

Simply LanguageCert

Level **B2**

Communicator
IESOL & IESOL



Simply LanguageCert Level B2 Communicator IESOL & ISESOL

The *Simply LanguageCert* Level B2 includes **8** Preparation Units and **4** Complete Tests for the Level B2 Communicator **IESOL** exam (Listening, Reading and Writing). There are also **3** Complete Tests for the Level B2 Communicator **ISESOL** exam (Speaking).

The book is accompanied by three Audio CDs for the listening sections.

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LanguageCert International ESOL Qualifications

The **LanguageCert International ESOL** qualifications will help you demonstrate your ability to communicate in English to enable you to work or study in English-speaking countries and/or environments.

The tests are intended for test takers who are speakers of other languages (ESOL) and who would like to demonstrate their ability to communicate in English.

Many English-speaking universities accept this qualification as evidence of language proficiency for entry onto their courses.

The tests are recognised globally and are accepted by universities, employers and national education authorities in many countries as evidence of a required standard of English.

There are two different exams for each level, the **IESOL** (International ESOL) that tests Listening, Reading and Writing and the **ISESOL** (International Spoken ESOL), which is a stand-alone Spoken exam.

International ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) & International Spoken ESOL (Spoken English for Speakers of Other Languages)	Common European Framework
Preliminary A1	Breakthrough
Access A2	Waystage
Achiever B1	Threshold
Communicator B2	Vantage
Expert C1	EOP (Effective Operational Proficiency)
Mastery C2	Mastery

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UNIT 1

Places

PART A Vocabulary - Structure Pre-speaking & Pre-writing Activities

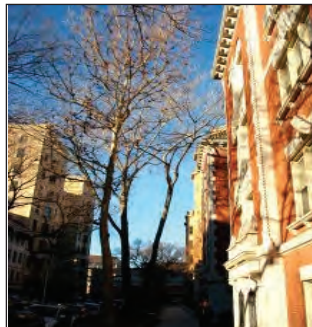
Tip: To describe a place you need to use a variety of adjectives to make your description more vivid and interesting.

A. Use the adjectives which describe the places below to fill in the blanks.

isolated, overpopulated, boring, industrial, popular, ugly, inconvenient, relaxing

- attractive
 - cosmopolitan*
 - / densely populated
 - modern
 -
 - popular
 - / unattractive
 - littered
 - historic

CITY urban area



- distant/remote
 -
 - friendly
 - quiet
 - peaceful
 - pleasant environment
 - / dull
 -
 - picturesque

COUNTRYSIDE rural area



- quiet
 - peaceful
 - far
 -
 - wooded/planted with trees
 -
 - (no regular public transport)

SUBURB/OUTSKIRTS



Collocations

B. Look at the adjectives below and use the given nouns that these adjectives describe best to fill in the blanks.

building, atmosphere, area, pollution

- built-up
 - central
 - crowded
 - isolated
 - noisy
 - off the beaten track
 - remote
 - run down
 - poverty-stricken
 - huge/vast
 - polluted
- calm / cosy
 - friendly
 - gloomy
 - hostile / loving
 - relaxed
 - stuffy
- attractive / appealing
 - crumbling
 - smoky
 - gloomy / depressing
 - modern / ancient / old
 - multi-storey
 - renovated / imposing
 - typical / traditional
 - environmentally friendly
 - upper / middle / low class
- air
 - chemical
 - environmental
 - noise
 - toxic
 - water
 - land

Note: We say: a house/flat **in** the suburbs
a house/flat **on** the outskirts

Speak!

- Where do you live? (mention place, address)
- Describe the city/countryside/suburb or the outskirts you live in using the adjectives above. Give reasons why you feel this way.



Speak!

- Use the adjectives above to describe your neighbourhood (refer to the atmosphere, buildings, traffic, pollution).
- You want to learn about the place your Facebook friend lives in. What questions would you ask him/her?

Reading PART 4

C. Read the article and answer the questions. Write a maximum of five words for each answer. An example is done for you.

Big Cities are Dying

In the recent few decades there has been an increasing and constant shift of human populations from rural regions to urban centres which have been expanding at a tremendous rate and reducing vast parts of wooded land. This mass migration has caused a lot of considerable changes to both regions. It has deteriorated the life of people in urban areas and has destroyed the balance of biodiversity in rural areas.

The findings of recent reports on the living conditions of big cities are terribly disappointing. City planners claim that this dramatic growth of urban regions has turned cities into packed and polluted places, whose inhabitants are gradually choking by toxic fumes. The rise of sky-high buildings, skyscrapers, bad city planning, the high population density and lack of green areas have negatively affected the quality of city life. Big city parts are declining and are becoming filthier and uglier.

But how could these big urban centres be improved? There is a great number of structural changes and substantial improvements that could be made. What cities really need first is well-designed city planning with effective road networks, squares and reliable public transport which will immensely facilitate traffic and ease traffic congestion. Not to mention, the creation of large green areas, such as parks, which could also contribute positively to a cleaner and healthier city environment.

What the state could also do is to fight air pollution. Strict restrictions should be imposed on those factories whose poisonous chemical emissions pollute the atmosphere and cause all sorts of health problems, chronic, incurable or fatal diseases to the people of urban centres.

Therefore, those manufacturers who break the law should receive heavy fines so as to conform to existent environmental laws. In addition, old fleets of buses should be replaced with new ones which will greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As for cars? One effective solution for them is to run in the city centre on alternate days for less congested streets and less polluted atmosphere. Second, the purchase of hybrid cars will definitely help us reduce the levels of pollution as these cars use less petrol and are environmentally friendly.

Last but not least, city dwellers' ecological awareness should be raised so that they can take the initiative to look after the area they live in. They should all try hard to keep their neighbourhood clean, encourage recycling and develop projects for planting more trees and creating more green areas. To achieve this, they have to cooperate with the local authorities and green clubs or any other environmental organisation so that they can contribute effectively to the process of saving our cities.

All in all, these changes will definitely improve citizens' lives and create a better and healthier environment in big cities.

Example: What causes the expansion of big cities?
the shift of human populations

1. What does the expansion of urban areas towards rural areas affect negatively?

.....

2. What did the dramatic growth of urban regions make cities look like?

.....

3. What makes city populations unable to breathe clear air?

.....

4. How are big city parks declining?

.....

5. How should manufacturers who break the law and don't respect the environment be punished?

.....

6. Why should hybrid cars be promoted?

.....

7. What two main things should city dwellers do to clean up and improve their area?

.....

D. Match the words with the buildings below.

terraced houses, mansion, detached houses, flat, semi-detached houses, cottage

Types of houses



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.


Speak!


- What's your house/flat like?
- You want to rent a house/flat and you see an advertisement. What questions would you ask the owner on the phone? Ask about: its type, location, style, size, facilities and cost.

Tip: A description of a place can be seen in magazine articles, travel guides or letters. It can be written in a formal, semi-formal or informal style depending on the target reader.


E. Use the points below to fill in the blanks.


- *hectic/stressful lifestyle*
- *picturesque*
- *overpopulated*
- *good job opportunities*
- *less privacy*
- *high cost of living*
- *entertainment facilities*
- *closer to nature*

THE CITY	
Advantages	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • good education (schools, universities, libraries) • (cinemas, theatres, art, galleries, restaurants, night clubs) 	
Disadvantages	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • heavy/dense traffic (traffic jams) • pollution (air/noise pollution) • • • high crime rate 	

THE COUNTRY	
Advantages	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clean air - less traffic • • people closer together (better social relationships, stronger bonds) • • less stressful life • slow pace of life 	
Disadvantages	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (everyone knows everyone else's business) • limited opportunities (for education, jobs, medical care, entertainment) 	

F. Fill in the blanks in the boxes below. Choose a, b, c or d to complete them.

HOUSE IN A SUBURB	
Advantages	1. a) easier access b) cheaper rent c) more greenery d) regular public transport
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it has a garden •(1) • spacious and pleasant • more privacy • less noise and traffic - less polluted atmosphere 	
Disadvantages	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • isolated • no shopping and transport facilities • expensive to maintain and heat • not secure enough (easily be broken into) • need to do a lot of commuting • inconvenient 	

FLAT IN THE CITY CENTRE	
Advantages	2. a) more wasteful b) claustrophobic c) inaccessible d) more secure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • easy to run and maintain • economical •(2) • access to public transport • shopping facilities 	
Disadvantages	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no privacy (noisy neighbours) • not spacious • lack of storage • polluted atmosphere • no parking facilities 	

Remember!

Formal Style: ♦ advanced vocabulary - frequent use of passive ♦ no contractions - avoid phrasal verbs or colloquial language ♦ no description of feelings ♦ use of participles ♦ complex language ♦ no exclamation marks ♦ formal linking words (<i>e.g. furthermore</i>)
Semi-Formal Style: ♦ personal/friendly tone ♦ less use of short forms (contractions) ♦ careful use of idioms ♦ non-colloquial language ♦ wide use of adjectives ♦ direct or indirect questions
Informal ♦ friendly tone ♦ everyday expressions ♦ use of short forms ♦ use of idioms/idiomatic expressions/phrasal verbs/colloquial language (<i>e.g. What's up?</i>) ♦ pronouns often omitted in letters (<i>e.g. Hope you can find a solution</i>)

Linking words

G. Choose the correct words to complete the extract of an article below and then answer the questions.

"Are you aware of the environment? Then you should have a modern home which respects the environment. Such a home should be equipped with the latest energy-saving technology **so that / so as** (1) to contribute to a less polluted world.

If our home is well designed and well insulated, it'll be less energy wasteful. **But / Moreover** (2) how can you achieve this? By having a home with a good number of energy saving facilities **such as / such an** (3) efficient and non-polluting central heating and a solar water heater to save energy and money. Insulated walls and double or triple glazing windows can also prevent heat from being wasted. In this way, it can definitely have the suitable insulation and an environmentally-friendly heating system.

At the end, / Finally, (4) high-technology equipment, like computer-controlled appliances and state-of-the-art devices, like energy efficient light bulbs, can make it easier to run and more economical to maintain."

Answer the questions.

- a) What's the style of this description? Semi-formal or Informal?
- b) Where can such a text be seen?.....

PART B Practise your Skills

Listening EXAM PRACTICE

Tip: Make sure that you can hear the recording well. Report any disturbances and distractions to your teacher.

Pre-listening Activity

Answer the questions.

- What sights do you visit when you go abroad?
- Why is it important to visit museums?
- Have you ever visited a museum? What was it like?



Listening PART 3

Listen to the person talking and complete the information on the notepad. Write short answers of one to five words. You will hear the person twice. At the end you will have two minutes to read through and check your answers. You have one minute to look at the notepad. The first one is an example. You have one minute to look at the notes below. **DO NOT USE MORE THAN 5 WORDS.**

Tip: In Part 3 of the Listening Test read the message through BEFORE you listen to the recording. You'll listen to this part twice. The spelling of the words you have to write isn't important but write the answer down clearly so that the examiner can recognise it.

Natural History Museum

example: Opening times daily: 10.00a.m. - 17.30p.m.

1. Museum not open:
2. Darwin Exhibition ticket:
3. Admission to the museum:
4. Who can help you with your visit:
5. Zones on the ground floor:
6. Zone on the first and second floors:
7. Donation to help the museum:



Improve your speaking skills Common mistakes

A. Before you answer the questions below, spot the mistakes in the given questions/answers and correct them.

1. - Where you live?
- I live in 45, Bond Street.
2. - Where is your home?
- My home is in the outskirts of the city, not on a suburb.
3. - How you get to the city centre?
- I get there with car.
4. - Do you think the furnitures of your room needs any change?
- Well, what it really need is some sort of rearrangement.
5. - Do you have to make any jobs in your garden this week?
- Oh, yes! What I have to do is to trim the fence because it has become overgrown.
6. - Do always you keep your room tidy?
- Definitely no. It's often untidy. To tell you the truth, I don't have the hour to tidy it up.

Situations

B. Use the situations below and express yourself.

Likes & Dislikes

1. You don't like living in your area but somewhere else.

I'd rather

.....

2. Your parents have told you that you are going to move house.

I'd really love the idea

.....

3. Your parents have asked you to spend your weekend with them in the country.

I'm not that keen

.....

4. You are asked to say if you want to buy a new bookcase for your room.

Not exactly! I'd prefer

.....

5. You are asked to mention one advantage and one disadvantage of your area.

To be honest, one of the main advantages of my area

.....

On the other hand,

.....

Get on-line

Find information on the Internet about:

a famous historical site in London you want to visit or you have visited.

Write a short summary and present your work in class.



- C. Read the phrases/expressions in the Speaking Helpline carefully and use as many as you can in the Speaking Test

Speaking Helpline

Likes/Dislikes/Preferences

- I like/don't like living
- I **would prefer** to live in ... **rather than** in ...
- I'd really **love** the idea of living ...
- I'd **rather** live in ... **than** in ...
- I **prefer living** in a house **to living** in a flat.
- I'm not **keen on** going ...
- I'm **afraid**, I wouldn't like to ...

Listing Advantages/Disadvantages

- A main advantage/disadvantage of living in ... is ...
- Another advantage/disadvantage is ...
- **On the one hand**, ...
- **On the other hand**, ...

Speaking EXAM PRACTICE

Tip: When speaking use correct intonation and pronunciation of the words you are using.

PART 1 (3 minutes)

Tip: Before the interlocutor starts Part 1 he/she will introduce himself/herself and ask you to spell your family name. Therefore, you should know how to pronounce the letters of the alphabet accurately in English.

I: Interlocutor

C: Candidate

I: Now, Part 1. I'm going to ask you some questions about yourself and your ideas.

Places

1. What kind of home would you like to live in if you could choose?
2. What is your city/town/village like?
3. Would you like to live in a skyscraper? Why? Why not?
4. Do you like the city/town/village where you live?

PART 2 (3 minutes)

Role Play

I: Now, Part 2. We are going to role-play some situations. I want you to start or respond. First situation (choose one situation from A).

A. (Role Play)

- We're friends. I start

I: Do you like the area you live in?

- We're classmates. I start.

I: Do you spend a lot of time at home?

- We're new neighbours. I start.

I: Hi! How do you feel about your new home?

- You're my cousin. I start.

I: Do you prefer your new home to your old one?

Note: Now listen to a Speaking Test model.

B. (Role Play)

- We're friends.

You want to learn about my room. You start.

- We're new neighbours.

You want to ask me about the local buses. You start.

- We're friends.

You want to learn about how you can get to my home. You start.

- You're a stranger.

You want to learn about the pros and cons of my area where you are planning to rent the house next to mine.

Note: Now listen to a Speaking Test model.

Tip: Part 2

Situations A

First you have to respond to a question of a situation, your interlocutor asks you. Role-play the situation with the interlocutor (approximately two turns each.)

Situations B

You are going to initiate and ask questions of a situation to the interlocutor. Role-play (approximately two turns each.)

PART 4 (4 minutes including follow-up questions)

I: In Part 4, you are going to talk on your own for about two minutes. Your topic is ...

Topics

- A. Life in big cities.
- B. The benefits of environmentally friendly homes.
- C. The advantages and disadvantages of settling down in a foreign country.

