



Exam Practice tips for FCE, CAE, CPE and IELTS

When you're practising for an exam it can be very demotivating if you get a score like 3/8 or 4/12 and it's very tempting to throw away the task and try again another time. However, as teachers will often tell you, the best way to learn is from your mistakes, and with exam practice tasks this is definitely the case.



When you get a question wrong in an exam, probably there was a key collocation, phrasal verb or grammatical structure that you were unfamiliar with. Analysing your answers after doing exam practice is an excellent way to build your vocabulary and reinforce your understanding of grammatical structures that come up in the exam.

So, next time you do some exam practice, instead of marking your work and moving on, follow these steps to use exam practice tasks to their best potential. This works particularly well for the use of English tasks in the Cambridge exams, but could be applied to reading and listening tasks too.

Complete the gaps in the tips below using words in the box

analyse	practise	yourself	time	exam	test	record
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How can you get the most out of an exam practice task?

- Do it to ¹ _____ under ² _____ conditions
- ³ _____ incorrect answers and lucky guesses
- ⁴ _____ new words/phrases/collocations
- ⁵ _____ ⁶ _____ on the new vocabulary
- ⁷ _____ using the new vocabulary



Here is a suggestion of how to analyse your answers:

- Use the grid to record key language from the task
- Write the question number in the first column
- If you were correct and felt very sure about the answer, put a cross in the ‘I knew it column’ and move on – this is familiar language for you.
- If you guessed the answer (whether you got it right or wrong) and didn’t feel sure about your answer, this means the language is new for you, or you don’t remember it well enough. Use your dictionary to help you fill in the last two columns.
- Then, to help make the new language more memorable to you, write some example sentences that are true for you.
- Finally, a few days later test yourself on the new language.

Exam section: _____

Question	I knew it	Correct guess	Incorrect guess	Key vocabulary	Meaning
EXAMPLE		X		<i>get <u>on</u> well with someone</i>	<i>have a good relationship with someone</i>

Write some example sentences using the key vocabulary to help you remember:

e.g. I get on very well with my sister. We like the same music and often go out together.





ANSWER KEY

1. time
2. exam
3. analyse
4. record
5. test
6. yourself
7. practise

