Kings
Education for Life

Factsheet

Cambridge English: B2 First (FCE) Preparation

Section 1: Overview

Is this course for me?

- This course is for students who need to improve the key language skills needed to score as high as possible in all parts of the Cambridge English: B2 First (FCE) exam.

Key Facts

Available in

- London
- Oxford
- Los Angeles

Start dates:

- Refer to table below

Entry level:

- Intermediate (Kings Level 5)

Age:

- 16+

Duration:

- 4, 10 or 12 weeks (depending on start dates and location)

Class size:

- Maximum 14

Lessons per week:

- 28 lessons (21 hours) total

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Included in the price:

- 28 lessons per week (21 hours)
- Welcome Information Pack
- Access to multi-format course materials
- Placement test on arrival, weekly assignments, group participation and progress tests
- Use of Computer Learning Centre
- Free Wi-fi at school
- Full access to Kings social programme, with at least two free activities per week
- Full access to join Kings' school clubs and societies
- Optional weekly lecture programme
- End-of-course certificate (90% or higher attendance required)

Please note exam fees **are not included** in the cost of the course.

Each school uses local exam centres and prices are subject to change but for 2023 they range between £175 and £210.

"We cover speaking, listening, grammar and use of English, so it's preparation in all areas. I like the structure of this course. It's very useful if you want to do FCE. It's good that the classes are not that big, the teachers can really focus on you."

Section 2: Course structure and content

London

- 28 lessons (21 hours) per week of Cambridge FCE exam preparation

Oxford and Los Angeles

- 20 lessons (15 hours) per week of General English
- 8 lessons (6 hours) per week Cambridge FCE exam preparation

Key features:

- The Cambridge English: First preparation course is taught by specialist and experienced teachers.
- The course syllabus has been specially designed to maximise students' exam success and covers all papers of the exam.
- Students will be given regular homework and will be expected to complete at least five hours of assignments each week.

Key areas covered include:

Communication skills

- Conversational language skills
- Listening and accents
- Reading and interpretation
- Writing and presenting

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Linguistic resources

- Building your vocabulary bank
- Fine tuning your pronunciation
- Interpretation of texts
- Grammar and syntax

Study skills

- Note taking and revision
- Research skills
- Time management and planning
- Dictionary work
- Learner autonomy

Cultural and personal development

- Understanding cultural difference and similarity
- Team work and leadership
- Presenting an argument
- Discussion skills

Exam technique and strategies

- Working under exam conditions
- Understanding the requirements of each section of the exam
- Understanding what the examiner is looking for
- Planning and reviewing your answers
- Preparing mentally for exam day

Assessing progress

- Students will be given homework tasks to complete every day, including writing practice.
- In addition to homework tasks, students' progress will also be monitored in class and they will complete a short test at the start of each week.
- Students are given a number of opportunities to complete mock examinations under simulated exam conditions. The results of these mock exams will be used to help them improve in specific areas.

Section 3: About the Cambridge: B2 First (FCE) exam

- The Cambridge English: First exam is an upper-intermediate level qualification, set at level B2 of the CEFR.
- It offers proof that candidates have the language skills to live and work independently in an English-speaking country or to study on courses taught in English.
- Candidates are tested in all four key skills and in 'use of English', and receive a separate score for each, as well as an overall score. A final grade and CEFR level are then assigned.

Course start dates

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2024 start dates	
8 January	
10 weeks	London
11 March	
12 weeks	London, Oxford, Los Angeles
6 May	
4 weeks	London
1 July	
4 weeks	London
29 July	
4 weeks	London
16 September	
12 weeks	Los Angeles
23 September	
12 weeks	London and Oxford
18 November	
4 weeks	London

Sample timetable

Please note:

- Sample timetable is subject to change
- Placement test, induction, locality walk and ice breaker activities, which take place on the students' first day at Kings, are an essential part of the teaching programme, included in the weekly hours of lessons.

28 lessons of Cambridge FCE preparation per week: taught in London

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
09:00 – 10:30 (Lessons 1 & 2) Cambridge First Exam (FCE) Preparation	**Grammar and speaking** Expressing likes and dislikes; preferences and propositions	**Reading** Multiple choice - Life Aboard a Space Station **Vocabulary** Phrasal verbs: understanding meaning and context	**Vocabulary** Holidays and travel **Speaking** Discussing holidays **Listening** Multiple choice - Holidays	**Grammar** Modal verbs of deduction **Speaking** Comparing photographs using modals of deduction	**Writing** Writing a review **Grammar** Question tags

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	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
10:30 – 11:00	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
11:00 – 12:30 (Lessons 3 & 4) Cambridge First Exam (FCE) Preparation	**Vocabulary** Towns and villages **Speaking** Describing where you live **Writing** Writing an informal email	**Grammar** Future forms **Speaking** Future plans	**Grammar** Making comparisons **Exam focus** Use of English - sentence transformations	**Word formation** How to form and position adjectives and adverbs **Exam practice** Use of English - word formation	**Writing** Comparison of required register for articles and reviews
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00 (Lessons 3 & 4) Cambridge First Skills: Special Interest Group (SIG)	**Speaking** Expressions, to agree and disagree **Exam practice** Speaking parts 1 and 3	**Reading** Understanding meaning from context and underlining key words	**Listening** Avoiding distractors; synonyms	**Speaking** Comparing and contrasting photographs; speaking about yourself and expressing preferences	**Free time**

20 lessons of general English + 8 lessons of Cambridge FCE Preparation per week: taught in Oxford and Los Angeles

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
09:00 – 10:30 (Lessons 1 & 2) General English	**Progress test** including listening and writing Individual and group feedback on test	**Grammar** Using 'will' and 'shall' in polite requests **Pronunciation** Open and closed questions (intonation) **Professional skills** Interviews.	**Vocabulary** Common idioms and phrasal verbs used to describe behaviour **Reading, listening and writing** Giving tips on how to behave in different situations	**Listening** Understanding how technology works **Functional language** Giving instructions **Task-based learning (leadership and team work)** Building a bridge	**Grammar review** 'Will', 'shall' and relative clauses **Video** Ted Talk: How to lead a conversation between people who disagree **Discussion** Beyond right and wrong?
10:30 – 11:00	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break

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	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
11:00 – 12:30 (Lessons 3 & 4) General English	**Vocabulary** Social behavior: Talking about norms and customs **Discussion** Understanding cultural differences	**Video** Phone addiction. **Role-play** Asking for and offering help **Study skills** Making effective notes	**Real English** People in the newspapers today **Grammar** Defining relative clauses **Vocabulary** Adjectives of character	**Writing** An email describing a new invention. **Presentations** A future without cars.	**Vocabulary** Diplomatic language **Professional skills** Giving and receiving feedback **Discussion** — Beyond right and wrong?
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00 (Lessons 3 & 4) Cambridge First Skills: Special Interest Group	**Speaking** Expressions, to agree and disagree **Exam practice** Speaking parts 1 and 3	**Reading** Understanding meaning from context and underlining key words	**Listening** Avoiding distractors; synonyms	**Speaking** Comparing and contrasting photographs; speaking about yourself and expressing preferences	**Free time**

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