institutions for no additional cost.

Trusted
Accepted by thousands of top institutions around the world.

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HOW IT WORKS

The Duolingo English Test uses the latest technology to make the test accessible, accurate, and secure. The test was developed by language testing experts using artificial intelligence (AI) to offer a modern testing experience built on research.

Accessible

In addition to being available online, on demand, the test is a computer adaptive test. This means that the difficulty of the test questions changes based on each test taker's performance. You can receive an accurate score in under 1 hour of test taking.

Accurate

Scores are calculated by the grading engine, which is trained to understand language ability the same way that expert human raters do.

Secure

With the help of AI, multiple human proctors detect instances of rule breaking.

Results are available in 2 days and include your overall score, subscores, and an ungraded video and writing sample. These can be shared with an unlimited number of institutions for no additional cost.

WHO ACCEPTS THE TEST

The Duolingo English Test is used as proof of English proficiency by institutions and employers around the world. It is recognized by thousands of universities in over 50 countries, and it is commonly accepted for admissions, placement, progress, or exit requirements.

To see where the test is accepted, visit englishtest.duolingo.com/institutions. Always check a university's website to understand their English proficiency requirements.

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get ready for the test

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Get ready for the test

Overview
In this section, you will learn about test preparation and readiness for the Duolingo English Test. You will read about ways to get to know the test, tips for practicing your English, and suggestions for planning your test taking experience.

ABOUT TEST READINESS

Duolingo is a language learning company with a mission to lower barriers to education for everyone. For that reason, “test prep” for the Duolingo English Test may be a little different than what you’re used to.

When people think about test preparation, they picture long hours studying, expensive resources, and memorization. These practices create a lot of pressure to perform well, which can lead to testing anxiety and an overall negative experience. That kind of test preparation isn't necessary for the Duolingo English Test. Instead of test preparation, think more about the process of getting ready to take the test, or “test readiness.”

Minimizing stress

This is a test that’s designed for you. Take it any time, anywhere, when you’re ready. Hopefully the flexible schedule, low cost, and lack of traveling to a test center will help minimize stress, so you can stay focused on doing your best on the test.

Learn English, not an English test

You do not need special preparation in order to do well on the Duolingo English Test. No need for memorization, rehearsal, or expensive classes. The Duolingo English Test is designed to show your real proficiency level in English. Intense studying right before the test will not change your score. Your score will improve as your proficiency improves.

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Free test readiness resources

No matter how convenient and affordable the test is, there will always be some stress associated with testing. That's why there are many trustworthy resources to help you become comfortable with the test in advance. All the information you need is online, for free at englishtest.duolingo.com.

HOW TO LEARN ABOUT THE TEST

There are many ways that you can experience what it's like to take the Duolingo English Test before you begin your certified test.

Try the following resources:

- Read this guide and complete the practice questions included at the end.
- Take the free Duolingo English Practice Test as many times as you want by going to englishtest.duolingo.com/quick. (Keep in mind that the practice version is shorter and unproctored. Your reported score range on the practice test is an estimate and not as accurate as the real test.)
- Watch the test walkthrough video to see a test taker complete the entire experience at go.duolingo.com/walkthrough.
- Watch YouTube videos from the Duolingo English Test channel and playlists.

HOW TO PRACTICE ENGLISH

The best way to prepare for the test is to immerse yourself in English as much as you can. There are many ways you can practice English language skills leading up to the test and to prepare for studying or working in an English-speaking environment.

When teaching or learning a foreign language, many people focus on Speaking, Writing, Reading, and Listening skills. Here are some of our favorite tips for practicing those skills, shared from the Duolingo blog (blog.duolingo.com).

Speaking

- Take advantage of time alone or at home to do a little talking to yourself in English. Narrate what you're doing, think out loud about plans, or challenge yourself to describe favorite traditions or childhood memories! A big component of speaking is retrieving words from memory, and you can do this kind of practice on your own from anywhere.

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- When you watch movies or videos in English on your own, repeat what you hear to give your tongue and brain some practice with the new sounds. Write down or record especially funny lines or catch phrases to incorporate into your around-the-house speaking practice.
- There will be some sounds in English that will feel especially tricky to get right. If you're having trouble with a sound or particular set of sounds, chances are good that others are struggling with them too. Search online for guides and videos that have extra information to help your pronunciation.

Writing

- For fast and easy practice, try writing your shopping list in English. If you keep a list of tasks for each day, you can also try writing that in English.
- On your phone or computer, install a keyboard in English so you can practice using English to text, search, and post on social media.
- Make a friend at a Duolingo Event (events.duolingo.com) or in the Forum (forum.duolingo.com) and become text pen pals!
- Find online communities and groups that use English, and spend some of your social media time writing quick responses in the language. Soon you might be writing even longer messages!

Reading

- Read blogs, follow social media accounts, and join groups with posts in English.
- Read articles and news in English. You'll often be able to rely on your general knowledge of current events to help you understand.
- Read Wikipedia and books in English, maybe starting with topics you're already familiar with. You can also read your favorite books in the English translation.

Listening

- Listen to music in English. Music is catchy, has a lot of repetition, and helps you learn useful phrases in a memorable context. Look up the lyrics to check what you hear!
- Watch shows or movies in English by switching the language of the audio. You can check out movies originally made in English, and you might be able to find options that are subtitled into the language.
- Find apps or podcasts in English. Look for options related to news, sports, history, fashion—any topic you like to hear about in your own language! Some apps may have helpful videos, too.

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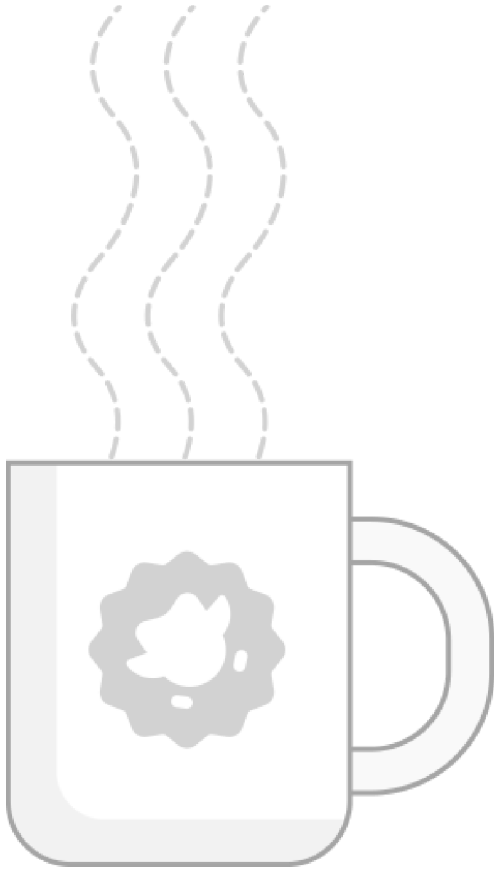
HOW TO TEST YOUR BEST

Because you can choose when and where you take the test, you should take it when you feel your best mentally and physically.

Make sure you're comfortable and recharged

- Plan to take the test at the time of day when you perform best.
- Sleep well the night before.
- Use the bathroom before the test.
- Drink enough water before the test. (But remember you can't step away from the computer once you start, so again, use the bathroom before the test!)
- Have a brain-boosting snack.



Get in the right mindset

- Read or watch something in English.
- Try an English-language meditation to get calm and focused.
- Do some exercise or calming physical activity before the test.

Ensure privacy

- Put any devices in another room and turn them off.
- Put away any pens and paper. Taking notes is against the rules.
- Warn anyone in the area not to disrupt you.

Check equipment

- Make sure your computer is sufficiently charged or plugged in.
- Verify that your internet connection is strong.
- Check that your ID is not expired.
- Take your headphones off and put them in another room.

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HOW TO PACE YOURSELF

Go at your own pace when preparing for the test. Because the test is designed to measure your English proficiency rather than your knowledge of the test, you could take it right now if you wanted to!

Before the test

- The first thing you should do is create a free account on englishtest.duolingo.com. All you need is a valid email address.
- Become familiar with the test by exploring your online account. In addition to this guide and the practice test, you will find many other free resources.
- In the days leading up to the test, increase your practice of English as much as possible.
- Know exactly when and where you will want to take the test, and get your space and equipment ready.

During the test

- Right before you start the test, use the advice above in "HOW TO TEST YOUR BEST" to get in the right mindset. Don't forget to refresh your memory of the rules for test taking.
- While taking the test, don't look away from the screen or exit out of the test application. Try not to look at the timer too often.
- After you finish, wait until your test has completely uploaded before leaving the Duolingo English Test desktop app. You will see a notification on the screen when your results have been uploaded.

After the test

- Within 48 hours, you will receive your score report. You can view your results from your online account.
- You can start sending scores as soon as they're available to you.
- There is no pressure to decide which institutions will receive your scores or when—you can send them to as many institutions as you want, for no additional cost.

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test structure

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Test structure

Overview
In this section, you will learn about the format, individual sections, and length of the test. You will also learn more about computer adaptive testing and how it affects your test experience.

VIDEO WALKTHROUGH

One of the best ways to learn about the structure of the test is to watch the video walkthrough, available on the Duolingo English Test website (go.duolingo.com/walkthrough) or YouTube channel. You will see a test taker go through each portion of the test, including setup and upload.

TEST LENGTH

You will need about 1 hour of uninterrupted free time to take the Duolingo English Test.

ABOUT ADAPTIVE TESTING

The Duolingo English Test is a computer adaptive test, which means that the question sequence and difficulty changes for each test taker and test session. Because it is adaptive, the test has a few differences than other tests you may have taken.

Only one section

Unlike other tests, all graded questions are integrated in a single section. Different questions will appear one after another. You will not know which type of question will be asked next.

Varying difficulty

The difficulty of the question changes dynamically throughout the test. Therefore, some questions may seem easier or harder than others—that is normal!

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Adaptive length

There is no set number of questions. The test ends when the grading engine is confident in your score.

Unique experience

The test questions draw from an extremely large pool. On average, it would take more than 1,000 tests to see a question repeated.

HOW THE TEST IS SET UP

Once you begin the test, you'll be guided through three different sections.

1. Introduction and onboarding ~5 minutes
    - Ensure your computer's camera, speakers, and microphone are functioning properly.
    - Submit your government-issued photo ID.
    - Review the test rules and requirements.

2. Graded computer adaptive test ~45 minutes
    - Measures your English skills through short question types.
    - Test questions are administered randomly.
    - Question difficulty changes based on your performance.

3. Ungraded video and writing sample ~10 minutes
    - You will be shown two questions, from a pool of hundreds, and given 30 seconds to choose which one to answer.
    - Video speaking sample allows for a 1–3 minute response, and the writing sample allows for a 3–5 minute response.
    - You can review your responses to the video interview and writing prompts before sharing with institutions.

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understand the test questions

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Understand the test questions

Overview
In this section, you will learn about the different types of questions you'll see on the Duolingo English Test. The description of each question type will have important information and tips on how to respond.

GENERAL TIPS

There are some good strategies and habits that apply to all the question types on the Duolingo English Test. They include test-taking strategies, writing tips, and speaking tips.

Test-taking strategies

- Use all of the time that you have available to answer a question. You will not receive a better score for answering questions faster.
- If you can, give longer responses than is required. For example, write more than 50 words or speak longer than 30 seconds. If you are using English effectively, and your response is relevant to the question, a more developed answer could help you achieve a better score.
- You will not be penalized for mistakes until you click NEXT to submit your answer and move on to the next item, so take the time to make any corrections. You can't return to a question once you have clicked NEXT.
- Try not to look at the timer too often, because it can distract you from effectively responding.
- Leave time at the end of each question to check your response.

Writing tips

- Use proper spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization. The Duolingo English Test accepts both American and British spelling. The only exception is the **Read and Complete** question type, which uses American spelling only.
- Vary your sentence structure and word choice as much as possible. Using diverse, more sophisticated vocabulary and grammar can help you achieve a better score.

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Speaking tips

- Speak loudly, clearly, and at an understandable pace.
- You will not have a chance to re-record your response. So even if you make a mistake, just keep going.
- Make sure you don't submit your recording until after you have finished your entire response.
- Just like with writing, vary your sentence structure and word choice as much as possible.

ABOUT THE QUESTION TYPES

Now you will learn all about the types of questions on the test. For each question type, you will see a few different components:

- Example: an image of a real question from the test.
- Directions: information about what you're being asked to do.
- Time limit: the amount of time you have to complete the task.
- Tips: advice for each question, separated into two categories:
  - Good test-taking strategies and language habits
  - How you can interact with the test from your computer
- Subscores: the subscores that are being assessed on this question.
  - There are four subscores: Comprehension, Conversation, Literacy, and Production.
  - If you aren't familiar with the subscores on the Duolingo English Test, you can learn about them in the "WHAT YOUR SCORES MEAN" section of this guide, or at englishtest.duolingo.com/scores.

IF YOU SEE A QUESTION TYPE YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE

- Duolingo is always working on improving the test. This includes researching new question types that you may see on the practice test or certified test. This is a common practice and helps improve the test for everyone. Don't worry, these questions don't affect your score or the time available for your responses. Please reach out to our support team with questions.

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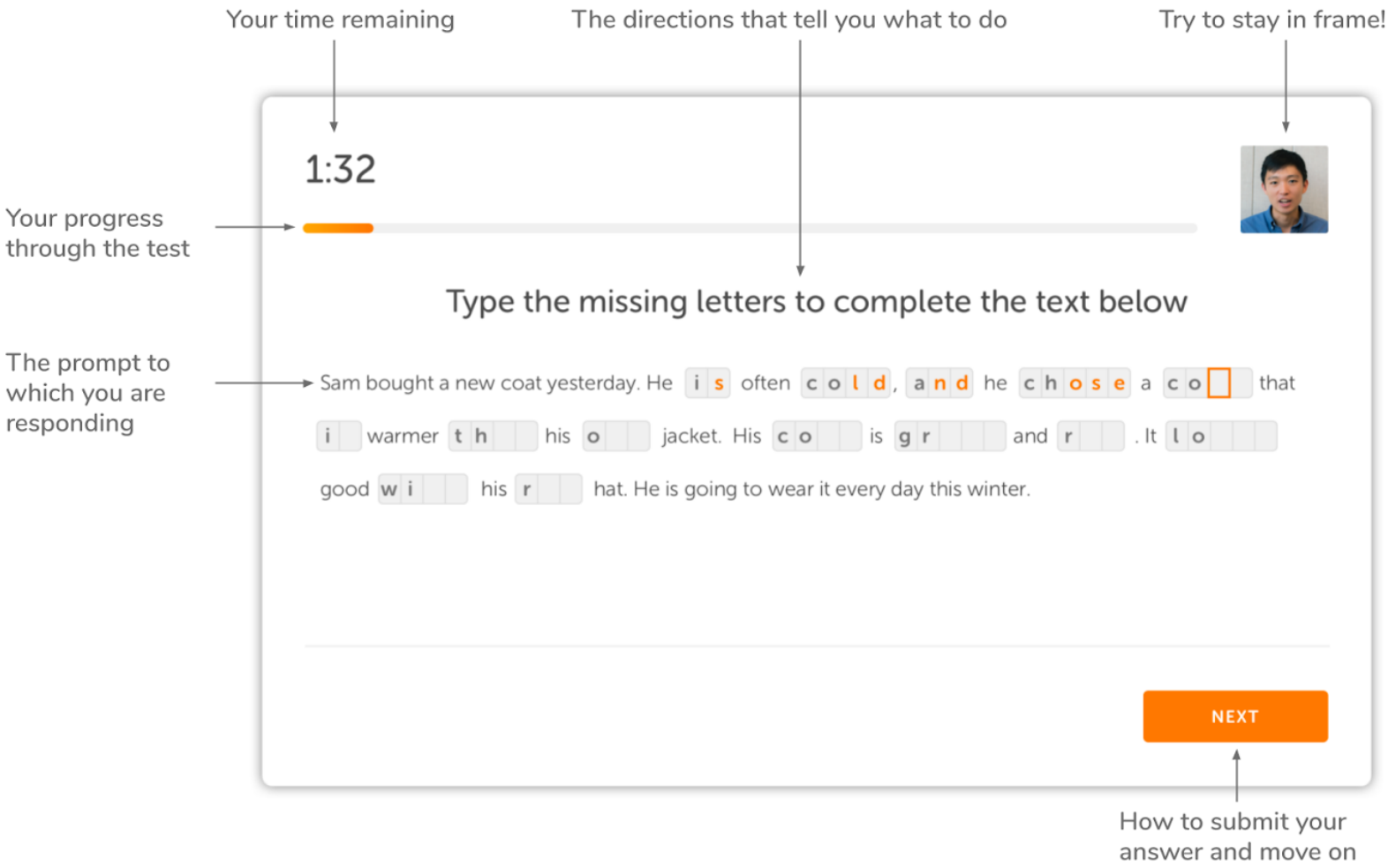
DIAGRAM OF A QUESTION

Refer to this image if you get confused about the parts of each test question that will be referenced in this section.



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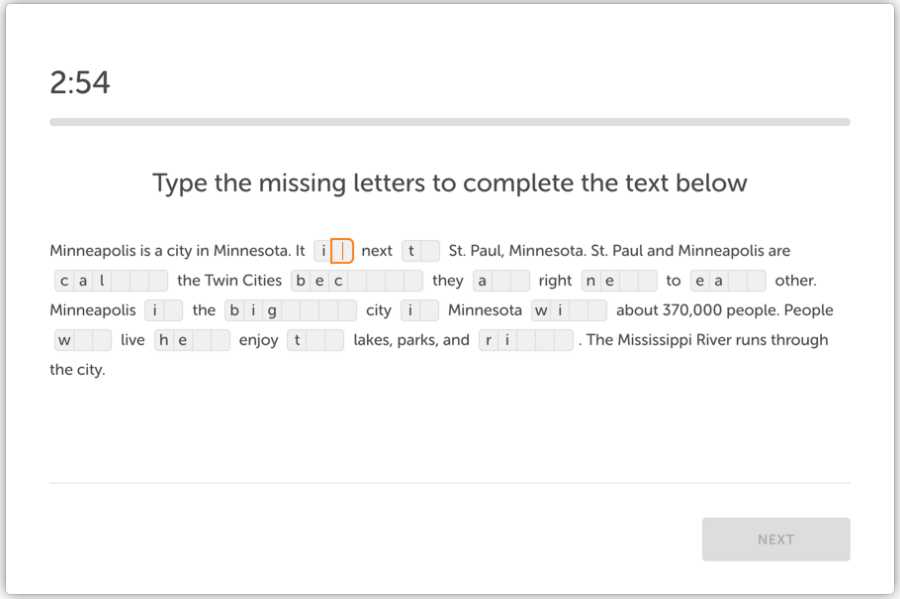
GRADED SECTION

Question Type 1: Read and Complete

3:00



DIRECTIONS

- **Read and Complete** asks you to "Type the missing letters to complete the text below." For this question type, you will fill in the blanks of unfinished words in a passage.
- These directions will appear on the screen at the same time as the timer begins.

SUBSCORES: Literacy, Comprehension

TIPS

- Read the passage before focusing on each individual word.
- Use context clues to help you complete the words.
- Use the backspace or delete button to go back one space and delete a letter.

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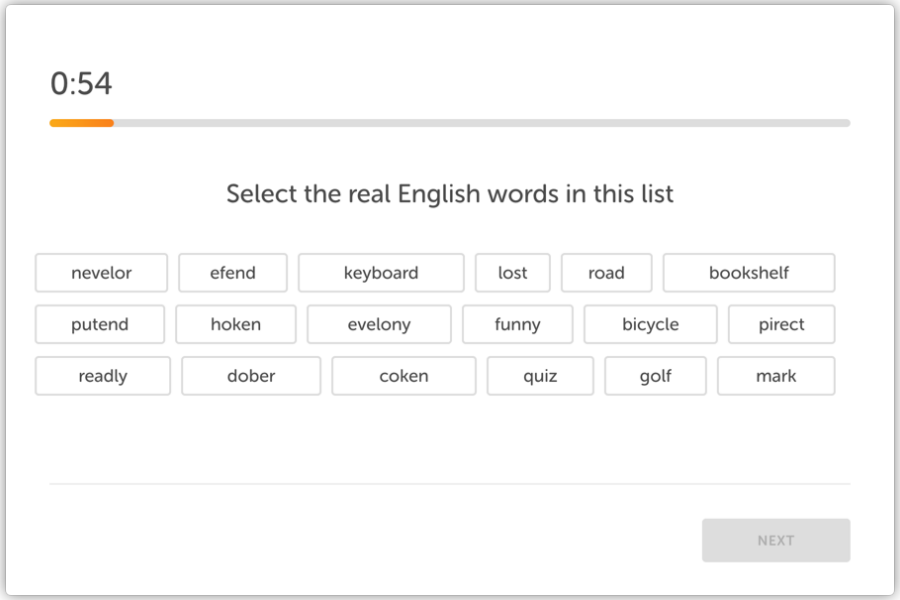
Question Type 2: Read and Select

1:00

DIRECTIONS

- **Read and Select** asks you to "Select the real English words in this list." You will need to read each word in a list and decide if it is an actual word in English.
- The directions for this question appear at the same time as the timer begins.



SUBSCORES: Literacy, Comprehension

TIPS

- Select only the words you know are real! Trust yourself.
- There could be any number of real words in the list, so don't worry if one question has more than another.
- Read carefully. Some words look real, but have small differences from real English words.

- Click a word to select it as a real English word. It will turn orange once you've selected it.
- Click the word again to deselect it if you change your mind.

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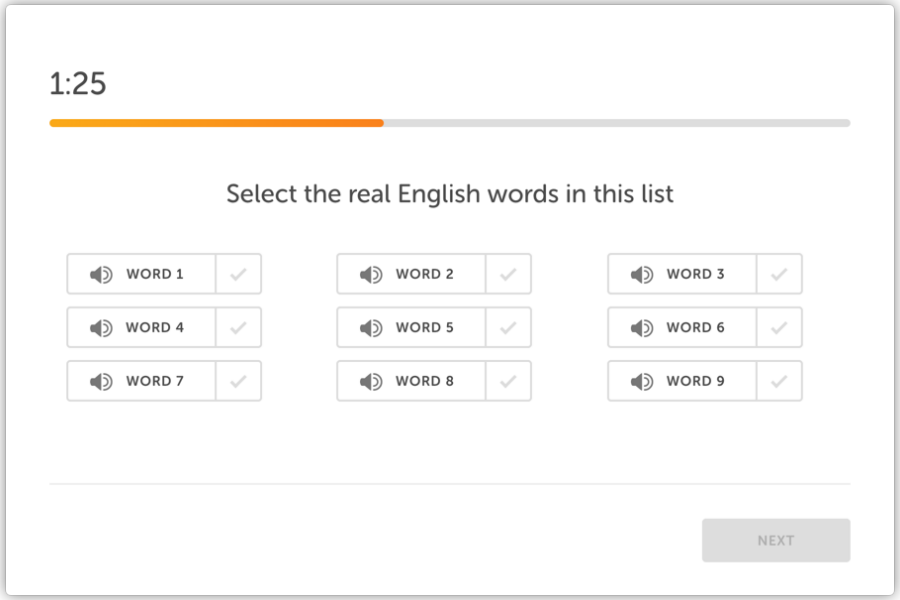
Question Type 3: Listen and Select

1:30

DIRECTIONS

- **Listen and Select** asks you to "Select the real English words in this list." Similar to Read and Select, you will be trying to identify real English words, but in this question, you will listen to the words to identify them.
- The directions for this question appear at the same time as the timer begins.



SUBSCORES: Comprehension, Conversation

TIPS

- Make sure to pay attention to each syllable of each word—some fake words may have small differences from real ones.
- Select only the words you know are real.
- Double check your selected words before clicking NEXT.

- You can play each word as many times as you want. Use the speaker icon next to the words to play them again.
- Click the orange check mark (☑) to select a word if you think it is a real English word. Your selections will be highlighted in orange. Click the check mark again to deselect a word if you change your mind.

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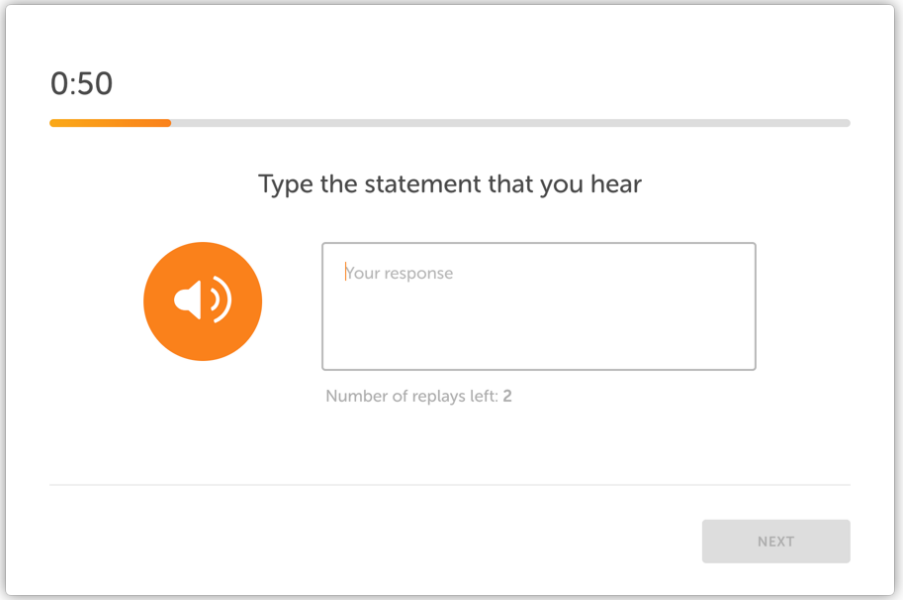
Question Type 4: Listen and Type

1:00

DIRECTIONS

- **Listen and Type** asks you to "Type the statement that you hear." In this task, you will listen to a person speaking a statement and then transcribe what you hear.
- The directions for this question appear at the same time that the timer begins.



SUBSCORES: Comprehension, Conversation

TIPS

- Type out what you hear first. Then check your response by replaying the statement and comparing it to what you wrote.
- You can replay the statement up to two times (three plays total) by clicking on the orange speaker icon.

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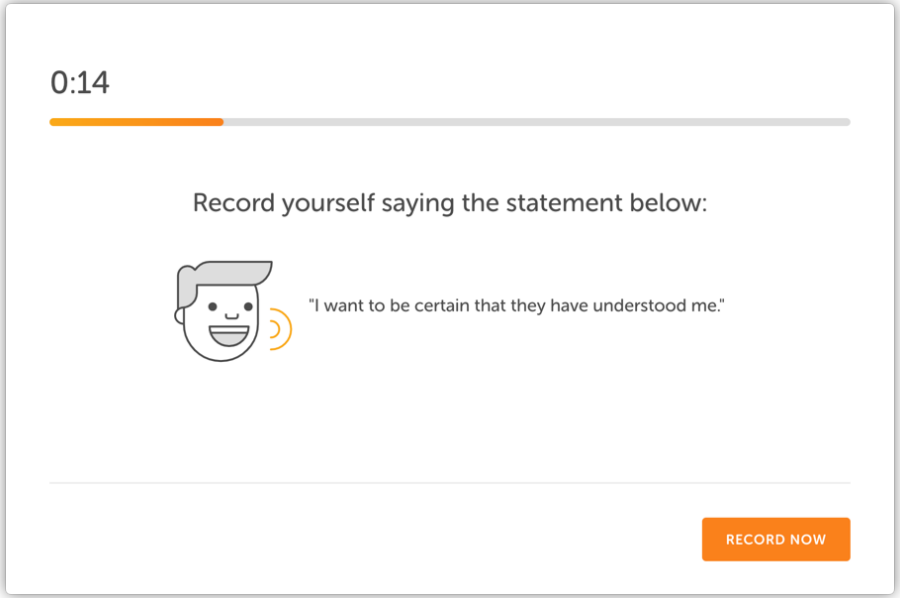
Question Type 5: Read Aloud

0:20

DIRECTIONS

- **Read Aloud** asks you to "Record yourself saying the statement below." In this question type, you will read a written statement, and then speak it out loud into the microphone.
- The directions for this question appear at the same time that the timer begins.



SUBSCORES: Comprehension, Conversation

TIPS

- Practice speaking the statement once out loud before recording if you have time.
- Look at the punctuation in the statement to help you pace yourself—briefly pausing at each comma, for instance.
- Speak loudly, at a natural pace, and make sure to enunciate clearly.

- You only have 20 seconds, and you only have one chance to record the statement, so do the best you can in that time.
- When you are ready to record, click RECORD NOW and start speaking. When you are finished recording, click NEXT. If you do not click NEXT, the test will advance automatically when the timer runs out.
- Make sure you capture your full response in the recording.

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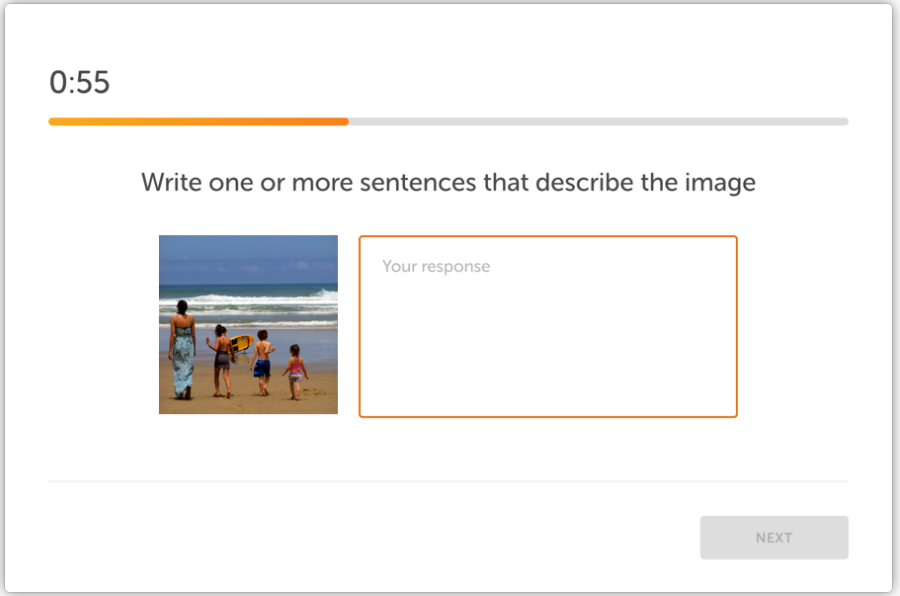
Question Type 6: Write About the Photo

1:00

DIRECTIONS

- **Write About the Photo** asks you to "Write one or more sentences that describe the image." For this question type, you will see an image on the screen and you will write a description of the image.
- The directions for this question appear at the same time that the timer begins.



SUBSCORES: Production, Literacy

TIPS

- Try to go beyond simple labeling and describe the image in detail.
- The directions ask for one complete sentence, but try to write more than one.

- You will be able to see the image as you write your response.
- Use your mouse or trackpad to scroll back in your response if you need to check it for spelling and grammar.

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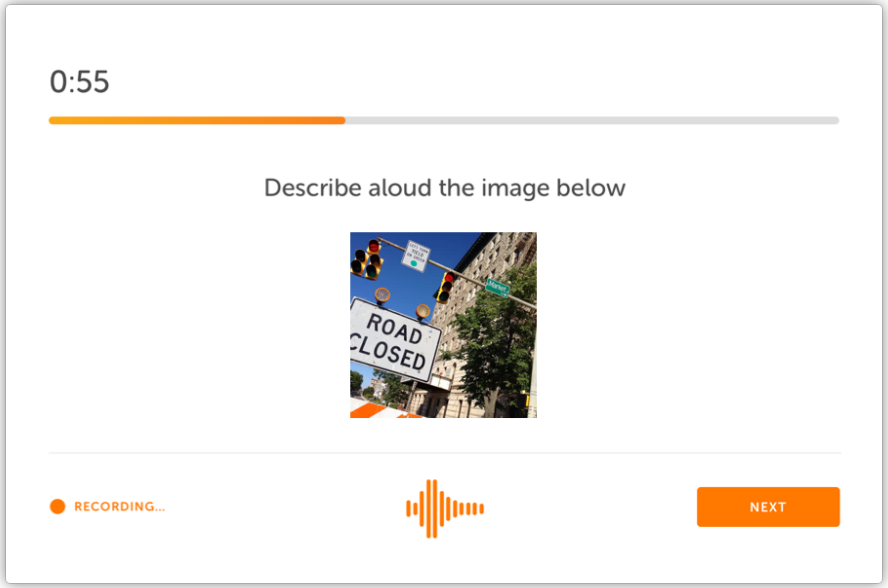
Question Type 7: Speak About the Photo

0:30 Minimum
1:30 Maximum

DIRECTIONS

- **Speak About the Photo** asks you to "Describe aloud the image below." In this task, you will talk about an image that appears on the screen.
- The directions and image will appear for 20 seconds before automatically advancing to the record screen. You can also click NEXT to manually advance.
- You will need to speak for a minimum of 30 seconds before moving on.



SUBSCORES: Production, Conversation

TIPS

- Try to describe the image as if to someone who can't see it.
- Speak at a natural pace and enunciate clearly.
- Don't panic if you stumble on a word or phrase, just recover and keep going.

- You will have 20 seconds to look at the photo before the recording begins automatically. Take this time to observe and mentally plan your response before recording your answer.
- You will also be able to look at the image as you speak.
- You can't re-record your answer.

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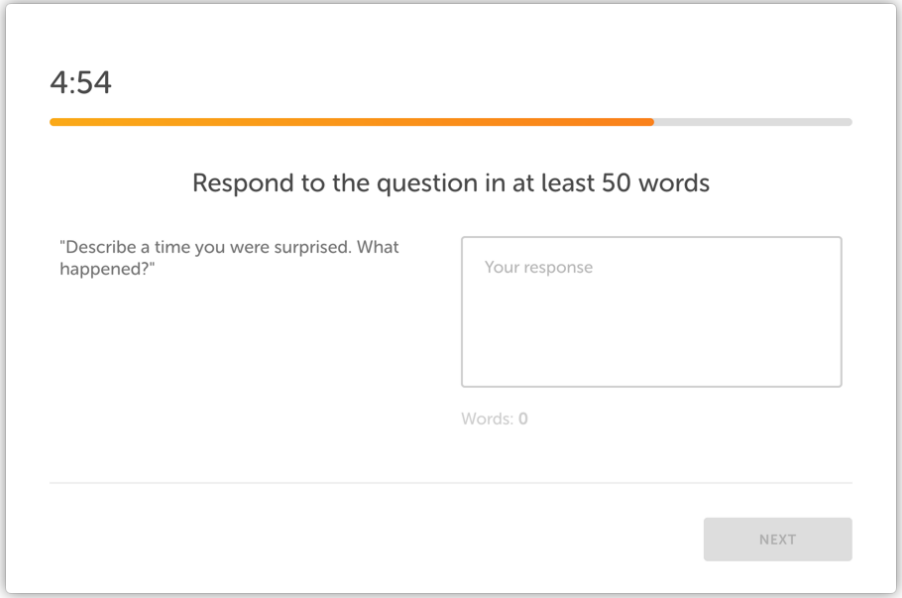
Question Type 8: Read, Then Write

5:00

DIRECTIONS

- **Read, Then Write** asks you to "Respond to the question in at least 50 words." For this question type, you will read a written prompt. Then, you will respond in writing with at least 50 words.
- Unlike the Writing Sample, you will not have a choice of prompt.
- For this task, the directions will appear at the same time as the timer begins.



SUBSCORES: Production, Literacy

TIPS

- Use all the time you have to make sure your response is the best it can be.
- Write as much as you can, as long as you are using English effectively and it is relevant to the topic.
- Use writing best practices to help you develop your response (see "GENERAL TIPS" at the beginning of this section).

- You will be able to see the question as you write, if you need inspiration to write more.
- Your word count will appear below the text box, and you will not be able to click NEXT until you have written at least 50 words.
- Proofread carefully! Do not click NEXT until you have checked your response and are ready to submit.

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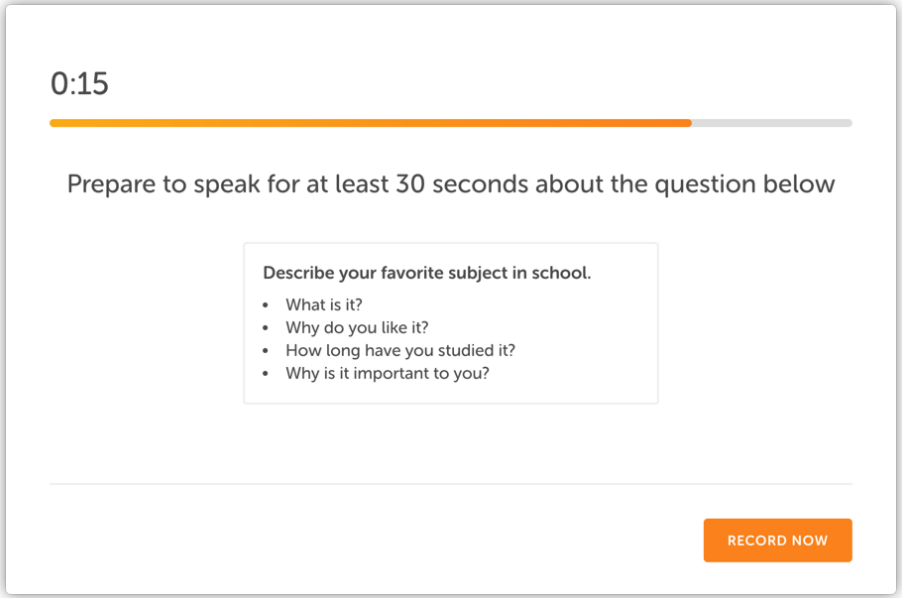
Question Type 9: Read, Then Speak

0:30 Minimum
1:30 Maximum

DIRECTIONS

- **Read, Then Speak** asks you to "Speak your answer to the question below." For this question type, you will see a written prompt. You will speak your response to this prompt for at least 30 seconds.
- The directions will appear for 20 seconds before the timer begins.



SUBSCORES: Conversation, Production

TIPS

- Speak naturally and clearly, and use varied words and structures.
- Make sure you've answered all of the components to the question.
- Take your time to read the question carefully and start thinking about your response before the test advances to the recording screen. You will still be able to see the question as you speak your response.

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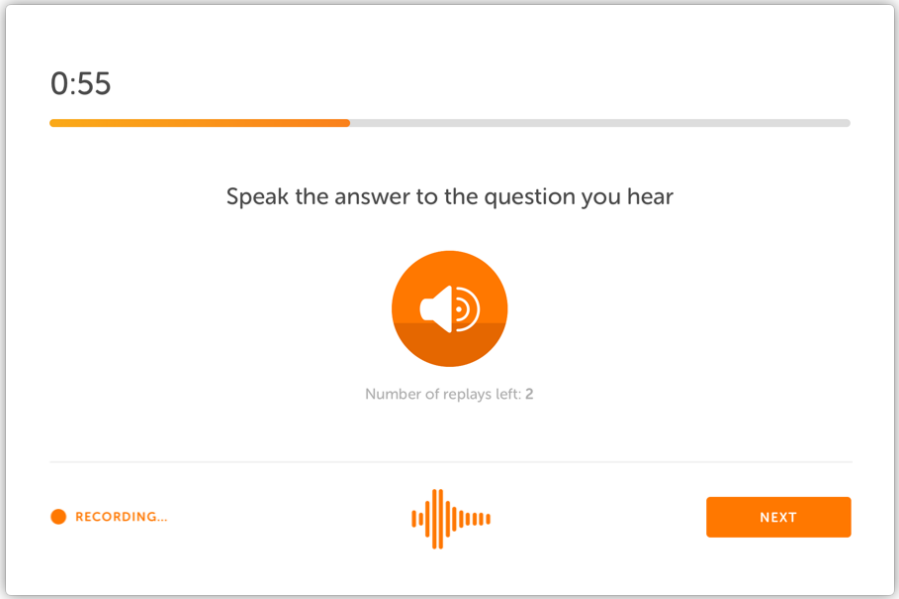
Question Type 10: Listen, Then Speak

0:30 Minimum
1:30 Maximum

DIRECTIONS

- **Listen, Then Speak** asks you to "Speak the answer to the question you hear." For this question type, you will listen to a prompt, then speak your response.
- Note that the directions appear for 20 seconds before recording begins. During this time, you can hear and replay the prompt.



SUBSCORES: Conversation, Production

TIPS

- Speak naturally and clearly, and use varied words and sentence structures.
- Make sure you have a clear understanding of the prompt before you start to record. You can replay it up to two times (three plays total).
- You will need to speak for a minimum of 30 seconds. You will see the NEXT button turn orange once 30 seconds have gone by, and you will then be able to come to a natural conclusion and click the button to submit your response.

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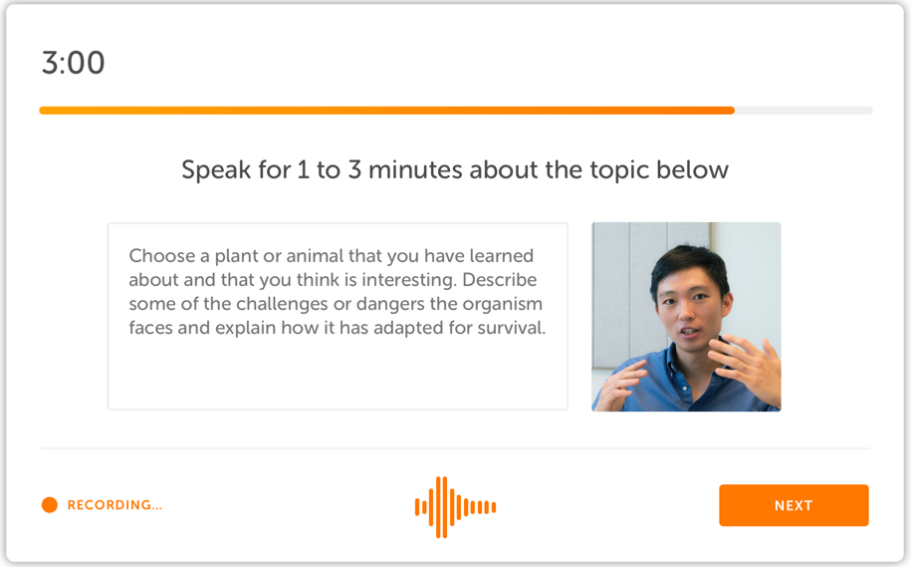
UNGRADED SECTION

Speaking Sample

1:00 Minimum
3:00 Maximum

DIRECTIONS

- The **Speaking Sample** asks you to "Speak for 1 to 3 minutes about the topic below." For this question type, you will be given a choice of two written prompts. You will speak at length about the one you chose.
- Note that the directions appear for 30 seconds before recording begins. During this time you will read and consider the two prompts, and select your choice.



TIPS

- Choose the topic on which you feel like you have the most to say.
- Do not watch the timer, as it may distract you from thinking and speaking clearly.
- Keep talking at least until the NEXT button turns orange, and speak even longer if you can. Then, come to a natural conclusion before clicking NEXT to finish and submit the recording.
- Practice speaking about a topic in English for 1-3 minutes before taking the test so you are familiar with the length.
- Remember that the Speaking Sample will be sent as a video recording, so the recipients of your scores will be able to see you during this response.
- The topic you chose will be shared with the recipients of your results, so make sure your response is relevant to the topic.

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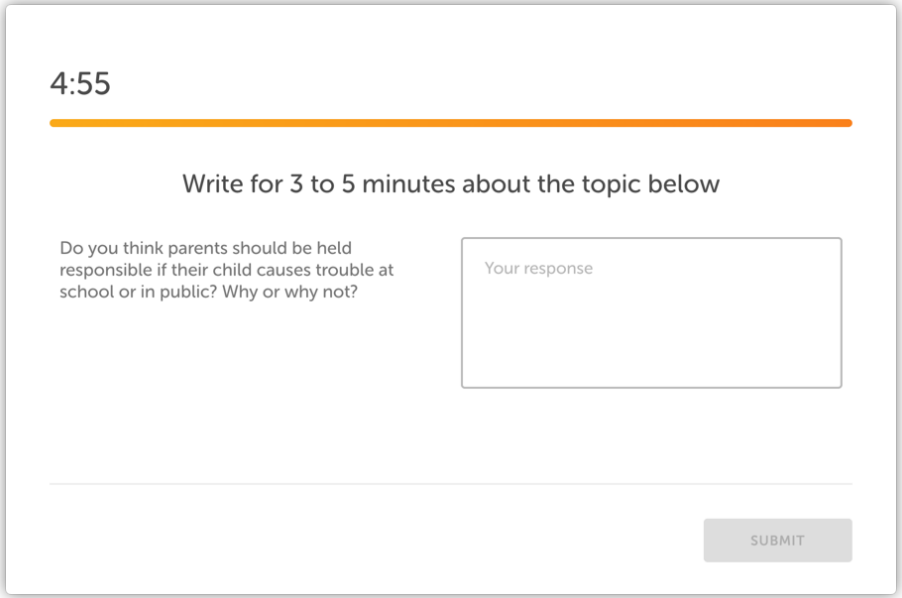
Writing Sample

3:00 Minimum
5:00 Maximum

DIRECTIONS

- The **Writing Sample** asks you to "Write for 3 to 5 minutes about the topic below." For this question type, you will be given a choice of two written prompts. You will write at length about the one you chose.



TIPS

- You will have 30 seconds to choose a topic and plan your response. Choose the topic about which you have more to say.
- Practice good writing habits: vary sentence structure and word choice, and express a variety of thoughts with logical transitions.
- Make sure to leave time to check spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
- The topic you chose will be shared with the recipients of your results, so make sure your response is relevant to the topic.
- Think of this as a short essay. While it is ungraded, the recipients of your results may use the Writing Sample as additional information about your writing skills.

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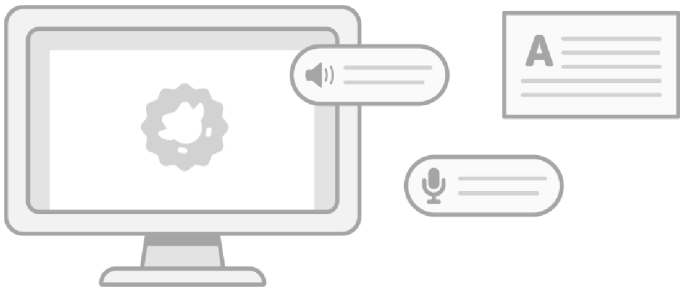
HOW OFTEN THE QUESTIONS APPEAR

You will see each of the different question types at different frequencies throughout your test. As a reminder, each testing experience is unique, so the number of each question type may vary for each test and test taker.

Question Types	Frequency
Read and Complete Read and Select Listen and Select Listen and Type Read Aloud	3–7 times each (6 on average)
Write About the Photo	3
Speak About the Photo	1
Read, Then Write	1
Read, Then Speak	2
Listen, Then Speak	1
Writing Sample	1
Speaking Sample	1



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HOW THE QUESTIONS ARE SCORED

Question Types 1–5

For **Read and Complete**, **Read and Select**, **Listen and Select**, **Listen and Type**, and **Read Aloud**, test questions are graded automatically through special procedures developed specifically for each question type. These procedures compare your responses to correct responses, then evaluate the similarities and differences. You can read about how this works in the Duolingo English Test Technical Manual available at englishtest.duolingo.com/research.

The good news: if your answer isn't entirely correct, you will receive partial credit. You won't be penalized more for entering an incorrect response rather than skipping the question. For example, in **Read and Complete**, you will receive the same score for a blank or an incorrect response. For **Listen and Type**, you will be penalized more for missing a word than mistyping the word. In other words, it is always best to try to answer a question.

Question Types 6-10

Write About the Photo, **Speak About the Photo**, **Read Then Write**, **Read Then Speak**, and **Listen Then Speak** are open response questions, and your answer will be evaluated by a grading engine. The grading engine is trained to understand your English proficiency just like expert human raters. Some of the aspects it evaluates include:

- the correctness of your grammar (grammatical accuracy)
- the variety and level of your grammar (grammatical complexity)
- the level of vocabulary used (lexical sophistication)
- the variety of word choice (lexical diversity)
- how well you answer the question that was asked (task relevance)
- how much you can say or write in a limited time (fluency)
- the pronunciation and pace (acoustic features; this one is for speaking questions only)

Keep in mind that although the test is scored by computer algorithms, multiple human proctors will see video recordings of your responses.

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prepare your environment

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Prepare your environment

Overview
In this section, you will learn how to set up the environment and equipment you will need to take the test. You will also learn about the Duolingo English Test desktop app.

HOW TO SET UP YOUR SPACE

One of the advantages of the Duolingo English Test is that you can choose your own testing environment. There are a few general guidelines to help you consider where to take the test.

Comfortable

Take the test when and where you feel most comfortable. This doesn't have to be in your own home, as long as you can ensure privacy.

Quiet

You don't want any background noise to interfere with your responses or distract you.

Private

Make sure no one disturbs you. Tip: put a "do not disturb" note on the door!

Bright

The proctors will need to be able to clearly see and hear you throughout the test, so make sure the room is not too dark.

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EQUIPMENT YOU NEED

Computer

In order to take the Duolingo English Test, you will need a computer with a functioning microphone, speakers, and camera. Your camera should be on the top-center of your monitor or screen.

Valid identification

In order to receive certified results, the Duolingo English Test requires a government-issued photo ID. You will need to have your actual, physical ID ready when taking the test. During the setup section of your test, you will need to submit a photo of this ID. You may not use copies and pictures of the ID card or passport. You must be holding up the actual ID. If you have questions about whether your ID will be accepted, you can consult englishtest.duolingo.com/ids.

Internet connection

You will need an internet connection with at least 2 Mbps download speed and 1 Mbps upload speed. You can type “internet speed test” into most search engines and find a quick and free way to test your speed. You will also need a small amount of storage on your computer to download the Duolingo English Test desktop app.

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ABOUT THE DESKTOP APP

All Duolingo English Tests are administered through the Duolingo English Test desktop app. This is a better, more stable experience for test takers compared to taking the test in a browser. The desktop app provides a secure and reliable environment for the duration of the test.

Installing the App

You can download the desktop app right before you take your test, after purchasing. You will need:

- an internet connection
- a small amount of space available (241 MB on Mac, 49 MB on Windows)

Check out the "Rules and Requirements Section" of our online FAQ (englishtest.duolingo.com/faq) for step-by-step instructions on how to install the app based on your operating system.

HOW TO PURCHASE THE TEST

Go to the Duolingo English Test homepage and login to your account. If you don't have an account, you can create one for free by signing up with a valid email address at englishtest.duolingo.com.

In the section that says "Purchase a Test," click the button that says "BUY NOW." You will be prompted to enter your information in an online checkout. Most major credit cards are accepted, as well as some other payment methods depending on your location. During this step, you can also apply a coupon if an institution has provided you with one. Click "Apply Coupon."

You have 90 days from the time of purchase to begin your test.

ABOUT ACCOMMODATIONS

If you need to request accommodations for different abilities, the Duolingo English Test support team will work with you to accommodate your request if possible. These are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

In order to request an accommodation, please contact englishtest-support@duolingo.com with the subject "Accommodation Request" detailing your request. A member of the support team will reply within 24 hours.

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test security

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Test security

Overview
In this section, you will learn about why test security is important, and how your test is kept safe and fair. You will also learn about the rules that test takers are required to follow. You should review these rules multiple times—understanding these before taking the test helps ensure that your results will be certified.

WHY SECURITY MATTERS

Duolingo recognizes that reliable and secure test results are very important to both test takers and institutions. For that reason, the integrity of the Duolingo English Test is the highest priority.

Since the Duolingo English Test is administered in a unique way, it calls for innovative security protocols. As a result, the Duolingo English Test integrates a series of advanced security measures so that you can be confident in the results.

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HOW YOUR TEST STAYS SECURE

Secure design
The adaptive test gives a unique test to every student. Someone would have to take the test more than 1,000 times to see a question repeated.

Remote proctoring
Human proctors, with the help of AI, examine each test session for more than 75 different behaviors in multiple, independent rounds of review.

AI and data forensics
Millions of data points collected from tests over time train security algorithms to help detect rule breaking and identify patterns of suspicious behavior.

ID verification
A combination of computer vision AI and trained proctors verify test takers' identity.

Test lockdown
The test is cancelled if test takers attempt to access external applications or plugins during the test.

Video sample
Accepting institutions can review a short video and writing sample from each test taker's test session.

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RULES TO KNOW AND FOLLOW

Read these rules multiple times before the test, and make sure you follow them. Our proctors will disqualify your test and your results will not be certified if any of these rules are broken.

You must be alone in a quiet, well-lit room. You cannot communicate with another person at any point during the test.

- Explanation: Test proctors need to make sure that you are not receiving help from any other person. They will also need to hear your responses very clearly.

Your ears must be visible and uncovered. You cannot use headphones or earphones.

- Explanation: Test proctors need to be sure that the only sound you are hearing during the test taking experience is coming from the test itself.

Your face must be visible and unobscured.

- Explanation: This helps confirm your identity as well as make sure you are the person completing every response.

No outside materials are allowed, including mobile devices, notes, or textbooks.

- Explanation: Just like in a testing center, you will only be using your own knowledge and skills to answer the questions.

No writing utensils or paper. No note taking.

- Explanation: Unlike a test center, where paper notes can be disposed of safely, the Duolingo English Test is virtual. The test is designed so that you will not need to take notes.

Do not leave the test window on your app for any reason. Do not look away from the screen.

- Explanation: You should always be looking at the test, not any outside sources.

WHEN RULES ARE BROKEN

If you violate any of the rules of the Duolingo English Test, Duolingo reserves the right to not certify your test results, or to invalidate any previously certified results, without providing a refund. Depending on the severity of the violation, test takers may also be banned permanently from taking the Duolingo English Test again.

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understand your scores

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Understand your scores

Overview
In this section, you will learn all about score reporting, including what your scores mean, where to find them, and how long they are valid. You will also learn how the Duolingo English Test uses subscores.

HOW TO ACCESS YOUR SCORE REPORT

After your test has been scored and reviewed, you will receive an email notification that your scores are ready. You can then log in to englishtest.duolingo.com to access your report.

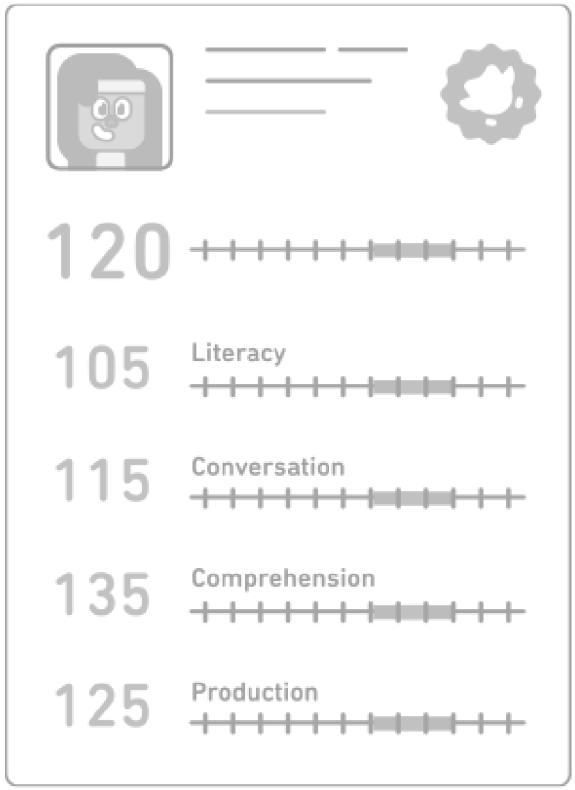
WHAT YOUR SCORES MEAN

On your score report, you will see both your overall score and your subscores. If you want to see what a score report looks like, check out the example score report in the appendix of this guide.

Overall score

Your proficiency is reported as a holistic score on a scale from 10 to 160 in 5-point increments. The Duolingo English Test score scale is aligned to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), an international standard of language proficiency. In the appendix of this guide, you can see how your score on the Duolingo English Test compares to CEFR levels, as well as TOEFL iBT® or IELTS® Academic scores.

Different institutions have different requirements for admission. Be sure to consult the university's website to see their admissions thresholds.



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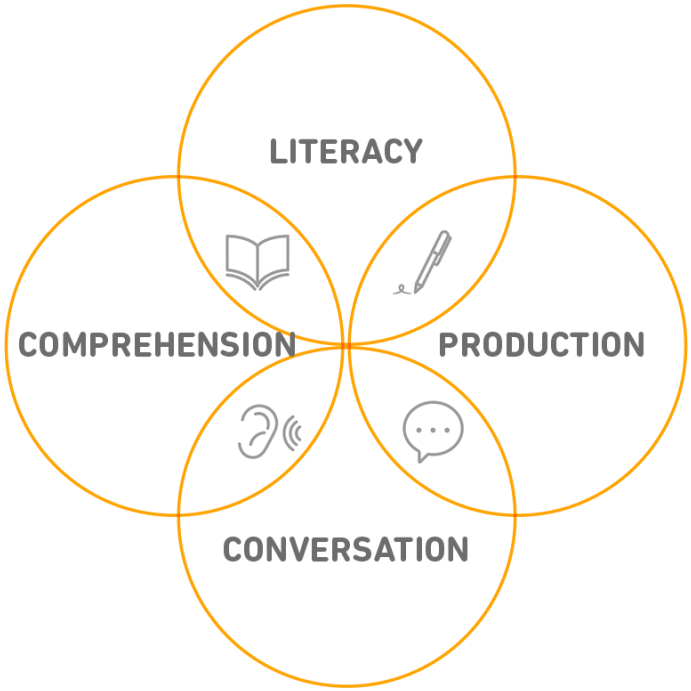
Subscores

Literacy
The test taker's ability to read and write.

Comprehension
The test taker's ability to read and listen.

Conversation
The test taker's ability to listen and speak.

Production
The test taker's ability to write and speak.



Why are these different from other tests?

While reading, writing, speaking, and listening are important language components, research shows that combined skills can better represent how language is used in real life. Effective and natural language use requires people to simultaneously employ multiple skills—especially in academic settings.

How are subscores calculated?

The overall score and subscores are estimated independently and are weighted combinations of the questions that contribute to each score. Your overall score is not an average or sum of the individual subscores.

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HOW LONG RESULTS ARE VALID

Validity Period

Certified scores are valid for two years.

Certificates

To protect you and your test's validity, the only way to send your scores is through your online account.

WHEN TO RETAKE THE TEST

If you receive certified results but want to retake the test for any reason, you may take a second test within 30 days of the date of your first certified test. If you complete a test and your results are not certified, it will not count against this two-test limit. You may also take additional tests outside of that 30-day period.

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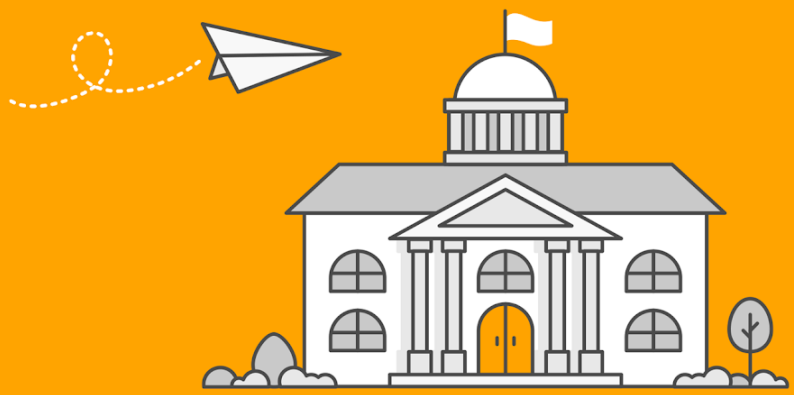
share your results



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Share your results

Overview
In this section, you will learn what to do next after you have received and understood your scores.

HOW TO SEND YOUR RESULTS

When your scores are ready, you will receive an email alert.

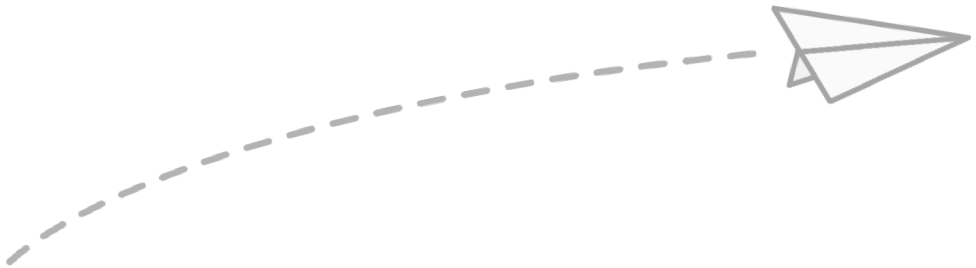
Log in to your Duolingo English Test account. Once logged in, you will be able to submit your official scores to any institutions of your choosing.

You can send an unlimited number of results to institutions. There is no additional fee, and you don't need to mail them since they are sent electronically. Once you send the scores to your institutions, they will have immediate access to them.

HOW INSTITUTIONS USE RESULTS

Most institutions and organizations use the Duolingo English Test as a measure of English proficiency, comparable with other English proficiency tests that exist. Just like with those other tests, many institutions often set a minimum score threshold. Check each university's website for information about their requirements.

In addition to your English proficiency, the Duolingo English Test provides more information about you as a candidate through your speaking and writing samples. Read more about that in the next section.



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WHAT INSTITUTIONS SEE

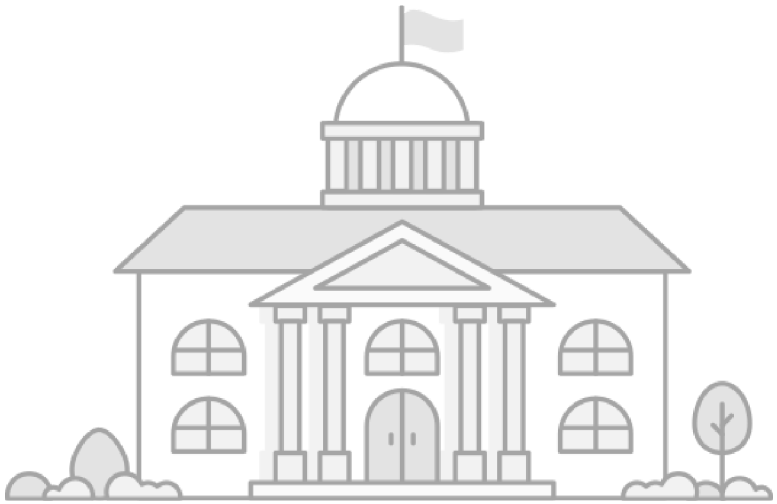
Your Score Report

Institutions will have access to the same information that you have in your own score report. They will see your overall scores and your subscores.

Writing and Speaking Samples

Institutions will also be able to read your extended writing sample and watch your speaking sample. Please note that the speaking sample is sent as a video recording, so they will be able to see you.

Institutions use these ungraded sections as a way to get to know you better and learn more information about your English skills. While these two sections don't affect your overall score, they are important components of your test that show off your unique personality and skills as an admissions candidate. Make sure to choose a topic you are interested in or passionate about. Do your very best to show off your skills to an admissions committee!



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conclusion

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Contact us

Thank you for reading the Official Guide for Test Takers! Hopefully, this information and advice has helped you feel confident and ready to begin your test experience.

We believe that everyone deserves access to high-quality education, and we hope that the Duolingo English Test can support you on your journey.

If you have any additional questions, you can always consult our FAQ (englishtest.duolingo.com/faq) or contact our support team (email englishtest-support@duolingo.com, or use the orange HELP button in the bottom right corner of our website). Comments or suggestions about this guide? Send us an email.

You can also find us on social media:

- Instagram
- Twitter
- Facebook
- LinkedIn
- YouTube
- Weibo
- WeChat

good luck!

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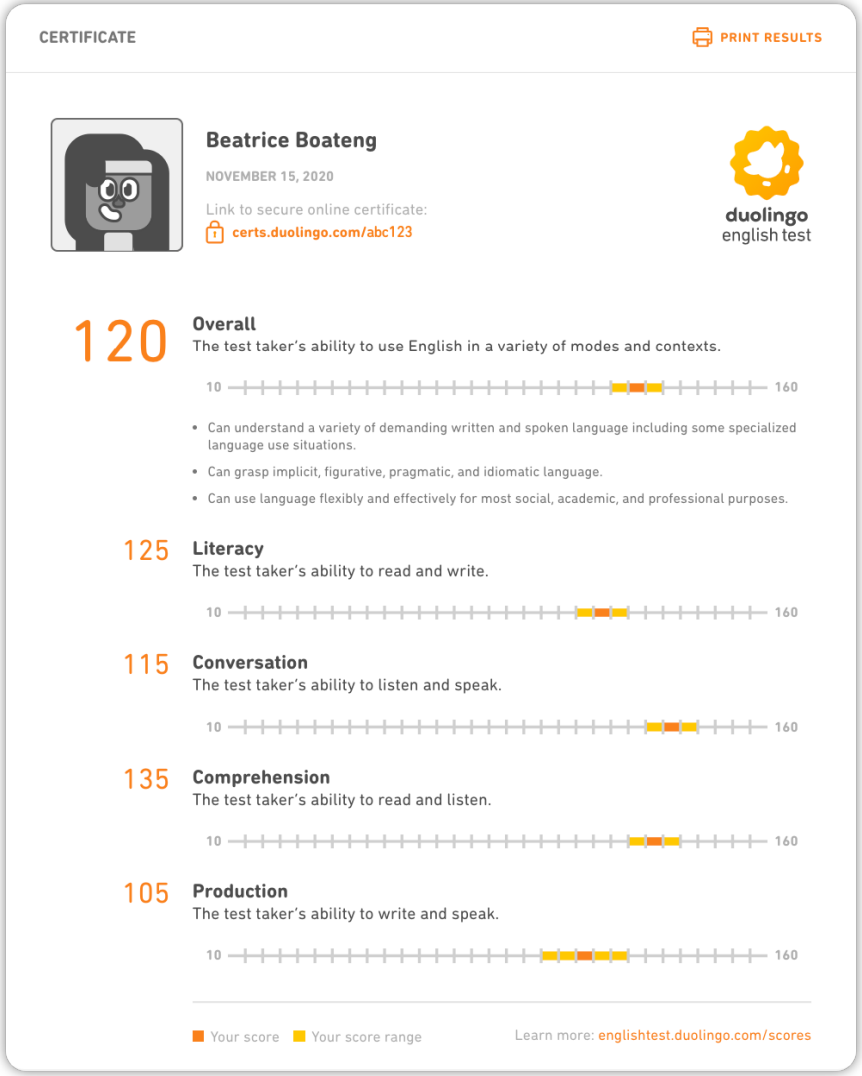
Example Certificate



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Comparison with TOEFL iBT®

The concordance table below shows how Duolingo English Test scores compare to TOEFL iBT scores. This concordance is based on 2,319 individual test takers who took the Duolingo English Test and reported their recent TOEFL iBT scores. The correlation coefficient is .77, which is considered a strong positive statistical relationship for comparing scores. Learn more about concordance on our scores page.

Duolingo English Test	TOEFL iBT	Duolingo English Test	TOEFL iBT
10-25	0	90	62-67
30	1	95	68-73
35	2-4	100	74-79
40	5-8	105	80-85
45	9-13	110	86-91
50	14-19	115	92-96
55	20-25	120	97-102
60	26-31	125	103-107
65	32-37	130	108-112
70	38-43	135	113-115
75	44-49	140	116-118
80	50-55	145	119
85	56-61	150-160	120

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Comparison with IELTS® Academic

The concordance table below shows how Duolingo English Test scores compare to the IELTS® Academic scores. This concordance is based on 991 individual test takers who took the Duolingo English Test and reported their recent IELTS scores. The correlation coefficient is .78, which is considered a strong positive statistical relationship for comparing scores. Learn more about concordance on our scores page.

Duolingo English Test	IELTS
10	1.5
15	2
20-25	2.5
30-40	3
45-50	3.5
55-60	4
65-70	4.5
75-80	5
85-90	5.5

[Continued right]

Duolingo English Test	IELTS
95-100	6
105-110	6.5
115-120	7
125-130	7.5
135-140	8
145-150	8.5
155-160	9

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Comparison with the CEFR

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, or CEFR, is an international standard of language proficiency. The CEFR framework describes six levels of language proficiency, each with increasing complexity. Below you can find ranges of scores on the Duolingo English Test that correspond to each level.

Duolingo English Test	CEFR
10 | 20	A1
25 | 55	A2
60 | 85	B1
90 | 115	B2
120 | 140	C1
145 | 160	C2

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practice questions

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Read and Complete

Directions

Type the missing letters to complete the text below.

Learn more about this question type.

QUESTIONS

Level 1

A. The Sun is the star at the center of the Solar System. It i_ seen i_ the s_ _ and gi_ _ _ light t_ the Earth. When t_ _ Sun i_ in t_ _ sky, it i_ day. When t_ _ Sun i_ not i_ the s_ _, i_ is ni_ _ _. The planets, including Earth, go around it.

B. Minneapolis is a city in Minnesota. It i_ next t_ St. Paul, Minnesota. St. Paul and Minneapolis are cal_ _ _ the Twin Cities bec_ _ _ _ they a_ _ right ne_ _ to ea_ _ other. Minneapolis i_ the big_ _ _ _ city i_ Minnesota wi_ _ about 370,000 people. People w_ _ live he_ _ enjoy t_ _ lakes, parks, and ri_ _ _. The Mississippi River runs through the city.

C. Birds are found on every continent of the world. Birds o_ different ty_ _ _ can li_ _ in free_ _ _ _ cold enviro_ _ _ _ _ _, a_ _ others c_ _ live i_ hot des_ _ _ _. Birds live in forests, in grasslands, on cliff faces, in river banks, on stony sea shores, down mine shafts and in the roofs of houses.

Level 2

A. Humpback whales can live up to 45 years. They mig_ _ _ _ between t_ _ places th_ _ feed i_ the win_ _ _ and t_ _ places th_ _ give bi_ _ _ in t_ _ summer. They usually live alone.

B. The novel was called The Sun Also Rises. It i_ about yo_ _ _ Americans i_ Europe af_ _ _ World War One. The w_ _ had dest _ _ _ _ _ their dre_ _ _ and h_ _ given th_ _ nothing t_ replace th_ _ _ dreams. The writer Gertrude Stein later called these people members of "The Lost Generation."

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C. Physical exercise is recommended for management of mild depression and has a moderate eff_ _ _ on symp_ _ _ _. It i_ equivalent t_ the u_ _ of medic_ _ _ _ _ _ or psycho_ _ _ _ _ _ _ therapies f_ _ most peo_ _ _. In older people, it does appear to decrease depression.

Level 3

A. In 1996 Canberra was the first city in the world to set a vis_ _ _ of n_ waste b_ 2010. The stra_ _ _ _ aimed t_ achieve a waste-free soc_ _ _ _ by 2010, thr_ _ _ _ the comb_ _ _ _ efforts o_ industry, government, and comm_ _ _ _ _. By early 2010, it was apparent that the ACT Government initiative had failed.

B. Electrical engineering has many subdisciplines, the most popular of which are listed be_ _ _. Although th_ _ _ are elect_ _ _ _ _ engineers w_ _ focus exclu_ _ _ _ _ _ on o_ _ of th_ _ _ subdisciplines, many de_ _ with a combination o_ them. Sometimes certain fields, such as electronic engineering and computer engineering, are considered separate disciplines in their own right.

C. The orchestral score of the opera was published in late 1899 by Casa Ricordi. In cont_ _ _ _ to h_ _ other ope_ _ _, Puccini appeared t_ be sati_ _ _ _ _ with h_ _ initial sc_ _ _, wh_ _ _ remained relat_ _ _ _ _ unchanged i_ the 1909 edition prep_ _ _ _ by Osbourne McConachy. An unamended edition was published by Dover Press in 1991.

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ANSWERS

Level 1

A. The Sun is the star at the center of the Solar System. It is seen in the sky and gives light to the Earth. When the Sun is in the sky, it is day. When the Sun is not in the sky, it is night. The planets, including Earth, go around it.

B. Minneapolis is a city in Minnesota. It is next to St. Paul, Minnesota. St. Paul and Minneapolis are called the Twin Cities because they are right next to each other. Minneapolis is the biggest city in Minnesota with about 370,000 people. People who live here enjoy the lakes, parks, and river. The Mississippi River runs through the city.

C. Birds are found on every continent of the world. Birds of different types can live in freezing cold environments, and others can live in hot deserts. Birds live in forests, in grasslands, on cliff faces, in river banks, on stony sea shores, down mine shafts and in the roofs of houses.

Level 2

A. Humpback whales can live up to 45 years. They migrate between the places they feed in the winter and the places they give birth in the summer. They usually live alone.

B. The novel was called The Sun Also Rises. It is about young Americans in Europe after World War One. The war had destroyed their dreams and had given them nothing to replace those dreams. The writer Gertrude Stein later called these people members of "The Lost Generation."

C. Physical exercise is recommended for management of mild depression and has a moderate effect on symptoms. It is equivalent to the use of medications or psychological therapies for most people. In older people, it does appear to decrease depression.

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Level 3

A. In 1996 Canberra was the first city in the world to set a vision of no waste by 2010. The strategy aimed to achieve a waste-free society by 2010, through the combined efforts of industry, government, and community. By early 2010, it was apparent that the ACT Government initiative had failed.

B. Electrical engineering has many subdisciplines, the most popular of which are listed below. Although there are electrical engineers who focus exclusively on one of these subdisciplines, many deal with a combination of them. Sometimes certain fields, such as electronic engineering and computer engineering, are considered separate disciplines in their own right.

C. The orchestral score of the opera was published in late 1899 by Casa Ricordi. In contrast to his other operas, Puccini appeared to be satisfied with his initial score, which remained relatively unchanged in the 1909 edition prepared by Osbourne McConachy. An unamended edition was published by Dover Press in 1991.

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Read and Select

Directions
Select the real English words in this list.

Learn more about this question type.

QUESTIONS

Level 1

A.

givess	thesed	wait	wants	tooking	watching
bookcase	waines	anss	watteen	somether	answers
walks	dresson	nineteen	thirt	watel	waiting

B.

well	cook	from	hobar	same	birthday
docuse	red	done	wanture	wattered	likes
fourteen	some	thirther	back	girls	table

C.

golf	coken	pirect	bookshelf	quiz	funny
hoken	lost	dober	evelony	readly	road
mark	bicycle	nevelor	putend	efend	keyboard

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Level 2

A.

pipe	click	allows	silk	despite	scientific
besides	shot	enking	pose	smulde	reoling
kidly	talent	amount	bucket	prinanter	countryside

B.

formanly	missivery	swave	hobbian	retime	frame
jealon	varie	registration	fancially	useral	incide
chender	disabled	sharp	spility	leaviduant	listener

C.

wipe	faint	educational	breathly	phase	calmly
candidate	functional	couright	outspect	jeap	investigation
layer	rivition	bease	evidently	overtake	string

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Level 3

A.

converty	tumpine	violate	grumpy	loadine	appliance
trovern	redictor	assumption	troughtle	leuts	scramaging
authentic	fanary	spacking	misinform	compolity	thrive

B.

nest	vivality	crapil	totalitarian	underway	remorse
regrain	strategically	outles	merout	feasured	interpt
venious	relia	consea	drair	complimentary	scattered

C.

dismay	riticity	eliment	consection	explicit	tenderness
carculous	astronomy	frait	coherent	mediocrity	rigulate
forial	negligible	hypocrisy	nostalgia	detrimental	traumatic

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ANSWERS

Level 1

A. answers, bookcase, nineteen, wait, waiting, walks, wants, watching

B. back, birthday, cook, done, fourteen, from, girls, likes, red, same, some, table, well

C. bicycle, bookshelf, funny, golf, keyboard, lost, mark, quiz, road

Level 2

A. allows, amount, besides, bucket, click, countryside, despite, pipe, pose, scientific, shot, silk, talent

B. disabled, frame, listener, registration, sharp

C. calmly, candidate, educational, evidently, faint, functional, investigation, layer, overtake, phase, string, wipe

Level 3

A. appliance, assumption, authentic, grumpy, misinform, thrive, violate

B. complimentary, nest, remorse, scattered, strategically, totalitarian, underway

C. astronomy, coherent, detrimental, dismay, explicit, hypocrisy, mediocrity, negligible, nostalgia, tenderness, traumatic

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Listen and Select

Directions
Select the real English words in this list.

Learn more about this question type.

QUESTIONS

Level 1

A. Listen to words 1-9

WORD 1	WORD 2	WORD 3
WORD 4	WORD 5	WORD 6
WORD 7	WORD 8	WORD 9

B. Listen to words 1-9

WORD 1	WORD 2	WORD 3
WORD 4	WORD 5	WORD 6
WORD 7	WORD 8	WORD 9

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C. Listen to words 1-9

WORD 1	WORD 2	WORD 3
WORD 4	WORD 5	WORD 6
WORD 7	WORD 8	WORD 9

Level 2

A. Listen to words 1-9

WORD 1	WORD 2	WORD 3
WORD 4	WORD 5	WORD 6
WORD 7	WORD 8	WORD 9

B. Listen to words 1-9

WORD 1	WORD 2	WORD 3
WORD 4	WORD 5	WORD 6
WORD 7	WORD 8	WORD 9

C. Listen to words 1-9

WORD 1	WORD 2	WORD 3
WORD 4	WORD 5	WORD 6
WORD 7	WORD 8	WORD 9

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Level 3

A. Listen to words 1-9

WORD 1	WORD 2	WORD 3
WORD 4	WORD 5	WORD 6
WORD 7	WORD 8	WORD 9

B. Listen to words 1-9

WORD 1	WORD 2	WORD 3
WORD 4	WORD 5	WORD 6
WORD 7	WORD 8	WORD 9

C. Listen to words 1-9

WORD 1	WORD 2	WORD 3
WORD 4	WORD 5	WORD 6
WORD 7	WORD 8	WORD 9

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ANSWERS

Level 1

A. often (WORD 1), paper (WORD 2), world (WORD 3), bath (WORD 4), before (WORD 5), and (WORD 8)

B. lost (2), carpet (5), again (7)

C. paper (WORD 1), world (WORD 2), winter (WORD 3), before (WORD 4), and (WORD 9)

Level 2

A. facility (WORD 3), influence (WORD 6), inspire (WORD 7), parachute (WORD 8), insurance (WORD 9)

B. instructor (WORD 2), election (WORD 3), refund (WORD 5), optional (WORD 6), chart (WORD 7), shell (WORD 8)

C. economist (WORD 2), encouraging (WORD 6), bookmark (WORD 8),

Level 3

A. suspense (WORD 1), portrait (WORD 5), formula (WORD 6), discriminate (WORD 7),

B. pinpoint (WORD 5), shutter (WORD 7), retailer (WORD 8), intellect (WORD 9)

C. legislation (WORD 2), vandalism (WORD 6), massacre (WORD 7), rally (WORD 8), solitary (WORD 9)

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Listen and Type

Directions
Type the statement that you hear.

Learn more about this question type.

QUESTIONS

Level 1

A. PLAY

B. PLAY

C. PLAY

Level 2

A. PLAY

B. PLAY

C. PLAY

Level 3

A. PLAY

B. PLAY

C. PLAY

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ANSWERS

Level 1

A. Is she reading a book? Yes, she is.

B. Does she work in this city?

C. My friend wrote another book.

Level 2

A. We have never spoken about work.

B. This task takes approximately 3 hours.

C. The company employs people throughout the world.

Level 3

A. Finally, the results of this investigation were published in a scientific magazine.

B. Even without seeing you, I would have recognized you by the sound of your voice.

C. They will have tried to talk to you by the time the story has published.

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Read aloud

Directions
Record yourself saying the statement below.

Learn more about this question type.

QUESTIONS

Level 1

A. Do you like my car, yes or no?

B. We do not have class today.

C. He does not want to do anything.

Level 2

A. She works at the laboratory.

B. My friends said they would wait for me at the airport.

C. I am certain that the professor will find at least one error.

Level 3

A. I don't know what the future will bring or when I will be back.

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B. I will have gone to the movies by the time you decide what you want to do.

C. Mathematical and computer models are produced, and field research is done to test the models.

ANSWERS

Level 1

A. Example: Female | Male

B. Example: Female | Male

C. Example: Female | Male

Level 2

A. Example: Female | Male

B. Example: Female | Male

C. Example: Female | Male

Level 3

A. Example: Female | Male

B. Example: Female | Male

C. Example: Female | Male

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Write About the Photo

Directions
Write one or more sentences that describe the image.

Learn more about this question type.

QUESTIONS

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3

ANSWERS

These question types are open response, and therefore there is no “correct” answer. Refer to HOW THE QUESTIONS ARE SCORED to better understand how your response is evaluated.

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Speak About the Photo

Directions

Describe aloud the image below.

Learn more about this question type.

QUESTIONS

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3

ANSWERS

These question types are open response, and therefore there is no “correct” answer. Refer to HOW THE QUESTIONS ARE SCORED to better understand how your response is evaluated.

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Read, Then Write

Directions
Respond to the question in at least 50 words.

Learn more about this question type.

QUESTIONS

Level 1

Describe a time you were surprised. What happened?

Level 2

People have jobs because they need money to live, but what are some other important reasons that people have jobs?

Level 3

People are never satisfied with what they have; they always want something more or different. Do you agree or disagree? Why? Give specific reasons for your answer.

ANSWERS

These question types are open response, and therefore there is no “correct” answer. Refer to HOW THE QUESTIONS ARE SCORED to better understand how your response is evaluated.

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Read, Then Speak

Directions
Speak your answer to the question below.

Learn more about this question type.

QUESTIONS

Level 1

Talk about a hobby or activity that you enjoy doing.

- What is it?
- How long have you been doing it?
- Who do you do it with?
- Why is it important to you?

Level 2

Talk about a film you saw recently.

- What was it about?
- When did you see it?
- Who was the main character?
- What else do you remember about it?

Level 3

Talk about a gift that you gave to someone recently.

- What was it?
- Who did you give it to?
- How did it make you feel? Why did you give it to this particular person?

ANSWERS

These question types are open response, and therefore there is no “correct” answer. Refer to HOW THE QUESTIONS ARE SCORED to better understand how your response is evaluated.

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Listen, Then Speak

Directions
Speak the answer to the question you hear.

Learn more about this question type.

QUESTIONS

Level 1

A. PLAY

B. PLAY

C. PLAY

Level 2

A. PLAY

B. PLAY

C. PLAY

Level 3

A. PLAY

B. PLAY

C. PLAY

ANSWERS

These question types are open response, and therefore there is no “correct” answer. Refer to HOW THE QUESTIONS ARE SCORED to better understand how your response is evaluated.

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Speaking Sample

Directions
Speak for 1 to 3 minutes about the topic below. Learn more about this question type.

QUESTIONS

A. Describe a story that you enjoy. It can be a book, a movie, a TV show—any story. What do you like best about the story? How do you think it could be better?

B. Describe the geography of the country where you currently live. How does the geography of the country affect its people and its culture?

C. Who is a person you think you have impacted in your life? What impact have you had on the person, and how?

ANSWERS

The Speaking Sample is not graded, and they do not affect your overall score. However, the recipients of your test will have access to these responses, and will use them to learn more about you and your English language skills. For more information, check out the WHAT INSTITUTIONS SEE section of the guide

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Writing Sample

Directions
Write for 3 to 5 minutes about the topic below.

Learn more about this question type.

QUESTIONS

A. What is one thing you like about your personality? How has this quality helped you succeed or be a good friend to others? Is this a quality that everyone should have?

B. Choose a plant or animal that you think is interesting. Describe some of the threats or challenges it faces and explain how it overcomes those threats or challenges.

C. Name a person from history you admire. Why do you admire that person? What do you think we can learn from them?

ANSWERS

The Writing Sample is not graded, and they do not affect your overall score. However, the recipients of your test will have access to these responses, and will use them to learn more about you and your English language skills. For more information, check out the WHAT INSTITUTIONS SEE section of the guide

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