

# Alpha Test of English Language Proficiency

<b>PROFIL</b>	<b>GENERAL</b>
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## Use of English (15 minutes)

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Write in the boxes on the right the letter (A-D) of the correct word or phrase from those given below that best completes the sentence. Only *one* answer is correct.

Your answers	
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|---|--|
| 1. Jane is far too . . . , she must learn to consider her actions beforehand.<br>A. impulsive; B. instinctive; C. intensive; D. illusive.           | 1 <table border="1" style="width: 40px; height: 20px; display: inline-table;"></table> |
| 2. The high . . . of road accidents on the motorway is giving cause for serious concern.<br>A. occurrence; B. occasion; C. incident ; D. incidence. | 2 <table border="1" style="width: 40px; height: 20px; display: inline-table;"></table> |
| 3. I think the pattern of that wallpaper has been printed . . .<br>A. back to back; B. face down; C. upside down; D. side to side.                  | 3 <table border="1" style="width: 40px; height: 20px; display: inline-table;"></table> |
| 4. The plot of the story you've just told us is so absurd, it . . . on the ridiculous.<br>A. touches; B. borders; C. edges; D. hangs.               | 4 <table border="1" style="width: 40px; height: 20px; display: inline-table;"></table> |

Rewrite in the boxes on the right the following sentences beginning as shown so that the meaning stays the same.

5. Are these two rooms the same size?
6. They found the Foreign Prime Minister's broadcast impressive.
7. The flight from Timisoara to Bucharest was exactly one hour.
8. It would be better if you didn't drive so fast.

Your sentences	
Is there..... .....	
They were ..... .....	
It took..... .....	
I'd rather ..... .....	

Reconstitute the following text by giving the correct form of the verbs in brackets in the boxes on the right.

Once they left the shadowing tree, the sun was on their backs as they climbed up the field towards the house. The cattle (9. gather) in one corner and stood there whisking their tails to discourage midges, they looked as if they (10. be) waiting for something to happen. Laura went in through the kitchen door and the two men stood side by side. She (11. tell) not to interfere while they (12. have) a conversation.

Your verb forms	
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11	
12	

Reading Comprehension (35 minutes)



Read the following text and then answer the questions on the next page.

I knew a man who collected English words. He lived in an upturned water tank in the middle of the Australian desert. Unbelievably hot. He was the official town librarian of one of these ghost towns in the outback of Australia. It was founded in the 1890s.

5 People turned up and hammered wooden pegs into the sand and laid out boulevards and avenues. They built a jail and a huge corrugated-iron hotel. That's about all, except that someone down south had it on his books that this was an official town, and he sent a library to it, 3000 volumes and a sum of money as a salary for the librarian. This friend of mine, whose name was Roger, had been a no-hoper, as they say, wandering about the outback of Australia. He somehow discovered that there was money to be had  
10 there and, what is more, boxes of unopened books sitting in this deserted hotel.

He turned up there, got the job, and settled in the hotel, to begin with. The hotel did, actually, just function: that is, it had a half a dozen guests a year who would ride on horseback, sleep on the floor for an evening, and then push off the next day. This was too much for Roger. It got in the way of his reading. So he took the immense water-  
15 storage tank, rolled it a mile into the desert, carried his books out there and lived inside it – so, as he said, 'I could get a bit of peace and quiet'.

Words were a fascination for Roger, and he used to sit in his tank, just thinking about words. If there was a pause in the conversation, he would look at you and ask some such question as: 'D'you happen to know what "transubstantiation" is? If you said  
20 you knew, he was very cast down, because he wanted to tell you.

One of his regular visitors was the government officer who went by every six months. Roger would ask him if he knew what a word meant, and then he would have to admit that he didn't, and Roger would be very pleased with himself. Taz, as his name was, got very fed up with the Oxford English Dictionary. He rode in, tied up his horse  
25 and went in to see Roger, and Roger said: 'D'you happen to know what an "embolism" is?' and Taz said: 'No, I bloody don't' Then Taz said: 'D'you happen to know what a "leotard" is ? Roger was upset to be asked a question. He said: 'A leotard? I think I saw the skin of one once.' And Taz said: 'You bloody didn't'. So Roger said: 'Well, what is a leotard? Taz said: 'I'm not going to bloody tell you!' He got on his horse and rode off and  
30 went to sleep in the desert five miles away.

Some time later he was suddenly woken up by a steely grasp on his coat. Hands picked him up bodily from the ground and held him in the air and shook him. He opened his eyes and it was Roger with his eyes glittering in the moonlight, staring at him, and saying: 'What's a bloody leotard?'

35 (From an article by David Attenborough in "The Listener")

## Alpha Test of English Language Proficiency

Decide whether the following statements are true or false according to the text and then write the letter 'T' if they are true or 'F' if they are false in the boxes on the right.

1. The people of the town were extremely grateful for the gift of 3000 books.
2. Roger was a trained librarian.
3. The hotel had very few guests.
4. Roger had the water tank carried out into the desert.
5. When Roger asked the meaning of words he was sad if they knew the answer.
6. Roger was delighted at being asked a question by Taz.

Your decision: T or F	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

Write in the boxes on the right the letter (A-D) of the answer which best reflects the meaning of the text. Only **one** answer is correct.

7. The outback town was given a library because
  - A. it was expanding rapidly.
  - B. Roger was a collector of English words.
  - C. a government official thought it necessary.
  - D. the people of the town had requested one from the government.
8. Roger did not stay long in the hotel because
  - A. it was forced to close down.
  - B. there were too many guests.
  - C. he wanted more time for reading.
  - D. he was used to living in the desert.
9. Taz, the government officer,
  - A. was fascinated by Roger's encyclopaedic knowledge.
  - B. felt sorry for Roger.
  - C. got tired of being asked the meaning of words.
  - D. was ashamed at knowing less than Roger.
10. When Taz asked his question, Roger
  - A. thought he knew the right answer.
  - B. pretended not to know the right answer.
  - C. admitted at once that he did not know the right answer.
  - D. deliberately gave a stupid answer.
11. The reason Roger went into the desert after Taz was that
  - A. he wanted to murder Taz.
  - B. he was desperate to know what the word meant.
  - C. he thought Taz had been trying to fool him.
  - D. he had suddenly remembered the answer to the question.
12. 'Had it on his books' in line 6 means
  - A. had read about it.
  - B. had an official record of it.
  - C. had the intention of writing about it.
  - D. had a book about the town.

Your answers	
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12	
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## Alpha Test of English Language Proficiency

### KEY

#### Use of English (12x0.25=3 points)

Multiple Choice	
1	A
2	D
3	C
4	B

Rephrase	
5	Is there any difference in size between the two rooms?
6	They were impressed by the PM's broadcast.
7	It took (us/them) exactly one hour to fly from Timisoara to Bucharest.
8	I'd rather you didn't drive so fast.

Verb Forms	
9	had gathered
10	were
11	had been/ was told
12	were having

#### Writing ((10+10+10)/10=3 points)

	Composition	
Purpose achieved and fluency [Tematică si coerență] (1 to 10)	TC	
Mechanics [Corectitudinea limbii] (1 to 10)	CL	
Variety of vocabulary and style [Vocabular și stil] (1 to 10)	VS	

Writing + Use of English (3+3=6 points)	<b>S</b>
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Reading Comprehension (12x 0.5=6 points)	<b>Ic</b>
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True or False	
1	F
2	F
3	T
4	T
5	T
6	F

Multiple choice	
7	C
8	C
9	C
10	A
11	B
12	B