

C1/C2 Placement Test

Find out if you are C1 (Advanced) or C2 (Mastery) level

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ %: _____

Quick Revision

A short refresher before you start. This test checks what you already know — just do your best in the exercises.

Topic	Key Point	Example
Modals of Speculation	must/might/should + have + past participle for past speculation; must/might + verb-ing for present	"He must have been working all night." "She might be sleeping."
Mixed Conditionals	Combine time references: past condition → present result, or present condition → past result	"If I had studied medicine, I would be a doctor now." (past perfect if-clause + would + base verb, because the result is now)
Subjunctive	Base form after suggest/recommend/essential/important, no -s or tense change	"It's essential that everyone be on time."
Inversion	Negative/limiting adverbials (Hardly, Never, Rarely, Little, Not only) at the start invert subject and verb	"Hardly had I arrived when the phone rang."
Causative	have/get + object + past participle = arrange for someone else to do something	"I had my car repaired." "She's having the house painted."
Advanced Passive	Passive forms across perfect and continuous aspects	"The building has been renovated." "It will have been completed by June."
Cleft Sentences	What.../It was...who/that... used to emphasise part of a sentence	"What concerns me is the silence." "It was John who called."
Discourse Markers	Fixed phrases that link or qualify ideas in formal speech/writing	"That said, ..." "With regard to..." "On the contrary, ..." "In all likelihood, ..."

This test also includes synonym, antonym, and idiom questions. There's no single formula for these — wide reading and noticing collocations over time is what builds this kind of vocabulary.

Exercise 1: Synonyms

Circle the word closest in meaning.

1. Choose the word closest in meaning to "meticulous".

careless / precise / casual

2. Choose the word closest in meaning to "ubiquitous".

rare / widespread / unusual

3. Choose the word closest in meaning to "candid".

honest / secretive / formal

4. Choose the word closest in meaning to "arduous".

easy / difficult / quick

5. Choose the word closest in meaning to "eloquent".

articulate / silent / confused

6. Choose the word closest in meaning to "prudent".

careless / wise / reckless

7. Choose the word closest in meaning to "tenacious".

persistent / weak / lazy

8. Choose the word closest in meaning to "ambiguous".

clear / unclear / certain

9. Choose the word closest in meaning to "benevolent".

kind / cruel / indifferent

10. Choose the word closest in meaning to "conspicuous".

hidden / noticeable / quiet

Exercise 2: Antonyms

Circle the opposite word.

1. Choose the opposite of "generous".

stingy / kind / wealthy

2. Choose the opposite of "reluctant".

willing / hesitant / unsure

3. Choose the opposite of "abundant".

scarce / plentiful / common

4. Choose the opposite of "concise".

brief / verbose / clear

5. Choose the opposite of "genuine".

authentic / fake / sincere

6. Choose the opposite of "flexible".

rigid / adaptable / soft

7. Choose the opposite of "optimistic".

hopeful / pessimistic / cheerful

8. Choose the opposite of "reveal".

conceal / expose / show

9. Choose the opposite of "voluntary".

compulsory / optional / free

10. Choose the opposite of "humble".

modest / arrogant / shy

Exercise 3: Idioms & Collocations

Circle the word that correctly completes the idiom. The meaning is given to help you.

1. To burn the midnight ____ (meaning: to work late into the night).
oil / candle / lamp
2. To be caught between a rock and a hard ____ (meaning: to face two equally difficult choices).
place / spot / wall
3. To beat around the ____ (meaning: to avoid saying something directly).
bush / tree / corner
4. To let sleeping dogs ____ (meaning: to avoid restarting an old argument or problem).
lie / sleep / rest
5. To take something with a grain of ____ (meaning: to not fully believe something).
salt / pepper / sugar
6. To be the tip of the ____ (meaning: a small visible part of a much larger problem).
iceberg / mountain / surface
7. To throw in the ____ (meaning: to give up).
towel / cloth / hat
8. To bite off more than you can ____ (meaning: to take on more than you can handle).
chew / swallow / handle
9. To have a chip on your ____ (meaning: to feel resentment or bitterness, often from a past experience).
shoulder / arm / back
10. To be in the same ____ (meaning: to be in the same difficult situation as someone else).
boat / ship / place

Exercise 4: Modals of Speculation

Circle the correct modal form.

1. He looks exhausted. He ____ working all night.
must be / must have been / should have been
2. She's not answering her phone. She ____ sleeping.
might be / might have / should be
3. They ____ arrived by now; the flight landed hours ago.
must have / should be / might be
4. You ____ told me earlier! I was so worried.
should have / must have / could be
5. It's strange that he's late. He ____ have missed the bus.
might / must / should
6. She was crying. She ____ have heard the bad news.
could / should / must
7. I can't find my keys. I ____ left them at work.
might have / might / could
8. They didn't call, so they ____ have forgotten.
might / can't / must

Exercise 5: Mixed Conditionals & Subjunctive

Circle the correct form. Note: some items combine an unreal past condition (past perfect) with a present result — in those, the result clause uses would + base verb, not would have + past participle, because "now" signals the present.

1. If I had studied medicine, I ____ a doctor now.
would be / would have been / will be
2. If she weren't so busy, she ____ at the meeting now.
would be / would have been / will be
3. If he had left earlier, he ____ stuck in traffic now.
wouldn't be / wouldn't have been / won't be
4. It's essential that everyone ____ on time.
is / be / was
5. I suggest that she ____ a doctor immediately.
sees / see / saw
6. If I were in charge, things ____ different now.
would be / would have been / will be
7. The committee recommended that the policy ____ changed.
is / be / was
8. If we hadn't taken that job, we ____ living here now.
wouldn't be / wouldn't have been / won't be

Exercise 6: Inversion & Emphasis

Circle the correct form.

1. ____ had I arrived home when the phone rang.
No sooner / Hardly / Only after
2. Under no circumstances ____ you reveal this secret.
should / you should / do you
3. Not only ____ late, but he also forgot the documents.
he was / was he / he is
4. Never ____ such a beautiful sunset.
I have seen / have I seen / did I see
5. Rarely ____ such dedication among new employees.
we see / do we see / we do see
6. It was only after the meeting ____ realised the mistake.
that I / when I / I
7. So exhausted ____ that she fell asleep instantly.
was she / she was / did she
8. Little ____ that his life was about to change forever.
he knew / did he know / he did know

Exercise 7: Causative & Advanced Passive

Circle the correct form.

1. I ___ my car repaired yesterday.
had / repaired / was
2. She ___ her hair cut last week.
had / made / did
3. He is having the house ___ at the moment.
paint / painted / painting
4. They ___ the contract signed by the lawyer.
had / made / did
5. This cake ___ made by my grandmother for every birthday.
is / was / has been
6. The building ___ renovated since March.
has been / is being / was
7. By next year, the new bridge ___ completed.
will be / will have been / is being
8. The problem needs ___ immediately.
addressing / to address / addressed

Exercise 8: Cleft Sentences & Discourse Markers

Circle the correct word or phrase.

1. ___ concerns me is the lack of communication.
What / That / Which
2. It was John ___ broke the vase, not Peter.
who / which / what
3. ___ we need is more time.
What / That / Which
4. "___," the plan does have some merit.
That said / Having said / Even said
5. ___ regard to your question, I'll need more information.
With / In / By
6. ___ the contrary, I found the film quite enjoyable.
On / In / At
7. ___ all likelihood, the meeting will be postponed.
In / On / By
8. It is ___ this reason that we must act now.
for / with / by

Exercise 9: Mixed Story

Choose the correct form for each gap.

The CEO's sudden resignation left everyone stunned. (1) _____ had the announcement been made when rumours began to spread. Given the leaked memo, sources confirm she (2) _____ have been forced to resign due to the ongoing investigation. The board explained that the decision (3) _____ made only last week, after months of deliberation. It is widely believed that the company's reputation (4) _____ irreparably damaged by the scandal, and it continues to suffer even now. Little did anyone (5) _____ that the company's future would change so dramatically overnight. Employees were told that a new CEO (6) _____ appointed within weeks. Many staff felt (7) _____ about the company's future. The situation, however, (8) _____ a stark reminder of how quickly fortunes can change. (9) _____ said, the company's core business remains strong. Analysts are confident that the firm (10) _____ recover within a year once new leadership is appointed.

Options for each gap:

1. No sooner / Hardly / Rarely
2. must have / can't have / should have
3. was / is / would be
4. has been / was / is
5. know / known / knowing
6. would be / will be / was
7. apprehensive / confident / relieved
8. is / was / has been
9. That / This / It
10. will / would / might

Scoring Guide

0–39%: Below C1 (B2 level) — Focus on consolidating B2 grammar and vocabulary — conditionals, passive voice, and everyday collocations — before moving on to C1 topics.

40–69%: C1 (Advanced) — You have a solid grasp of C1 structures. Keep building your range of idioms, collocations, and advanced grammar before moving to C2.

70–100%: C2 (Mastery) — You are working comfortably at C2 level, with strong control of nuanced vocabulary and advanced structures.

Total questions: 80. To calculate the percentage: (correct answers ÷ 80) × 100.

Exercise 1: Synonyms — Answers

1. precise
2. widespread
3. honest
4. difficult
5. articulate
6. wise
7. persistent
8. unclear
9. kind
10. noticeable

Exercise 2: Antonyms — Answers

1. stingy
2. willing
3. scarce
4. verbose
5. fake
6. rigid
7. pessimistic
8. conceal
9. compulsory
10. arrogant

Exercise 3: Idioms & Collocations — Answers

1. oil

2. place
3. bush
4. lie
5. salt
6. iceberg
7. towel
8. chew
9. shoulder
10. boat

Exercise 4: Modals of Speculation — Answers

1. must have been
2. might be
3. must have
4. should have
5. might
6. must
7. might have
8. must

Exercise 5: Mixed Conditionals & Subjunctive — Answers

1. would be
2. would be
3. wouldn't be
4. be
5. see
6. would be
7. be
8. wouldn't be

Exercise 6: Inversion & Emphasis — Answers

1. Hardly
2. should
3. was he
4. have I seen
5. do we see
6. that I

7. was she
8. did he know

Exercise 7: Causative & Advanced Passive — Answers

1. had
2. had
3. painted
4. had
5. is
6. has been
7. will have been
8. addressing

Exercise 8: Cleft Sentences & Discourse Markers — Answers

1. What
2. who
3. What
4. That said
5. With
6. On
7. In
8. for

Exercise 9: Mixed Story — Answers

1. Hardly, 2. must have, 3. was, 4. has been, 5. know, 6. would be, 7. apprehensive, 8. is, 9. That, 10. will