

# Certifications for Learners of English as a Foreign Language (EFL)

## A) International Certification

### 1. ELSA (English Language Skills Assessment)

- ELSA tests (either **paper-based** or **online**) are available in British English for Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing, and in American English for Listening, Reading and Speaking (the online and paper-based tests are identical in content).
- The online tests combine the proven advantages of multiple-choice tests for Listening, Reading and Writing with speedy results and feedback. ELSA online Speaking tests use real examiners to assess responses to open questions.
- ELSA measures the evolution of learning through "rule of measurement" based on ALTE - Council of Europe Framework.
- ELSA is an international proficiency test that measures the candidate's oral and written comprehension of the English language accurately and reliably. The end result is accompanied by a "score report" and a level description.
- ELSA Listening Test: This test lasts for 30 minutes and consists of 60 questions divided into 4 parts. The candidate listens to recordings of people who make comments and questions or participate in a dialogue. Multiple choice test.
- ELSA Reading Test: This test lasts for 45 minutes and consists of 60 questions divided into 4 parts. The candidate reads a series of passages and questions and chooses the correct answer for each question. The test results are aligned with the LCCIEB level structure (London Chamber of Commerce and Industry Examination Board).
- More information:  
<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/lcci/english-language/english-language-skills-assessment-elsa.html>

### 2. TOEIC (Test Of English for International Communication)

Since 1979, organizations around the world have used this test to hire and promote employees.

More information: <https://toEICglobal.com/>

## B) North American Certification

### TOEFL (Test Of English as a Foreign Language)

- TOEFL is used as an admission test by colleges and universities in the US to evaluate students who wish to enroll, or who are enrolled in, degree programs.
- It is also often required for those who need to enter a profession in the US.

More information:

<https://www.examenglish.com/TOEFL/index.php>  
<https://www.ets.org/toefl/test-takers/>

## C) British Certification (Cambridge/British Council)

The Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) for languages is an international standard for describing language ability. It is used around the world to describe learners' language skills. The CEFR has six levels – from A1 (beginner) to C2 (proficient). The principal tests are:

1. IELTS (International English Language Testing System)
2. FCE (First Certificate in English)
3. CAE (Certificate in Advanced English)
4. CPE (Certificate of Proficiency in English)

There are also tests for those who wish to teach English as a foreign language, or wish to specialize their area of English:

1. CELTA (Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults)  
(formerly known as “Teaching English as a Foreign Language”, TEFL)
2. BULATS (Business Language Testing Service)
3. BEC (Business English Certificate)
4. ILEC (International Legal English Certificate)
5. ICFE (International Certificate in Financial English)

More information:

<https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests/>  
<https://www.britishcouncil.org.br/>

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## General Advice

- Discuss with your school/teacher why you wish to take a certification test and which would be the most appropriate for you.
- Find out test dates and centers in your area.
- Prepare well for the tests, seeking practice material and advice from your school, your teacher or the Internet.
- Tests are not free, so you should find out the costs of taking the test you choose, before committing yourself.
- If you are not successful in your chosen test – don't give up! Study more and try again!
- Test your level of English: <https://www.examenglish.com/leveltest/index.php>