

Cambridge Young Learners English Tests (YLE)

Cambridge Young Learners' English Tests (YLE) is a group of tests designed to assess English language proficiency of children at the age of 7 to 13. They form a natural bridge which takes young learners of English from a beginner level to the level of the Cambridge Main Suite exams for teenagers and adults such as KET, PET or FCE.

The YLE test group comprises the following three key levels:

1. Cambridge **Starters** is suggested for children at the age of 7 and above who have completed at least one year of language tuition (or ca 100 hours). They are expected to know and use approximately 300 words.
2. Cambridge **Movers** is the second test level taken usually by children at the age of 8 to 11 who have completed ca 3 years of language tuition (or ca 175 hours). They are expected to know and use approximately 600 words.
3. Cambridge **Flyers** is for children at the age of 9 to 12, who have studied English for several years (minimum 250 hours) and have reached the level described in the Council of Europe Framework as Waystage, comparable to the level of the Key English Test. Children taking Flyers should know and use approximately 1000 words.

Young Learners Tests consist of the following parts:

| Level | Component | Overall length |
|---|--|--|
| STARTERS ■ age over 7 ■ approx. 100 hours of English | Listening Reading & Writing Speaking | approx. 20 mins 20 mins approx. 5 mins Total approx.: 45 mins |
| MOVERS ■ suggested age 8-11 ■ approx. 175 hours of English | Listening Reading & Writing Speaking | approx. 25 mins 30 mins approx. 7 mins Total approx.: 62 mins. |
| FLYERS ■ suggested age 9-12 ■ approx. 250 hours of English | Listening Reading & Writing Speaking | approx. 25 mins 40 mins approx. 9 mins Total approx.: 74 mins. |

Each child who has attempted all 3 parts of the test will receive an award. Test grades are presented in the form of shields. The top mark of each component is 5 shields, maximum score 15 shields. It is assumed that children who gather at least 10 shields are ready to prepare for the next test level.

Comparison of Young Learners **Starters, Movers, Flyers Tests** and other Cambridge ESOL general English examinations:

| Council of Europe levels | University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations: Main suite | University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations: Young Learners (YLE) |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| C2 | CPE | |
| C1 | CAE | |
| B2 “Vantage” | FCE | |
| B1 “Threshold” | PET | |
| A2 “Waystage” | KET | Flyers |
| A1 “Breakthrough” | | Movers |
| | | Starters |

YLE TESTS ADMINISTRATION

YLE tests are offered to groups of children entered by their primary or language schools.

Suggested size of the group should be at least 10 children per level. If the group is smaller please contact Examination Services at the British Council Warsaw (tel. 022 695 59 40, e-mail: exams@britishcouncil.pl).

The date and place of the test is proposed by the school that wishes to enter children for YLE.

Entries:

The YLE registration procedure is as follows:

- No later than **8 weeks before the chosen test date** the Provisional Entry Form (available at www.britishcouncil.pl) should be faxed or e-mailed to the British Council in Warsaw. It should give the approximate number of students entered per each level. The original form with the signature of the person registering children should be sent by post to British Council Examination Services.

Postal address: Examinations Services– YLE
British Council
Al. Jerozolimskie 59
00-697 Warszawa

Fax number: 022 695 59 30

e-mail address exams@britishcouncil.pl

If any children in the group being enrolled are disabled or require special arrangements (e.g. visually impaired, hard of hearing or dyslexic) the school is asked to report this fact when making provisional entries (at least 8 weeks before the test date).

- No later than **3 weeks prior to the test day** the YLE Registration Form (available at www.britishcouncil.pl) should reach British Council Examination Services. The form should contain the following data required by Cambridge ESOL:
 - children's names and surnames (block letters, surnames in alphabetical order),
 - dates of birth,
 - nationality,
 - first language.

Signatures of parents are required on the form to confirm they agree to their children taking part in the test. Initially the form can be sent in by fax or e-mail. The original document should be handed in to the examiners on the day of the test.

- If any changes in the test participants' list occur within 2 weeks prior to the test day they should be reported immediately to British Council Examination Services.
- The school will be invoiced for the test administration after the session on the basis of the attendance list of children who took part in test.

Payment:

Payment for the test is made on receipt of an invoice issued by British Council Examinations Services after the test has taken place. The invoice will be issued for the actual number of children taking part in the test, but not less than 10.

Schools are asked to provide the full name of their institution, as it should be written on the invoice, in the Provisional Entry Form.

Exam fees for sessions organised in 2009:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Starters | 165,00 zł |
| Movers | 180,00 zł |
| Flyers | 190,00 zł |

Exam halls and equipment:

YLE exams are usually conducted in the children's own schools to ensure that they sit the test in a familiar environment.

All exam halls have to adhere to standards set by the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations:

- children should be seated one per desk and at least 1,25m must be allowed between candidates in any direction;
- the exam room must be located in a quiet surrounding and any display materials which might be helpful to candidates must not be visible during the examination;
- rooms for the listening test should have good acoustics and be equipped in a CD player;
- there should be a pencil, eraser, pencil sharpener and crayons: yellow, orange, red, pink, purple, blue, green, brown, gray and black on each candidate's desk. The school should ensure that none of the above is missing during the test.

If the school premises do not conform to Cambridge ESOL standards suitable halls should be identified and hired by the school.

Usher:

The school will nominate a person to look after the children waiting for their speaking test and, if needed, to be present in the exam room during the written part of the test. Ideally an usher should be the children's teacher.

Usher's duties:

1. Brings the child to the waiting area near the test room (tells child that he/she is now going to take the oral part of the test; tells the child the name of the oral examiner and assure him/her that the examiner is nice and friendly);
2. Reminds the child of the speaking test format (tells the child that he/she will have one big picture and several little pictures to look at and talk about);
3. Takes the child into the test room when the examiner is ready;
4. Introduces the examiner to the child;
5. Leaves the test room having checked that the child is not upset or overanxious;
6. Brings the next child to the waiting area near the test room;
7. When the first child leaves the test room the usher takes him/her out of test area and then brings in the next child and makes the necessary introductions;
8. The same procedure applies to all children waiting for their speaking tests.

Results:

Children who participated in all three parts of the test will receive certificates.

Each of the three test papers – Reading & Writing, Listening & Speaking is marked separately. Maximum score per paper is 5 shields which makes 15 shields in total. It is assumed that children whose total score is 10 or more shields and no less than 3 in an individual paper are ready to prepare for the next test level.

Certificates are sent to the British Council within 3 weeks of the receipt of the children's tests by the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations.

The certificates can be collected by a school representative from the British Council Exam Centre closest to the school location. They can also be sent by courier to the school address on receipt of the school director's written authorisation.