Versant Writing Test

The Versant Writing Test is an English proficiency test which tests the English writing skills of individuals whose first language is not English. The test measures the use of English that would be appropriate for use in the workplace.

The Versant Writing Test takes only 35 minutes and randomly pulls test items from a large question item pool to ensure the highest test security. The test questions reflect many different situations of writing at workplaces including dictations, summarizations, and email correspondence. Tests can be taken on a computer either in online (web browser) or offline (computer software) mode.

Tests are scored within minutes by advanced automated scoring systems including the Knowledge Analysis Technologies™ (KAT) engine which evaluates the meaning of text by examining whole written passages. The KAT engine is based on Pearson’s unique implementation of Latent Semantic Analysis (LSA), an approach that generates semantic similarity of words and passages by analyzing large bodies of relevant text. LSA can then “understand” the meaning of text much the same as a human reader.

With the automatic scoring technology, detailed score reports become available online for review or download. Therefore, administrators do not need to wait days or weeks to obtain candidates’ scores, so decisions on hiring or placement can be made within minutes. Score reports include an overall score with sub-scores on key written communication skills (e.g., grammar, vocabulary, organization, voice & tone, and reading comprehension), detailed explanations of language capabilities, and suggestions for improvement.
Validity and Reliability

Versant has been extensively field tested and evaluated to verify its validity and reliability. Learn more about the test's validation findings in our detailed Versant Writing Test: Test Description and Validation Summary.

Simple Test Administration – 1, 2, 3, 4

1. The test administrator sends the test taker a test invite via the online test admin tool, ScoreKeeper.

2. The test taker enters their unique test ID on the secure Versant testing site to start the test.

3. The test taker answers the test questions and the answers are scored automatically.

4. The test administrator retrieves the test taker’s detailed score report from ScoreKeeper.

Contact Info

To try a sample test or get more information, contact us at: sales@pearsonkt.com or visit us online at www.VersantTests.com
Versant scores are aligned to the Global Scale of English (GSE). The GSE runs from 10 to 90, with clear statements of what a learner can achieve at any point on the scale.

**Overall GSE Score**

60 / 90

CEFR: B2

Candidate understands texts from a wide variety of written genres, and can produce written texts for most purposes. Writing is usually effective and clear, with adequate attention to style; candidate maintains reasonable control of complex language structures.

**Understanding the Skills**

**Overall Score**

The Overall Score of the test represents the ability to understand English input and write accurate, appropriate texts at a functional pace for everyday and workplace purposes. Scores are based on a weighted combination of five sub-scores.

**GSE**

The Global Scale of English (GSE) is a standardized, granular scale from 10 to 90, which measures English language proficiency. Visit [English.com/gse](http://English.com/gse) to learn more.

GSE 60/90 is equivalent to Versant 55/80

**Additional Performance Indicators**

**Typing Speed**

32 words per minute

Typing speed is the number of words typed in one minute in the Typing task. For a valid Writing score, candidates should type faster than 12 WPM.

**Typing Accuracy**

92% words typed accurately

Typing accuracy refers to the percentage correctly typed in the Typing task. For a valid Writing score, candidates should have at least 90% accuracy.
Current Capabilities in Detail

Candidate understands, anticipates and produces a sufficient range of grammatical structures in English. Errors may occur frequently but do not interfere with the writer's meaning.

Tips to improve:
- Increase your awareness of grammar by rereading your writing one week later, noting and correcting any errors in sentence structure.
- Practice writing a short report for a coworker that explains in detail what you do during a typical work day.

Vocabulary:  GSE: 56/90  Versant: 52/80  CEFR: B1+
Candidate understands and produces a good range of common English words. Word choices are mostly accurate but are not always the most effective way to convey a message.

Tips to improve:
- Practice reading blogs and looking up any new words in a dictionary.
- Practice making up a short story using at least five new vocabulary items.

Candidate's writing has an organizational structure that is somewhat clear. Ideas are mostly organized; although occasional connections may be unclear, this does not cause the reader confusion.

Tips to improve:
- Practice reading newspaper and magazine articles and identifying useful transitional phrases and connectors.
- Practice writing a short text about a memorable trip, clearly signaling chronological sequence.

Candidate's use of tone is generally appropriate. The candidate's writing gives a satisfactory effect on the reader; commitment to addressing the reader's concern is adequate.

Tips to improve:
- Practice introducing yourself in writing, both formally and informally.
- Practice writing a positive online review of a restaurant, encouraging others to go. Then practice writing a negative, discouraging review.

Reading Comprehension:  GSE: 57/90  Versant: 53/80  CEFR: B1+
Candidate reads, understands and responds to texts on everyday topics and at a functional pace. In more complex texts, specific details will be lost.

Tips to improve:
- Practice scanning a web page in English to quickly identify the topic and type of text that it is.
- Practice reading short editorial articles in newspapers and understanding the significant points.

Understanding the Skills

Grammar
Grammar reflects how well the candidate understands, anticipates and produces a variety of sentence structures in written English. The score is based on the ability to use accurate and appropriate words and phrases in meaningful sentences.

Vocabulary
Vocabulary reflects how well the candidate understands and produces a wide range of words in written English from everyday and workplace situations. The score is based on accuracy and appropriacy of word use for topic, purpose, and audience.

Organization
Organization reflects how well the candidate presents ideas and information in written English in a clear and logical sequence. The score is based on the ability to guide readers through written text and highlight significant points using discourse markers.

Voice & Tone
Voice and Tone reflects how well the candidate establishes an appropriate relationship with the reader by adopting an appropriate style and level of formality. The score is based on the writer's ability to address the reader's concern and have an overall positive effect.

Reading Comprehension
Reading Comprehension reflects how well the candidate understands written English texts on everyday and workplace topics. The score is based on the ability to operate at functional speeds to extract meaning, infer the message, and respond appropriately.