

The Pearson logo, featuring a stylized 'P' icon followed by the word 'Pearson' in a sans-serif font.

Pearson



PTE Express

Test Taker Handbook



Contents

<u>What is PTE Express?</u>	3
<u>Who is it for?</u>	4
<u>How to Prepare</u>	4
<u>What to Expect on Test Day</u>	5
<u>Rules and Security</u>	7
<u>Scoring and Results</u>	9
<u>FAQs and Support</u>	10

What is PTE Express?

Hello and welcome!

If you're planning to study in the USA, PTE Express is here to help you take that next step with confidence.

This is a 60-minute online English test that you can take from home. It's designed to assess your Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing skills in a way that's fast, fair, and simple.

And here's the best part:

- You'll see your uncertified score **within minutes** of finishing the test.
- **No waiting, no wondering** — just instant feedback so you can move forward with clarity and confidence.
- Your certified score will follow **within 48 hours**, verified by expert reviewers.



PTE Express is:

- ✓ **Affordable** Just \$70 USD, no matter where you live.
- ✓ **Flexible** Take it anytime, anywhere.
- ✓ **Trusted** Created by Pearson, a global leader in education and testing.

Whether you're applying for a degree or preparing for academic life in the USA, this test is your express lane to opportunity.

Who is it for?

This test is for you—if you're dreaming of studying in the United States.

PTE Express was built for students who:

- ✓ Want a **quick** and **reliable** way to prove their English skills.
- ✓ Need a test that's **accessible** from anywhere.
- ✓ Prefer a **friendly**, **secure**, and **supportive** testing experience.

You don't need to travel to a test center or wait weeks for results. You need a quiet space, a computer, and your ambition.



“You bring the ambition, we'll bring the expertise.”

How to Prepare

Feeling ready starts with knowing what to expect—and we've got you covered.

Here's how to prepare.

1

Take the free practice test

It includes all item types and can be taken as many times as you like.

2

Get familiar with the format

You'll complete tasks like repeating sentences, summarizing discussions, writing emails, and more.

3

Check your equipment

You'll need a computer, plus a mobile phone for a second camera.

4

Practice your English daily

Watch shows in English with subtitles on, listen to English podcasts, write your social posts in English - every little thing helps.

5

Explore our range of materials

From test tips, to test rules, to full scoring breakdowns.

What to Expect on Test Day

You've prepared, you're ready — now let's walk through what your test day will look like.

Duration

The test takes around 60 minutes and includes 12 task types that assess your Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing skills.

Setup

You'll take the test on your laptop from a quiet location. You'll download a secure application to take the test. You'll need:



1. A computer with a front-facing camera, microphone, and speaker.



2. A mobile phone to act as a second camera.



3. A government-issued photo ID. Here are the accepted forms of ID:

- International travel passport
- Driver's license
- Identification card (national, state, or province ID card)
- Alien registration card (Green Card or permanent resident/visa)



4. A stable internet connection.

Security

The test is monitored using a combination of AI and human review. You'll be guided through setup and monitored throughout to ensure fairness and integrity. After you finish the test, our team will carefully check your test session to make sure everything was completed fairly and securely. This helps protect your score and ensures institutions can trust your results.



Important

No headphones or earphones allowed.
You must stay visible to both cameras at all times.



During the test

The test will guide you through each task. You'll speak, type, and select answers on screen. Tasks include:

	Description	Skills	Evaluation
Repeat the sentence	Listen to a sentence and then repeat it.	Speaking & Listening	Measures proficiency in recognizing and processing spoken English, including phrase structures and syntax.
Build a sentence	Listen to three word groups and then rearrange them to form a complete sentence.	Speaking & Listening	Assesses understanding of grammar and semantics, and ability to construct sentences.
Listen and select answers	Listen to a passage and then answer two multiple-choice questions about the passage.	Speaking & Listening	Tests listening skills, including identifying main ideas, specific facts, and making inferences.
Give your opinion	Listen to a question asking for your opinion and then answer the question aloud.	Speaking	Measures spoken competence, including clarity, organization, grammar, and vocabulary.
Write what you hear	Listen to a sentence and then type it.	Listening & Writing	Tests comprehension, language processing, and writing ability.
Summarize a group discussion	Listen to a discussion among three speakers and then summarize it aloud.	Speaking & Listening	Evaluates comprehension of spoken language and ability to produce coherent summaries.
Read and select answers	Read a passage and then answer two multiple-choice questions about the passage.	Reading & Writing	Assesses reading skills, including identifying main ideas, specific facts, and making inferences.
Complete the sentence	Complete a sentence with a word missing.	Reading & Writing	Evaluates knowledge of grammar, word use, and collocation.
Reply to an online post	Read a post from an online discussion website and write a reply to the question with advice.	Reading & Writing	Measures writing ability in an informal context, including grammar and vocabulary.
Write an email	Read a description of a situation and then write an email in response to the situation.	Reading & Writing	Assesses writing skills in a formal context, including organization, tone, word choice, and grammatical accuracy.
Record a speech sample	Listen to a question and then speak your opinion on the topic.	Speaking	Collects a longer spontaneous speech sample for review.
Type a writing sample	Read a question and then write your opinion on the topic.	Writing	Collects a longer spontaneous writing sample for review.

Rules and Security

We know how important your future is — and we take your test security seriously.

Here's what you need to know

	ID Verification You'll show your ID via your mobile phone.
	Dual Camera Setup Your mobile phone acts as a second camera to monitor your environment.
	Speaker Verification Your voice is analyzed to ensure it's you throughout the test.
	No Headphones or Extra Devices Only one screen, keyboard, mouse, and speaker allowed.
	Locked Test Environment You won't be able to switch tabs, use shortcuts, or take screenshots.
	AI + Human Review All tests are reviewed after the test is complete to confirm identity and detect any suspicious behavior.

What happens if something goes wrong during your test?

We know that sometimes things don't go as planned. That's okay — we're here to help.

Should you face any issues, please reach out to our customer service team who will be able to support you.



How we decide what happens next

If there's an issue during your test, we look at three things:

- 1. **Behavior** – What happened during your test?
- 2. **Severity** – Was it a small hiccup or something more serious?
- 3. **Frequency** – Is this the first time, or has it happened before?

What you might be offered

Depending on your situation, you may be offered:

- A free retake
- The option to **purchase a new test**
- In rare cases, your account may be **blocked** if there's evidence of repeated or serious misconduct.



Our promise

We'll always treat you with respect and fairness. If something goes wrong, we'll look at the full picture and do our best to support you — because we want you to succeed.

If you ever have questions or concerns, our support team is here to help.



Scoring and Results

Your score is more than just a number — it's your passport to opportunity.

PTE Express gives you a clear, reliable picture of your English skills.
You'll receive:

An Overall Score — showing your general English proficiency.

Individual skill scores — for Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing.

Scores are reported on a 10–90 scale, and your certified score will be available within 48 hours, after human verification.

But here's what makes PTE Express truly stand out: You'll see your uncertified score within minutes of finishing the test. No anxious waiting, no wondering how you did. Within just 48 hours, following a security check, you will receive your certified scores.

How universities use your score

Every university is different. Your score gives institutions the flexibility to assess your readiness in a way that fits their programme.

Here's how your score might be used:



Some universities set a minimum overall score for admission.



Others may look at your individual skill scores, especially if you're applying to a course that requires strong speaking or writing skills.



Some institutions may accept a slightly lower score if you're applying to a foundation or pathway programme, or if you've shown strength in other areas.

This means your score isn't just a pass/fail — it's a tool that helps universities understand your strengths and support your journey.



Want to learn more?

If you'd like to explore how scoring works in more detail — including how scores are calculated and what they mean for your application — check out the Score Guide. It's there to help you feel confident and informed every step of the way.



FAQs and Support

Got questions? We've got answers. Check out our full FAQ.

Common Questions:

1

How do I buy the test?

Visit pteexpress.pearson.com and follow the steps to buy your test.

3

How do I prepare?

Take the unlimited free practice test and explore our resources.

2

What equipment do I need?

A computer with camera and mic, a mobile phone, and a quiet space.

4

How do I share my score?

Use Pearson's secure score sharing system to send your results to any institution.

Support Channels:  Online chat  Phone support  Email support

You're not just taking a test — you're taking a step toward your future.

We know testing can feel stressful, but PTE Express is designed to be fair, fast, and supportive. You've got the ambition — we're here to help you show it.



And remember — you'll know how you did within minutes.

That's right: no waiting, no worrying. Just instant clarity.

So take a deep breath, trust your preparation, and go for it.

If you haven't bought your test yet... what are you waiting for?

Your journey to studying in the USA starts now.

Learn more about PTE Express

pteexpress.pearson.com