



Progress test I

Upper Intermediate level (B2) February 2020

There are five parts to the test: A: Reading; B: Language; C: Listening; D: Speaking; E: Writing. **TEACHERS: only print the first four pages for your students.**

Student (full name): Company:
..... Group: Level: Teacher (full name):
..... Date course started:

To be completed by the teacher:

(A) Reading (5): (B) Language (5): (C) Listening (10):
(D) Speaking (15): (E) Writing (15): Total score: (50)

Teacher's comment:



This exam is designed to test your general language skills. It will help you (and the teacher) see where you might need a bit more help. You can do this test without any revision! Good luck!

A: Reading (Total = 5 points)

Read the text. Then, answer the questions.



Direction disaster!

When was the last time you got lost on the road? With the popularity of SatNavs, the days of studying maps and asking for directions are over... or are they?

Even SatNavs get it wrong sometimes. Just ask the residents in the town of Hampton Loade. SatNav systems are pointing drivers to a bridge over the river near their town. But the problem is that the bridge doesn't exist. According to the dashboard device, it's possible to drive down a country lane to cross the River Severn. But at the end of the road there's no bridge – just a ferry for foot passengers. In an attempt to help, there's a large sign at the top of the lane that says, "Walk-on ferry only (SatNav error)." But despite this (and another sign on the main road that leads onto the lane), many drivers still go down it. One heavy-goods-vehicle operator spent more than five hours reversing up the narrow lane after getting stuck down there.

There have been plenty of other SatNav-related incidents. A party of football fans who had tickets to watch Chelsea Football Club play at Stamford Bridge in London ended up missing the match after the driver took them to Stamford in Lincolnshire. In Europe, one of the devices directed the driver of a coach-load of tourists to the town of Lille in Belgium instead of Lille in France. In a further incident, a trucker who was being directed by his Satnav system, got stuck in a road that was closed at one end.

Whilst manoeuvring to get out, he devastated a mini roundabout and destroyed five vehicles. Another lorry driver was forced to spend three nights sleeping in his cab after he

wedged his truck in an extremely narrow lane near Ivybridge, Devon. His navigation system sent him along the road as a shortcut to the A38. Bring back maps!

1. What is the article about in general?
 - a) The benefits of using SatNavs.
 - b) SatNav-related problems.
 - c) A new type of SatNav system.
2. What's the problem in Hampton Loade?
 - a) The road signs are confusing.
 - b) The ferry has stopped working.
 - c) SatNavs seem to think there's a bridge there.
3. What did one driver have to do after driving down the lane?
 - a) Drive back up it in reverse gear.
 - b) Drive across the bridge.
 - c) Get the ferry to the other side.
4. Where did a driver take some Chelsea fans?
 - a) To London. b) To Lincolnshire. c) To Stamford Bridge.
5. Why did the truck driver near Ivybridge spend three nights in his truck?
 - a) Because he got sick and had to go to hospital.
 - b) Because the villagers wouldn't let him leave.
 - c) Because his vehicle was too wide for the road and it got stuck.



B: Language (Total = 5 points)

Choose the correct options. These questions are on very general things for this level.

1. They _____ in the lift and someone had to call the lift maintenance company.
 - a) be stick b) got stuck c) took stuck
2. I really _____ in it when I asked her how she was getting on with her new job.
 - a) put my foot b) did my foot c) put my leg
3. They're always _____ get new business.
 - a) keen by b) eager at c) keen to
4. He _____ the insurance policy without reading the small print in the contract.
 - a) took for b) made to c) took out
5. They travelled _____ the country to the other.
 - a) at one edge b) from one side of c) from the side with
6. They _____ a beautiful restaurant along the way.
 - a) did off at b) stopped off at c) stopped through with



7. She _____ a loan to start up her business.
a) applied for b) called to c) applied by
8. They _____ all the money that they'd borrowed.
a) paid to b) loaned at c) paid back
9. They _____ the sanctions to be lifted.
a) called for b) demanded with c) ordered at
10. The extremists _____ a number of people hostage.
a) did b) took c) bought

C: Listening (Total = 10 points)

Terrible mistakes!

In this recording, you are going to listen to six people talking about some mistakes they've made.

Listen once and answer this question.

1. In which place did one of the mistakes take place?
a) In a zoo. b) In a lift. c) In a library.

Next, read over the questions below. Then, listen to the recording again and answer the questions.

2. What mistake did the first person make?
a) She let some uninvited guests stay at her party.
b) She didn't invite her best friend.
c) She didn't inform the police about the party.
3. What job was the person applying for? One in the...
a) ...hotel industry. b) ...telecommunications industry. c) ...computer industry.
4. What was wrong with the CV that was attached?
a) It didn't have anything on it. b) It had a virus. c) It was in an unusual language.
5. Who was the person in the lift talking to?
a) No one. b) Someone on the phone. c) The person telling the story.
6. What happened when the man tried to leave the kitchen?
a) He couldn't find the right door.
b) The other people stopped him from leaving.
c) He fell down.

7. How did he get out in the end?

- a) He couldn't get out. b) By asking for help. c) By breaking down the door.

8. How did the fire start?

- a) When the metal on the golf club hit a stone.
b) The woman threw a burning cigarette on the ground.
c) It isn't clear.

9. Did she call the fire brigade immediately?

- a) Yes.
b) She didn't call the fire brigade.
c) No, she tried to deal with the fire on her own first.

10. Did the man know his song was being recorded?

- a) Yes. b) It isn't clear. c) No.



D: Speaking (Total = 15 points)

Use the questions below (or any others you can think of) to have a **discussion with a partner for at least five minutes**. It's up to you to keep the conversation going, and to make sure the talking doesn't stop!

- When was the last time you got lost? Where were you? How did you find your way back? What are your top tips for not getting lost? What do you do when you get lost?
- Have you ever been lost in a car? What happened?
- Have you ever been lost when using a SatNav or a Map App? What happened?
- What are some of your favourite film scenes? Why do you like them?
- When was the last time you went to a party? What was it like? What funny or unusual things happened?
- When was the last time you made a mistake? What happened? Why did it happen?
- How has the music industry changed over the past few years?
- What are some of your favourite restaurants? Why do you like them? What do you eat there?
- Which part of the world would you like to travel to? Why?
- How do you keep track of your expenses? How good are you at saving money? Give examples.

E: Writing (Total = 15 points)

Write a story about a mistake you made once. You can base this on a personal experience, invent it, or use someone else's story. Include information on the following: where you were, who you were with, when it was, what time it was, what happened, why it happened, how you resolved the situation, what happened as a consequence of this, how this mistake changed your life, what you learnt from it, how you try to prevent it from happening again, etc. **Write more or less an A4 page.**

TEACHER'S NOTES

DO NOT PRINT FOR YOUR STUDENTS!

Exam notes for teachers

Remember, this is a general test on your students' language skills. There's no need for your students to revise for it. We feel this is a good way of checking students' progress as they work on their own without any assistance from you. Extra weighting in the exam scoring is given to listening, speaking and writing – the important communicative skills.

- Give the exam during class time – don't let students take the exam away with them.
- Be careful not to photocopy the answers when you make the copies for your students!
- Please print the exam double-sided.
- The exam should take about an hour and a half. If needed, this can be divided up into two testing periods, with the exam being given over two classes.
- Mark the results clearly on each individual student's Progress Report Sheet.
- Any student who doesn't turn up for the exam will have to do it another day. Students doing the exam after the event should do so quietly to one side of the normal class. For more information on this, speak to the DOS or teacher coordinator.
- The recordings for the Listening sections of the exams are on our website.

You can download them from here:

www.learnhotenglish.com/teachers

Submitting the Information

- Once the exams have been completed, you are required to complete all fields of the Progress Report Sheet and send this by e-mail (or drop it off - whatever's easiest) to your point of contact in the central office. Completed Progress Report Sheets need to be handed in no later than two weeks after you have received the exam. To make our administrative processing easier, please group together students from the same class.

- Students have two weeks to do the test. It is your responsibility to make sure they all do the test. If after two weeks they still haven't done it, then you must write N/A (Not Attended) on the Progress Report Sheet. Thanks for your collaboration!

A: Reading (5 points)

1b 2c 3a 4b 5c

B: Language (5 points)

1b 2a 3c 4c 5b 6b 7a 8c 9a 10b

C: Listening (10 points)

1b 2a 3c 4b 5b 6a 7b 8a 9c 10a

D: Speaking (15 points - three points per objective)

Students get zero points per objective if they don't complete it or if they do it poorly. Set it up so that students speak in pairs (or with you for one-on-one classes). Make notes while they're speaking on how well they do. Other students could be doing the Writing test while you do this.

- Did the student complete the task? (3 points)
- Did the student speak clearly and fluently without too much hesitation? (3 points)
- Did the student speak accurately (not making many mistakes)? (3 points)
- Did the student pronounce the words correctly? Did the student use the correct intonation, word stress, sentence stress, etc.? (3 points)
- Did the student use a wide range of expressions and vocabulary? (3 points)

E: Writing (15 points - three points per objective)

Students get zero points per objective if they don't complete it or if they do it poorly.

- Did the student complete the task? (3 points)
- Did the student write accurately? (3 points)

- Did the student write text that makes sense? Were the ideas linked logically? (3 points)
- Did the student use a wide range of appropriate words or expressions? (3 points)
- Did the student use a wide range of appropriate grammatical structures? (3 points)

Audio script

Terrible mistakes!

Getting it wrong... big style.

We asked a few people about some of the worst mistakes they've ever made.

Party problems

Last Christmas, I organised a fancy-dress party for New Year's Eve and invited about 50 friends. It all started at about 8pm, with lots of food, drink and great music. However, sometime after about 11, a group of about 20 people turned up uninvited.

They seemed nice, so I said they could stay. But about an hour later, there was a fight and I had to call the police. I should never have let them stay!

Technical problems

One morning last year, I did a mass e-mailing to hundreds of companies as I was applying for jobs in computer software companies. I attached my CV, and included a covering letter, too. A few hours later, I received a reply from one of the companies, but it wasn't exactly the kind of response I was looking for. The message read, 'Your CV is infected with a virus and has been quarantined'. Needless to say I didn't get called in for an interview!

Lift problems

I was in a lift in a hotel once when this guy got in. All of a sudden, he started talking to me. "So, how are you?" he asked. "Oh, erm, fine thanks," I replied, somewhat surprised that he was being so friendly. "So, what have you been up to?" he asked a few seconds later. "Erm, nothing much – just relaxing by the pool," I said. At which point he turned to me and said, "Do you mind? I'm on the phone."

And it was then that I realised he was talking on his mobile, only I couldn't see it because he had been facing away from me.

Leaving problems

I was with some friends once, sitting around the kitchen table, when we started arguing about something. I was tired at the time, and I'd had a bad day and I wasn't in a good mood. Eventually, I decided that I'd had enough and I stormed out. However, my exit wasn't as dramatic as I'd intended as I ended up walking into the kitchen larder. After popping back in, I had to ask for directions out of the kitchen as there were four doors in total, only one of which went outside.

Golfing problems

I was playing golf once when I knocked the ball into the grass outside the course. However, when I tried to hit the ball back in, my club struck a stone, which created a spark that started a fire. It didn't seem like much at first, but the fire spread pretty quickly. After a few minutes trying to put it out, I gave up and called the fire service. Within hours, there were six fire engines and about 20 fire fighters in the area, and it took them three hours to get it under control. It was really embarrassing, although they were very understanding.

Singing sorrow

I was at home once singing along to some ABBA songs on a karaoke machine. Just for fun, I recorded a version of "Dancing Queen" on a little MP3 recorder that I've got. A few months later, my brother asked to borrow the recorder and I gave it to him. Then, shortly after that, I was at a party when I suddenly heard this terrible version of "Dancing Queen" coming from the stereo system followed by hoots of laughter. It took me a few seconds to recognise the voice, but, yes, you guessed it, it was me. All my friends thought it was hilarious, but I wasn't amused.