

The Global Scale of English: Measuring proficiency across skills and levels



General English



Reading

10	27	31	39	45	58	62	68	79	87
Can recognise cardinal numbers up to 10.	Can understand short written notices, signs and instructions with visual support.	Can understand simple questions in questionnaires on familiar topics.	Can understand simple factual titles and headlines relating to common events.	Can understand information in advertisements for jobs and services.	Can recognise the writer's point of view in a structured text.	Can understand the author's purpose and intended audience.	Can understand complex technical information such as operating instructions, specifications for familiar products and services.	Can understand complex arguments in newspaper articles.	Can understand highly colloquial language in unstructured texts that use complex structures.



Listening

13	27	30	39	44	58	66	74	78	88
Can recognise simple formal greetings.	Can understand a phone number from a recorded message.	Can recognise phrases and content words related to basic personal and family information.	Can generally identify the topic of discussion around them when conducted slowly and clearly.	Can follow everyday conversation, with some repetition of particular words and phrases.	Can understand a large part of many TV programmes on familiar topics.	Can recognise the tone and intended audience of a formal presentation.	Can follow an animated conversation between two fluent speakers.	Can understand the intended double meaning of a word used in a joke.	Can understand in detail discussions on abstract and complex topics among speakers with a variety of accents and dialects.



Speaking

12	24	31	36	50	54	66	72	76	87
Can greet people using a few basic fixed expressions.	Can ask for a drink or food in a limited way.	Can make and accept a simple apology.	Can ask and talk about very basic symptoms and ailments (e.g. cold, flu).	Can give simple reasons to justify a viewpoint on a familiar topic.	Can leave phone messages containing detailed information.	Can develop an argument well enough to be followed without difficulty most of the time.	Can carry out an effective, fluent interview, spontaneously following up on interesting replies.	Can contribute to group discussions even when speech is fast and colloquial.	Can convey finer shades of meaning precisely by accurately using a wide range of modification devices.



Writing

10	28	33	38	48	52	65	74	77	85
Can write the letters of the alphabet in upper and lower case.	Can write short, simple notes, emails and postings to friends.	Can write simple sentences about personal skills.	Can write a description of a simple everyday process (e.g. a recipe).	Can write personal emails/ letters giving some details of events, experiences and feelings.	Can write a simple review of a film, book or TV programme using a limited range of language.	Can give a structured written explanation of a problem.	Can write a detailed description of a complex process.	Can write a detailed critical review of cultural events (e.g. plays, films, concerts) or literary works.	Can create well-structured complex texts with underlying inferred meaning.