



*****Please see "Important Notes" on back page*****

English as a Second Language Practice Test

This practice test will help you to learn about the Camosun College English as a Second Language Assessment Test. All parts of the actual test have **time limits**. You will be marking your answers in pencil on a **special answer sheet**. The first part you will do is **Reading Comprehension**.

NOTE: **No dictionaries** (or other test aids) are permitted during the actual tests.

TEST 2: Reading Comprehension

For the test you will be instructed to read several paragraphs and answer *40 questions in 37 minutes*. You should read quickly with understanding to do well in this part of the test. For this practice test you may circle the answers or record them on scrap paper. The answer key is on the back page.

A. Read the letter below and complete questions 1 – 4.

Ms. Carol Brown, Manager
Ecto Company
2341 Sherwood St.
Toronto, Ontario
M3R 3T7

Dear Ms. Brown:

On October 2, 1999, I ordered an Ecto Portable Heater, Model 899, manufactured by your company. The order was placed by mail and sent to the catalogue service department. A check for full payment was enclosed with the purchase order. The heater was delivered to my home on October 30, 1999. When I opened the carton, I found the heater damaged. The control knob had snapped off the unit. The condition of the carton suggests that the heater was damaged during transport. Please inform me of the procedure for returning damaged merchandise. I also wish to obtain another heater as soon as possible. My address and a copy of the customer receipt are attached to this letter.

Sincerely yours,
Clarence Johnson

1. **Clarence Johnson purchased the heater from**
 - A. a mail order company
 - B. a department store
 - C. an appliance store
 - D. a garage sale
2. **Clarence Johnson paid for the heater**
 - F. after it arrived at his home
 - G. in monthly payments
 - H. when he placed the order
 - J. with cash at the time of purchase
3. **Which fact is supported by the letter?**
 - A. Clarence Johnson was sent another heater
 - B. the heater was damaged at the factory
 - C. the carton was also damaged
 - D. Clarence Johnson works for the Ecto company
4. **Clarence Johnson was**
 - F. a designer of heaters
 - G. a customer in need of assistance
 - H. an angry customer
 - J. a caring service manager

B. Read the story and complete questions 5 – 9.

Jim and his family spent three weeks each summer at their cabin on Crystal Lake. Jim had always enjoyed the lake and the special times he shared with his older brother, Roy. Their days were filled with swimming, hiking and fishing. The brothers even had their own special fishing hole.

This year Jim wasn't looking forward to the vacation. Roy was five years older than Jim and had recently turned seventeen. Lately Roy spent less and less time with Jim. Roy had even begun dating a few girls and Jim felt abandoned and hurt; however, he had yet to express these feelings to his brother.

The first morning at the lake dawned warm and sunny. When Jim arrived at the breakfast table, he noticed that Roy had already eaten and left. "It figures," he mumbled to himself.

Moments later, Roy bounded into the kitchen. "Hey, Shorty! Did you sleep long enough? I've been waiting outside for you."

"You have?" Jim inquired with a look of surprise.

"Get yourself dressed. You don't want anyone else finding our fishing hole, do you?" In no time Jim was dressed and ready. Now he was thinking this might not be such a bad vacation after all.

- 5. Why wasn't Jim looking forward to the vacation?**
- A. Jim no longer enjoyed vacations at Crystal Lake
 - B. Jim couldn't find his fishing gear
 - C. Jim believed his older brother wouldn't spend time with him
 - D. Jim didn't want to be away from home for three weeks
- 6. From the story, you could conclude that Roy was**
- F. acquiring new interests
 - G. spending more time at work
 - H. arguing more often with his brother
 - J. avoiding his old friends
- 7. What should Jim have done to ease his worry?**
- A. he should have invited a friend to join him
 - B. he should have expressed his feelings to Roy
 - C. he should have remained at home
 - D. he should have ignored his brother
- 8. Jim didn't see Roy at breakfast because**
- F. Roy was still sleeping
 - G. Roy had gone fishing
 - H. Roy had skipped breakfast
 - J. Roy had eaten earlier
- 9. Which pair of words best describes Roy?**
- A. caring and considerate
 - B. alert and ambitious
 - C. selfish and serious
 - D. sullen and somber

*(Reading selections adapted from **Test Ready**, Book 6, Curriculum Associates, 1993)*

D. Choose the answer that best develops the topic sentence.

16. During the “tulipmania” which swept Holland from 1634 to 1637, tulip bulbs were bought and sold for ridiculously high prices – higher than the price for gold or diamonds.

- F.** Today the tulip is a relatively common flower. Tulip bulbs are available in the fall at a reasonable price. When the flowers bloom in the spring, whole fields are covered with the colourful flowers.
- G.** Money poured into Holland from all directions. People invested their life savings in the buying and selling of tulips which were being traded at fantastic prices.
- H.** The tulip, a member of the onion family, was found to have rare and beautiful flowers. How strange that such a lowly flower was worth more than roses or orchids.
- J.** After 1637 when the price of tulips dropped, many people were left with a large supply of tulip bulbs which were suddenly worth nothing. Those who were once wealthy with tulips were now poor.

Writing Sample

This is an important part of the ESL assessment. You should plan to write for **45** minutes. You can choose to write a paragraph or a short essay. Your choice will depend on your experience and training in the English language. You will be assigned a topic on the test date.

Your writing will be evaluated for the skills needed to study in academic and career programs in English. It will be marked for: correct grammar, sentence structure, good organization and content and good use of vocabulary. Please try to do your best writing. Don't make the writing too simple or the ESL assessor may not be able to judge your level.

Answer Key:

- | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. A | 2. H | 3. C | 4. G | 5. C | 6. F | 7. B | 8. J |
| 9. A | 10. F | 11. C | 12. F | 13. C | 14. J | 15. B | 16. G |

Speaking and Listening Interview

When you have finished writing the actual test, you will be asked to return (usually the next day) for an interview with the English as a Second Language instructor. This interview will help the instructor to find the right class for you at Camosun College.

Important Notes:

- **Monthly assessment schedules** are posted at www.camosun.ca/services/assessment
- **Documented Disability?** If you have a documented disability and require accommodations/supports to write the College placement test contact the Resource Centre Students with a Disability in Dawson 119 or call 370-3312, TTY/TDD: 370-3311 to set up alternative testing arrangements.
- **Test Anxiety?** For the most up-to-date information on learning how to keep your cool at test time go to the Counselling website www.camosun.ca/services/counselling.
- **Need help with writing?** Google “**Online Writing Lab**” (OWL) or any college or university writing centre, such as www.utoronto.ca/ucwriting/organizing.html, for lots of valuable information. You can also ask a librarian for help locating a study guide for essay and/or paragraph writing.
- **Advising: Need help planning your education?** Academic Advisors help you explore educational options, develop a Personal Learning Plan, understand admission processes, plan course selections and interpret educational institution rules and regulations as they apply to you. Email at academicadvising@camosun.bc.ca or drop in to Academic Advising (hours on website).