



Cambridge Assessment
English

Computer-adaptive testing of listening and reading skills

A guide for educational institutions and employers





Who we are

We are Cambridge Assessment English.

Part of the University of Cambridge, we help millions of people learn English and prove their skills to the world.

We provide the world's leading range of qualifications and tests for learners and teachers of English.

Our qualifications and tests are globally recognised and provide the English language skills to communicate and succeed in the real world.

They fall into two categories: **linear** and **adaptive**.

In **linear tests**, candidates receive the same questions, in the same order. Our linear exams include Cambridge English Qualifications which are in-depth, exams that provide a path to learning English step by step.

In **adaptive tests**, candidates receive different test questions matched to their level of ability. Our adaptive tests include Linguaskill, BULATS and the Cambridge English Placement Test.

Computer-adaptive testing

In an adaptive test, each question is selected by the computer based on a candidate's performance in the previous questions. In general:

- If a candidate gets a question right, the computer will choose a harder question.
- If a candidate gets a question wrong, the computer will select an easier question.

The test adapts to the response pattern of each candidate. The test will continue until it has a satisfactory measurement of a candidate's level of ability or a maximum number of questions have been asked.



The benefits of our computer-adaptive tests

Efficient testing

Computer-adaptive tests are generally quick; they finish when a satisfactory measurement of ability is identified.

Quick, reliable results

Results are available immediately upon completion of our computer-adaptive tests. The computer automatically scores each question after the candidate provides a response.

A candidate's level of ability is measured most effectively when test questions are not too difficult or too easy. Adaptive tests therefore produce reliable results for a broad range of candidates and are particularly effective when you need to know the levels of a mixed-ability cohort of candidates.

Positive experience for candidates

Our computer-adaptive tests are designed to support a positive test experience, with candidates focusing on questions that are appropriate for them. For groups of candidates with mixed ability, this may help ease test anxiety as they are unlikely to feel 'out of their depth'.

Flexible to schedule

All our computer-adaptive tests are available on demand. Administrators simply log into the online testing system and they can run tests at any time, on any day, throughout the year. Administrators have complete flexibility over test scheduling.

Test security

Computer-adaptive test questions are tailored to each candidate. This means that each candidate gets a different set of questions, in a unique order, chosen from a large item bank.

This approach helps to ensure test security. Test invigilation requirements must still be followed to ensure the security of the testing environment.

Cost effective

Our computer-adaptive tests are delivered online. The only requirement is access to a computer, the internet and a set of headphones.

There is no limit to how many candidates can access the test at the same time. This provides an efficient and convenient testing solution for organisations.

To find out more about our range of adaptive tests, visit
cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests

A few facts and figures about us:

- 5.5 million assessments taken every year
- Accepted by over 20,000 organisations worldwide
- 2,800 exam centres in 130 countries
- Over 50,000 preparation centres
- Providing English language assessment since 1913