

# Intensive English Language Institute – Utah State University

## Placement Exam

### PLACEMENT

The Intensive English Language Institute (IELI) Placement Exam places students into the level of instruction that will best help them learn the English they require to be successful in an American University.

Here is some information about the test to help you understand your score:

- Your placement in IELI is based on the **total score** you earn. Although you will earn scores for each section of the test (Listening, Vocabulary, Reading, Grammar, and Composition). IELI uses the total score in determining your placement level.
- Check your scores (on your score report paper) carefully. If you think there is an error, notify and IELI professor, your advisor, or the IELI Staff immediately.
- These are the possible scores for each section:
  - Listening 30
  - Vocabulary 40
  - Reading 30
  - Structure 40
  - Composition 35
  - **Total 175**

- The general range of scores for each level is listed below:

<u>Total</u>		<u>Writing</u>	
○ Level I	45 – 65	Level I	1 – 10 points
○ Level II	66 – 105	Level II	11 – 16 points
○ Level III	106 – 125	Level III	17 – 22 points
○ Level IV	126 – 145	Level IV	23 – 30 points
○ No IELI	146 or higher	No writing	31 or higher

- Students may be placed lower in a course because of a significantly lower score in any one of the five sections of the placement exam.
- **Writing Placement**
  - Students are placed in the appropriate courses for their English ability based on their total score on the Placement Test. Although they receive separate scores for each section of the exam, IELI uses the total score in determining levels. There is one exception to this: if the writing score is lower than expected for the level indicated by the test. Students will be placed in a writing course that matches their writing score as indicated above.
  - Students who pass out of IELI with a total score of 146 or higher, but who have a lower writing score will be required to take a writing course as determined by the score on the composition.
- **Level Change**
  - IELI professors can move a student up one level during the first week of the semester if the professor determines the student's work to be advanced for his/her level. This applies to both new students and continuing students.
  - Students who believe that the classes in their placement level are too advanced for them can also request to be changed to a lower level during the first week of classes. Students should speak to their IELI professors and their IELI advisor about this change.
- **Passing Courses**

A grade of C- is necessary to pass all the courses.



The Intensive English Language Institute (IELI) Placement Exam administered at the beginning of every semester. The exam is given to entering, new students only. Students may only retake the Placement Exam if they have been away from IELI for one year and wish to reenter the program.

### Placement in IELI Courses

You will be placed in the appropriate courses for your English ability based on your total score on the Placement Exam. Although you will receive separate scores for each section of the exam, IELI uses the total score in determining your level. There is one exception to this: if your writing score is lower than expected for your level, you will be placed in a writing course that matches your writing score.

### The Exam

The Placement Exam has five parts: listening, reading, grammar, vocabulary and composition (writing). Each part is designed to test a different aspect of your ability to use English.

### Time

The exam takes about two hours: listening 30 minutes, reading 35 minutes, grammar 15 minutes, vocabulary 15 minutes, and composition 30 minutes.

### Form

The listening, reading, vocabulary, and grammar sections consist of multiple choice questions. You choose the correct answer from four items, and write your answers on a separate answer sheet which is scored by a machine.

The answer sheet looks like this:

1  A  B  C  D  E  
2  A  B  C  D  E  
3  A  B  C  D  E  
4  A  B  C  D  E

You mark answers by darkening the space over the letter in pencil, as in number 1.



## Grammar

Time: 15 minutes

Number of questions: 40

On this part of the exam you will see statements with one or several words left out. You choose the correct answer from four choices.

For example: There is a black bug on the wall. It \_\_\_\_\_ a spider.  
A. to call  
B. calling  
C. call  
D. is called

The correct English sentence is: It is called a spider. Therefore, you would mark **D** on your answer sheet.

## Vocabulary

Time: 15 minutes

Number of questions: 40

There are two types of questions on this part of the exam. First, you will read sentences with one word underlined. You choose a word that has the same meaning as the underlined word.

For example: It's too windy to go for a stroll.  
A. swim  
B. sail  
C. drive  
D. walk

The word walk means the same as stroll in this sentence. You would mark **D** on your answer sheet to show that "walk" is the correct answer.

Second, you will read sentences with one word omitted, or left out. You choose the word (from a list of four) that best completes the sentence.

For example: Because of the storm and rough waves, it would be foolish to go sailing in a small \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. automobile  
B. house  
C. boat  
D. beast

Choice **C**, "boat" is the best answer; it completes the sentence so that it reads, "Because of the storm and rough waves, it would be foolish to go sailing in a small boat."

## Composition

You will write a short essay, approximately 1 to 3 paragraphs, on a topic given to you at the exam. It is important that you write only on the topic given.