▼Test Business English





About the Exam

- The Burlington VTest Business English exam is a modular assessment designed to evaluate proficiency in Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking within professional and workplace contexts.
- It is administered online and provides a quick and reliable measure of candidates' business English skills, mapped to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).
- It is multistage adaptive or semi-adaptive, depending on the skill – the level of difficulty adjusts based on each candidate's performance in order to deliver an accurate CEFR-level result.

Structure & Content

- The tasks are workplace-focused and based on realistic business scenarios, such as emails, meetings, calls, and company communications.
- The tasks reflect the kinds of English candidates are likely to use in professional environments.
- See page 2 for additional information about the content and timing.

Uses

- A placement tool to identify candidates' proficiency across all four skills in a business context.
- A reliable tool for tracking progress throughout Business English training.
- An exit or certification assessment to confirm readiness for real-world professional communication.

Scores & Certificates

- All candidates receive a score report, a certificate, and feedback, irrespective of their level.
- Results are reported as an overall score, and skills are reported in detail separately, along with a report containing 'Can do' statements which teachers and candidates can use for improvement.

Candidates with Specific Requirements

- Making our services accessible and user-friendly is a top priority.
- The VTest platform integrates accessibility tools, ensuring compliance with global accessibility standards.
- Candidates can try our accessibility tools and adjust them to their needs and comfort prior to the exam.

Benefits

- A very flexible, multistage adaptive exam that allows candidates to test their level in the skills they want.
- There is no pass or fail.
- Scenarios are workplace-based, providing relevance for candidates preparing to use English in their careers.
- Each candidate receives an objective evaluation from an independent board, aligned with the CEFR and focused on Business English used in professional contexts.
- The exam becomes a learning tool, highlighting specific areas of business communication to improve.
- Instant results help trainers and candidates set clear, targeted goals for ongoing professional development.





Sample of Score Report and Certificate

Structure, Tasks, & Time



)) Listening section overview

# of Recordings	# of Items	Time
8-12 recordings	12-26	15-25 minutes max

Candidates progress through sets of passages and questions that adapt to their level. Performance on each set determines the difficulty of the next.

Candidates have time to preview questions before listening and additional time to respond after. A **NEXT** button allows them to move on when ready. Listening section duration varies by level: Pre-A1 and A1 candidates may finish in about 12 minutes, while those at C2 level may take up to 25 minutes.

Reading section overview

# of Passages	# of Items	Time
9 passages	12-26	15-35 minutes max

Candidates progress through sets of texts and questions that adapt to their level. Performance on each set determines the difficulty of the next.

Candidates have a set amount of time to read each text and respond to the questions. A **NEXT** button allows them to move on if they finish before the timer runs out.

Reading section duration varies by level: Pre-A1 and A1 candidates may finish in about 15 minutes, while those at C2 level may take up to 35 minutes.

Writing section overview

Part	# of Items	Time
Part 1 (Pre-Writing): Scrambled Sentences	9 scrambled sentence items used to determine levels for Part 2	± 7 minutes
Part 2: Essay	1 prompt Candidates write 80-200 words	± 20 minutes

The entire Writing exam takes less than 25 minutes, regardless of level.

Semi-adaptive structure: Part 1 determines the difficulty of Part 2.

Written responses are recorded and scored with a combination of automated scoring and expert review.

The essay is written in response to a workplace prompt with guiding bullet points.

Target word count by level: A1-A2: 80+ words / B1-B2: 100+ words / C1-C2: 120+ words

Speaking section overview

Part	# of Items	Time
Part 1 (Pre-Speaking): Rejoinders	9 multiple-choice items used to determine levels for Parts 2-3	± 7 minutes
Part 2: Read Aloud & Discuss	1 text to read aloud + 2 follow-up questions	± 4 minutes
Part 3: Discuss Topics	4 prompts Candidates speak up to 60 seconds for each prompt	± 7 minutes

The entire Speaking exam takes around 18 minutes, regardless of level.

Semi-adaptive structure: Part 1 determines difficulty of Parts 2 and 3.

Spoken responses are recorded and scored with a combination of automated scoring and expert review.

Online Exam Administration

VTest offers a range of online exam administration solutions tailored to meet diverse assessment needs. By combining technology and human expertise, we provide cost-effective and efficient assessment options. We currently offer three distinct exam administration modes (depending on the market).

- 1. Standard offers maximum flexibility
- 2. Online Proctoring for high-stakes exams
- 3. **Onsite Proctoring** at approved test centers