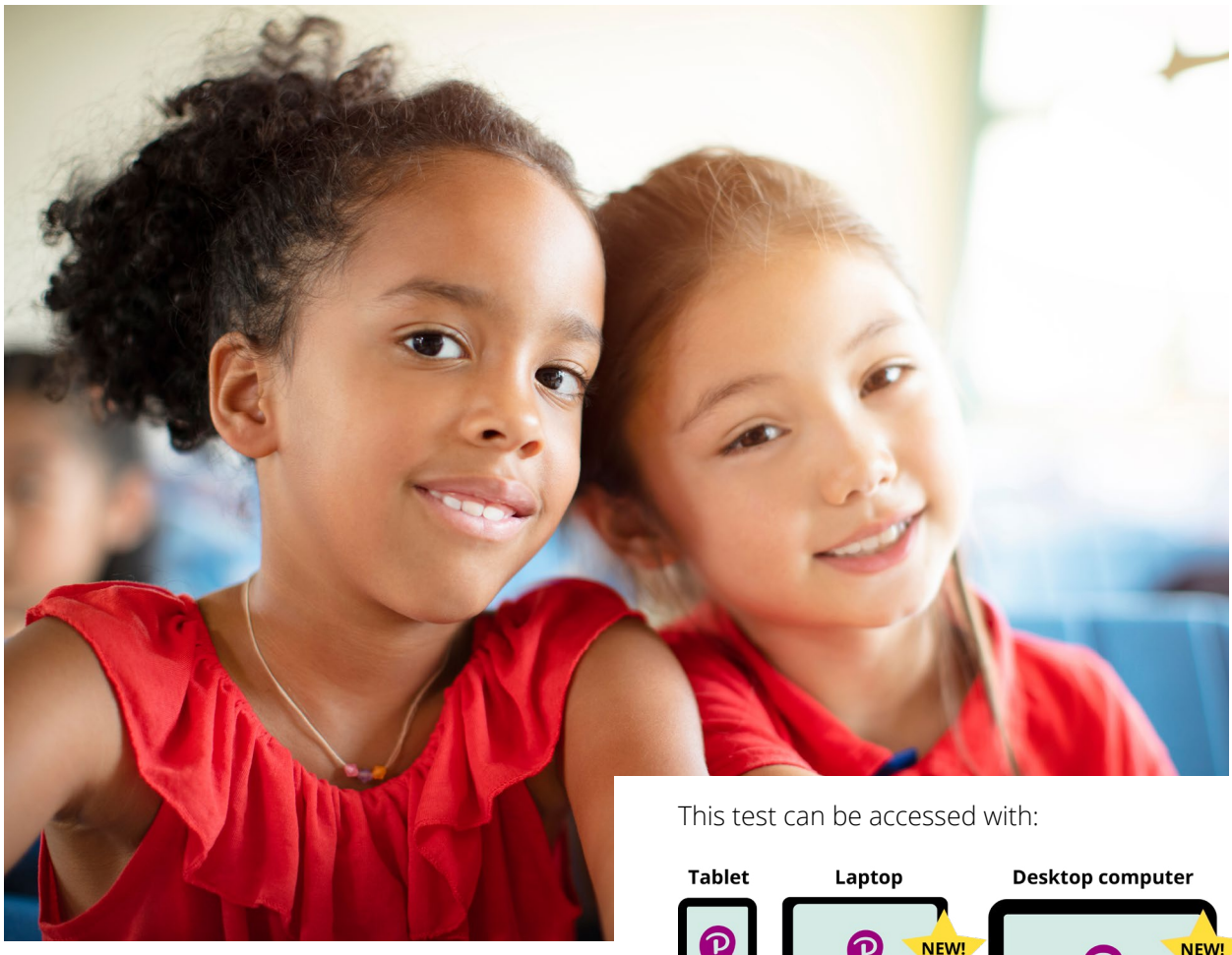
Pearson English

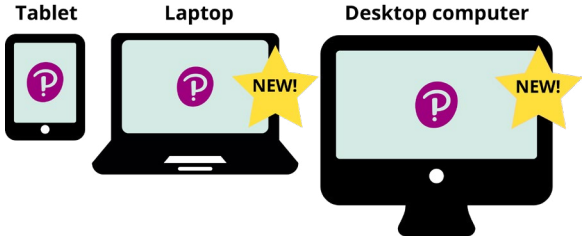
Benchmark

English Benchmark Young Learners

The powerful, engaging and interactive English proficiency test for a new generation of learners



This test can be accessed with:



v2.2 | April 2021

Contents

How can English Benchmark Young Learners be used? 4

Measuring real skills 5

Detailed scores for making informed decisions 6

Choose a device to suit your learners 7

Lerning and testing for young students 8

Global Scale of English 10

How can a computer measure English ability? 11

Introducing English Benchmark Young Learners

Welcome to a new generation of English assessment for a new generation of learners age 6-14.

Research shows that learners thrive in environments that are comfortable and familiar to them. English Benchmark Young Learners measures language ability through fun, interactive, game-like activities that are intuitive for next generation learners.

With precision scoring on the Global Scale of English (GSE), this deceptively powerful test gives detailed insights into students' overall proficiency and progress, with clear breakdowns across speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

Score reports include recommendations for learning activities to address any skills gaps, plus targeted direction to specific exercises across a range of Pearson English courses.

Group reports allow teachers to understand the abilities and skills gaps across a cohort, and can use these insights to guide their teaching, again with the support of recommended activities.

Our students love taking English Benchmark Young Learners and our teachers always feel stress-free and relaxed while running the test. Even our youngest students are able to stay focused throughout the entire test—they were totally drawn into a virtual world!

EVONNE CHAN,
Director of Studies at Malayan English Academy

From 2021, this tablet-based experience can be perfectly replicated on a laptop or desktop computer, using our free emulator software.

How can this test be used?

About the test

- Measures Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing skills*
- For ages 6–14
- Tablet-based, with free emulator available to replicate the experience on desktop or laptop
- Suitable for use at home or school
- 6 levels: <A1–B1++
- 5 tests available per level
- Uses International English
- Scored on CEFR and GSE
- Results available within minutes
- Feedback available as can-do statements and next steps for teaching and learning
- Parent reports and student certificates available

*Writing scores are not currently available for Level 1

As a diagnostic and formative tool

English Benchmark Young Learners can be administered at the beginning of the school year to obtain a baseline measure of students' English proficiency, identify learning needs and help to inform teaching programmes.

As a progress monitor

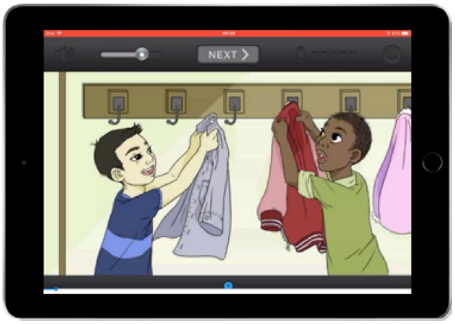
The test enables teachers to monitor students' progress throughout the year and provides key data to guide teaching and learning.

As a readiness indicator for high stakes exams

Because it is aligned to internationally recognised scales (CEFR and GSE), this test can be a reliable predictor of student success on formal examinations such as the International Certifticate (PTE) Young Learners and Cambridge English Young Learners.

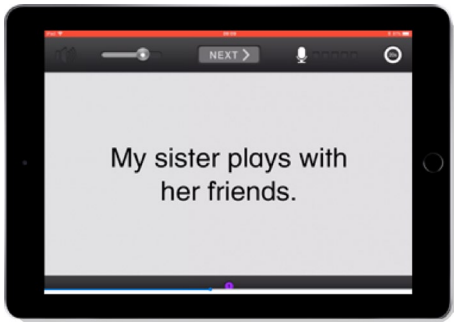
Measuring real skills

Engaging graphics and animations help students feel like they are playing a game instead of taking an English test. Using principles from game design, students are motivated to complete each task and get to the end of the test, all while being tested on content that is familiar to them.



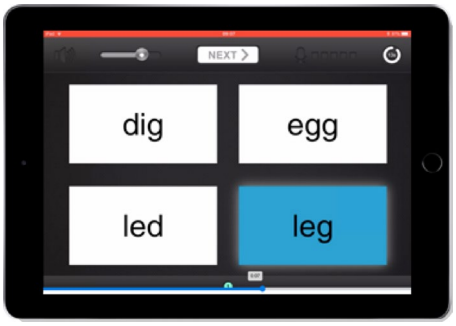
Speaking

To demonstrate speaking skills, students may be asked to repeat a sentence, answer a question, or watch a short clip and explain what they saw.



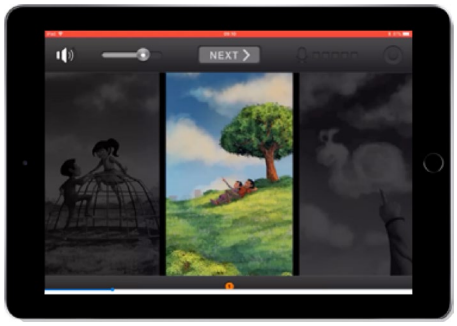
Reading

Students are asked to read texts of increasing length and difficulty to assess their reading ability.



Listening

Listening skills are assessed throughout the test, as students are asked to listen to prompts and respond by touching the word they hear, speaking about a situation, or answering a question they hear.



Writing

To measure writing skills, students in Levels 2+ are asked to complete a series of tasks such as writing a story about a picture they see on screen or choosing a correct word to complete a sentence.

> ***Don't forget!***
> As well as on tablet, this test can be taken on laptop or desktop computer, thanks to our free emulator software (see page 7)

Detailed scores for making informed decisions

Our sophisticated automated scoring is trusted by governments, ministries of education and corporations around the world. Benefit from detailed reporting and recommendations for what to teach next to help your students improve.

Accurate insights

Scores are reported on the Global Scale of English (GSE) and Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), and score reports also include Learning Objectives.

You can see detailed information on each student's performance for each skill - in a single testing session or over time - as well as skills descriptions and trends across the whole cohort.

Simplify your teaching

English Benchmark Young Learners simplifies lesson planning by providing recommendations for what to teach.

Once your students have taken the test, as well as their performance reports, you will see tailored recommendations for what to teach next. Links to Pearson courses mean that you can see specific lessons to teach from your course, or you can view the GSE recommendations to build your own lesson plan.

Choose a device to suit your leaners

Originally designed for use on a tablet, the English Benchmark Young Learners experience is now also accessible on laptop or desktop, thanks to our freely available ***emulator*** software.

Identical experience

The emulator allows the test experience to be replicated in full quality on a laptop or desktop computer. All learners need to know is that when the test asks them to touch the screen, that means click with their mouse! The teacher's admin experience and scoring are exactly the same.

Free and easy to install

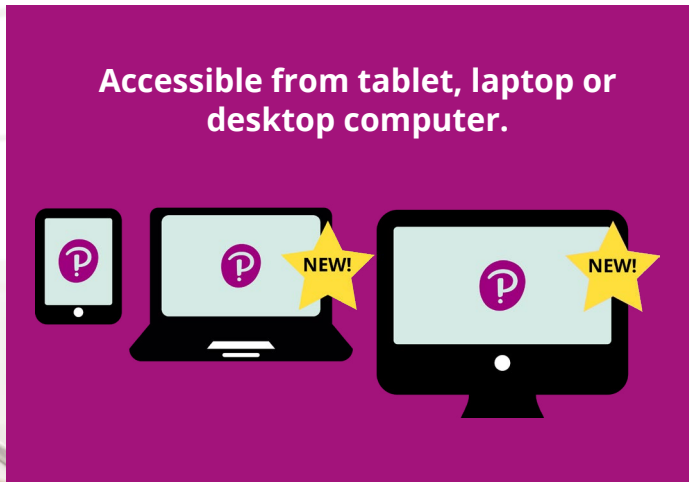
There is a version of the emulator for every individual level, plus a super-light version for those with a reliable internet connection. All versions are freely available. Just download the required version onto the device and your learners are ready to go!

For home or school

The emulator enables learners without access to a tablet to benefit from the full English Benchmark Young Learners experience - either from the classroom or from home. With its flexibility and easy of use, it fully supports classroom-based, remote and blended teaching approaches.

Complete support

Expert support is on hand for teachers across all aspects of the test. This includes full support in setting up and working with the emulator, including clear instructions to pass onto parents about how to set up and run the test at home.



Learn more and download the emulator at:
pearsonenglish.com/englishbenchmarkyounglearners

Learning and testing for young students

English Benchmark Young Learners and Pearson English courses make the perfect partners.

As your students learn with coursebooks like Big English, Now I Know!, Poptropica English, GoGetter, and Wider World, you can use the English Benchmark Young Learners tests to measure their progress.

After students have taken their test, you will see recommendations of which lessons to teach next in order to focus on the areas that need improvement.

English Benchmark Young Learners vs course-based assessment

The tests that you see in your coursebooks have been specifically designed to check that students have understood the course content. In contrast, English Benchmark Young Learners is not connected to a specific course, measuring commonly accepted English language proficiency at a given level.

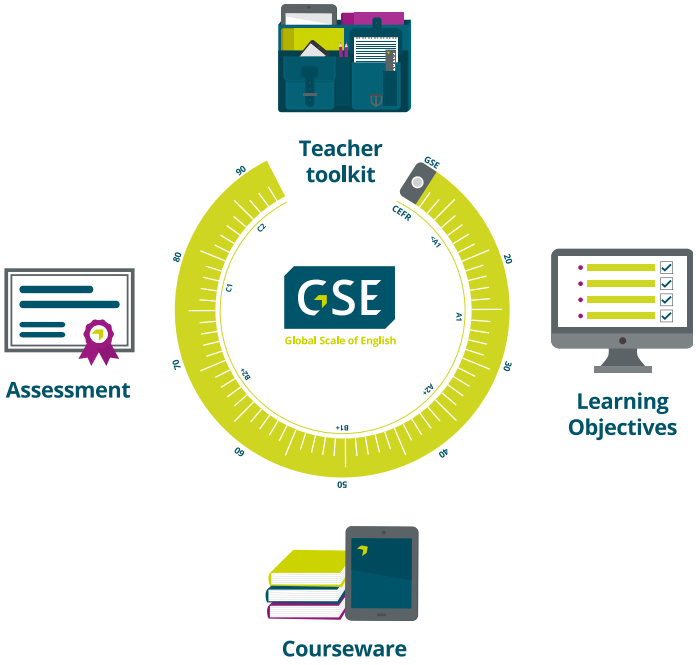
Global Scale of English

English Benchmark Young Learners is based on the Global Scale of English, helping you see and track students' progress more easily.

The Global Scale of English (GSE) is the first truly global English language standard, allowing teachers to measure learner progress more accurately and easily.

Based on research involving over 6,000 teachers from more than 50 countries, the GSE extends and expands upon the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).

Using a scale from 10 to 90, it pinpoints what needs to be mastered for the four skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing, at any point on the scale.



English Benchmark Young Learners is available for all levels up to B1+

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Products	5 tests available	5 tests available	5 tests available	5 tests available	5 tests available	5 tests available
Test Duration	16 mins	22 mins	30 mins	30 mins	36 mins	36 mins
GSE	10–27	16–34	22–40	27–45	33–52	42–58
CEFR	<A1–A1	<A1–A2	A1–A2+	A1–B1	A2–B1+	A2+–B1+

Test levels are based on ability rather than age or grade so they are suitable for all ages. Information about how to choose a suitable level for each student is provided in a comprehensive user guide. At least 120 hours of learning are required between each test to show progress.

How can a computer measure English ability?

Using a computer or a tablet to measure speaking, listening, reading and writing skills may sound too good to be true.

Our automated scoring technology is based on data from thousands of students and teachers, and it predicts how a human would mark any given test.

This artificial intelligence (AI) system is reliable, consistent and totally free from bias, and can analyse the full range of English skills. This means teachers can be completely confident in the results and don't have to spend their valuable time marking tests.

English Benchmark Young Learners uses the same robust technology that is trusted by governments, universities and corporations around the world for visa applications and recruitment.

It's powerful stuff!

How does it work?

1

We work with teachers and educators (you!) to understand which skills are most important for your learners.

2

A team of test writers develops items based on this feedback, and the can-do statements on the Global Scale of English.

3

We test the test by getting real-life sample responses from students around the world, for a team of examiners to mark.

4

We refine the machine scoring engines so they can accurately predict how teachers would score the test.

Pearson
English

pearsonenglish.com/englishbenchmarkyounglearners

Benchmark