

## First for Schools Course Overview

**Our annual course** will prepare our students to get the best results in the Cambridge **First for Schools (B2) exam**. Through exercises, practice with real exams from previous sessions and the study of techniques to pass each of the tests, our expert teachers in these exams will ensure that our students arrive on exam day with the best possible preparation. The course is also designed for the student:

- To improve the grammar that corresponds to the exam they are preparing for.
- To expand the lexicon related to the most common exam topics.
- To practise all English skills: *speaking, listening, reading* and *writing*.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

### READING AND USE OF ENGLISH

- We will work on the areas of grammar and vocabulary required for this part of the exam. There will be explanations, practice and feedback.
- We will analyse different types of texts that appear in the exam.
- We will practise text comprehension exercises and give guidelines on how to complete them better.
- We will learn techniques and strategies for each different type of exercise and put them into practice with actual past exams.
- We will discover different ways of reading texts, such as reading quickly to understand the general idea and reading carefully to look for specific information.

### WRITING

- We will study and practice writing some of the different texts you will need to write in the exam. In **First for Schools**: an essay, an article, a letter/email, a book review, a film review or a short story.

- We will learn how to write to have a positive effect on the reader, explaining and developing opinions, giving arguments, describing, comparing or reaching a conclusion.
- We will work on both formal and informal text styles.
- We will study techniques for editing and reviewing written texts.

## **LISTENING**

- We will study and analyse different types of monologues and conversations that appear in the exam.
- We will practise the listening comprehension exercises and focus on guidelines to complete them more successfully.
- We will learn techniques and strategies for the different types of exercises, and we will put them into practice with actual past exams.
- We will practise different *listening* skills such as understanding emotions, understanding the general idea or extracting specific information.

## **SPEAKING**

- We will learn about the different parts of the oral exam.
- We will improve our conversational and monologue skills.
- We will study and practise strategies such as developing sentences and linking ideas.
- We will expand our range of speaking vocabulary, phrases and expressions.
- We will improve our grammar when speaking. We will analyse mistakes, learn and review key structures.
- We will do activities to improve our pronunciation.
- We will practise the oral exam and receive detailed feedback on each part.
- We will do exercises to increase our confidence when speaking in English.

Our students will have access to a **Self-Study Pack** with extra activities to prepare for the different parts of the exam.

[This is the link](#) to access the First for Schools Self-Study Pack.

**English Extra Exam Workshops:** our students will also have the possibility to attend one online Exam Workshop each month. In each workshop, students will focus on a different part of the exam. Information on times and dates of the workshops is shared with you in the Monthly Newsletter. You will receive a follow-up email with the link to attend the workshop.

## **MOCK EXAM**

Over the course of the academic year, students will complete a **full mock** exam with detailed feedback on each part of the exam.

### **RECOMMENDED RESOURCES FOR ONLINE PRACTICE**

- **Flo-Joe** - <http://www.flo-joe.co.uk>
- **Splendid Speaking** - <http://www.splendid-speaking.com/index.html>
- **Cambridge Exams Supplementary Resources**  
<https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/learning-english/exam-preparation/>
- **Exam English** - <https://www.examenglish.com/>

We always recommend you read the privacy policy before registering on the websites.

## **EVALUATION OF YOUR PROGRESS**

Our students will receive a **mid-year report** in February, in which the teacher will indicate which exam they should take and when. They'll also receive a **report at the end of the course**. Both reports will give you an accurate idea of the progress your son/daughter has made throughout the course. We evaluate the following areas:

- **Listening:** the ability to understand and respond at your level.
- **Speaking:** the ability to use appropriate language to express the main message with intelligible pronunciation.
- **Reading:** the ability to understand and respond to written English at your level.
- **Writing:** the ability to use broad and appropriate language and to express ideas with accuracy at your level.

We also assess...

- **attitude** towards learning and participation in class.
- **ability to reflect** on what you learned during class and self-assessment effectively.
- **participation** in class when working alone and in a group.

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

We will use material designed to prepare learners for these exams. Students **will need to have a copy of the textbook listed below:**

<b>Level</b>	<b>ISBN</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Publisher</b>
S First and US First	9781292392851	<b>Gold Experience 2e B2 Student's Book &amp; eBook with Online Practice, Digital Resources &amp; App</b>	Pearson