

# face2face Oral Placement Test

## Teacher's Guide

The aim of the *Oral Placement Test* is to provide a quick, practical test which will give an accurate indication of a student's communicative competence in oral English.

The questions are designed to match as closely as possible the kind of questions which might naturally arise in a conversation between two people meeting for the first time, whilst also eliciting information which will be of use to the tester when it comes to placing the student in a class (e.g. the student's current or future job, language needs, previous learning experience etc.).

Each question is designed to correspond with a 'can do' statement in one of the **face2face** Student's Book *Progress Portfolios*. These 'can do' descriptors are based on the *Common European Framework of Reference*, making **face2face** fully compatible with the CEF.

There are 36 questions in total:

- 12 questions correspond with **face2face** Elementary (CEF levels A1 & A2)
- 12 questions correspond with **face2face** Pre-Intermediate and Intermediate (CEF level B1)
- 12 questions correspond with **face2face** Upper-Intermediate (CEF level B2)

The questions should be selected in such a way that the conversation flows as naturally as possible, in order to preserve the authenticity and integrity of the test. For each question asked, the tester should award a score from 0 to 3. The criteria for awarding the scores are as follows:

Criteria	Score
The student does not understand the question, even if it is repeated.	0
Evidence of simple understanding, but short (words or phrases only) and/or inaccurate answers, frequent hesitation, limited range of vocabulary with little or no evidence of ability to extend answers, and pronunciation which seriously impedes understanding.	1
Clear evidence of comprehension and ability to form longer answers when appropriate, with non-impeding errors, only occasional hesitation, and ability to self-correct if necessary, but complex vocabulary and grammatical structures are avoided except in obviously well-rehearsed utterances. Pronunciation is generally intelligible, with limited strain on the listener.	2
Evidence of full understanding, with complete answers and hesitation occurring only naturally whilst an appropriate response is being formulated. Some non-impeding inaccuracy and unnatural language choices, but an obvious ability to extend answers and use complex vocabulary and grammatical structures when appropriate. Fully intelligible pronunciation with no significant strain on the listener.	3

### NOTE FOR TESTERS (1)

- Relevant and useful information provided by students in answer to questions should be noted in the appropriate box on the *Mark Sheet*, to be referred to later when placing the student and passed on to the teacher if necessary. If there is time, you can ask follow-up questions to find out more about each student.
- Allow 10 minutes for testing each student.

## Procedure

- 1 Ask the student the first **two** questions from **face2face Question Bank 1**. Write the answer to each question in the appropriate box on the Mark Sheet, but do not award a score for either question.
- 2 Ask the student **four more** questions from **face2face Question Bank 1**. Write the question numbers and the score awarded for each answer (0-3) in the appropriate boxes in the Scores Awarded table on the Mark Sheet.
- 3 If the student's total score for this section is **0-6**, stop here, place the student at the start of **face2face Elementary** then read the NOTE FOR TESTERS(2).
- 4 If the total score for this section is **7-12**, go on to ask **four** questions from **face2face Question Bank 2**.
- 5 If the total score for this section is **0-6**, stop here, place the student at the start of **face2face Pre-Intermediate** then read the NOTE FOR TESTERS (2).
- 6 If the total score for this section is **7-9**, stop here, place the student at the start of **face2face Intermediate** then read the NOTE FOR TESTERS (2).
- 7 If the total score for this section is **10-12**, go on to ask **four** questions from **face2face Question Bank 3**.
- 8 If the total score for this section is **0-6**, place the student in the middle of **face2face Intermediate** then read the NOTE FOR TESTERS (2).
- 9 If the total score for this section is **7-9**, place the student at the start of **face2face Upper Intermediate** then read the NOTE FOR TESTERS (2).
- 10 If the total score for this section is **10-12**, place the student in the middle of **face2face Upper Intermediate** then read NOTE FOR TESTERS (2).

### NOTE FOR TESTERS (2)

Finally, ask the student what they think their overall level of English is at that moment, prompting them if necessary with the names of the **face2face** levels as stated in the *Self-Assessment* table on the *Mark Sheet*. Tick the appropriate box in the table.

The student's *Oral Placement Test* result should be used in conjunction with their *Written Placement Test* result in order to determine the level at which they should begin their course. If the results of the two tests indicate different levels, the tester will need to make a decision based on the following factors:

- the student's needs and level of motivation
- how long the student has been studying English
- where and how the student has studied English in the past
- the student's confidence and self-assessment (bearing in mind that this is highly subjective)
- the length of the course on which the student has enrolled
- the make-up and dynamics of any existing classes in which the student may be placed

### TIME SAVING TIP!

If after asking the student the questions from **face2face Question Bank 1** it's clear that the student has a far higher communicative competence, try jumping ahead to **face2face Question Bank 3**. Then follow the instructions from 6 above.