## B2 Business Vantage, formerly known as Cambridge English: Business Vantage (BEC Vantage), is one of our [Cambridge English Qualifications](https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests/qualifications/index.aspx). It shows employers that you're ready to do business at an international level.

With a B2 Business Vantage qualification, you show employers that you are ready to work successfully in international business. This exam could help you when applying for new jobs, getting a promotion, or developing your career.

There are three [Cambridge English Qualifications for business](https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests/qualifications/business/index.aspx). Each one is targeted at a different level and B2 Business Vantage is the second of these exams. The content for each exam is based on everyday work and business tasks and is designed to develop your business English skills.

# Exam format

B2 Business Vantage is made up of four papers developed to test your English skills. You can see exactly what is in each paper below.

| **Paper** | **Content** | **Marks (% of total)** | **Purpose** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Reading** (1 hour) [See sample paper](https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/Images/22059-business-vantage-sample-papers-1.zip) | **5** parts | **25%** | Shows you can deal confidently with different types of text, such as business publications and correspondence. |
| **Writing** (45 minutes) [See sample paper](https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/Images/22059-business-vantage-sample-papers-1.zip) | **2** parts | **25%** | Requires you to be able to produce two different pieces of writing, such as letters, reports, proposals and emails. |
| **Listening** (about 40 minutes, including transfer time) [See sample paper](https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/Images/22059-business-vantage-sample-papers-1.zip) | **3** parts | **25%** | Requires you to be able to follow and understand a range of spoken materials, such as interviews, discussions and presentations. |
| **Speaking** (14 minutes per pair of candidates) [See sample paper](https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/Images/22059-business-vantage-sample-papers-1.zip) | **3** parts | **25%** | Tests your ability to communicate effectively in face-to-face situations. You will take the Speaking test with one or two other candidates. |

## openbook What’s in the Reading paper?

The B2 Business Vantage Reading paper has five parts with different types of texts and questions.

**Summary**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Time allowed:** | 1 hour |
| **Number of parts:** | 5 |
| **Number of questions:** | 45 |
| **Marks:** | 25% of total |
| **Length of texts:** | 150–550 words per text. Texts may be from: Newspaper and magazine articles, reports, advertisements, letters, messages, brochures, guides, manuals, etc. |

**Part 1 (Matching)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **What's in Part 1?** | Either four short texts on a related topic or one text divided into four sections and a series of statements. You have to match each statement to the text or section where you can find the information. |
| **What do I have to practise?** | Reading – scanning for gist and specific information. |
| **How many questions are there?** | 7 |
| **How many marks are there?** | One mark for each correct answer. |

**Part 2 (Matching)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **What's in Part 2?** | A text with gaps and some sentences (A–G). Each gap represents a missing sentence. You have to read the text and the sentences and decide which sentence belongs in each gap. |
| **What do I have to practise?** | Reading – understanding text structure. |
| **How many questions are there?** | 5 |
| **How many marks are there?** | One mark for each correct answer. |

**Part 3 (Multiple choice)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **What's in Part 3?** | A single text with six comprehension questions. You have to read the text and choose the right answer for each question (A, B, C or D). |
| **What do I have to practise?** | Reading for gist and specific information. |
| **How many questions are there?** | 6 |
| **How many marks are there?** | One mark for each correct answer. |

**Part 4 (Multiple-choice cloze)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **What's in Part 4?** | A text with gaps. Each gap represents one word or phrase. You have to read the text and choose the right word or phrase to fill each gap from a choice of four (A, B, C or D). |
| **What do I have to practise?** | Reading – vocabulary and structure. |
| **How many questions are there?** | 15 |
| **How many marks are there?** | One mark for each correct answer. |

**Part 5 (Proofreading)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **What's in Part 5?** | A text in which some lines are correct and some lines have an extra, unnecessary word. If the line is correct, you write 'CORRECT' on your answer sheet. If the line is not correct, you have to write down the extra word. |
| **What do I have to practise?** | Reading – understanding sentence structure and finding errors. |
| **How many questions are there?** | 12 |
| **How many marks are there?** | One mark for each correct answer. |

**Free: Paper-based sample test**

Download a complete set of papers for the B2 Business Vantage exam. The folders include:

* Listening paper, with tapescript, audio files and answer key.
* Reading paper, with answer key.
* Writing paper.  
  There is no writing answer key but we have added sample answers and examiner comments from the [Business Handbook for teachers](https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/Images/business-english-certificates-handbook-for-teachers.pdf) for Test 1.
* Speaking test tasks.  
  There is no speaking answer key, but we have included the assessment scales and please refer to the relevant section in the [Business Handbook for teachers](https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/Images/business-english-certificates-handbook-for-teachers.pdf) for more information on the speaking test.

[Download sample papers for B2 Business Vantage](https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/Images/22059-business-vantage-sample-papers-1.zip)

**Free: Computer-based sample tests**

You will need to use the Firefox browser to access these sample tests. You can download Firefox for free [here](http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/). Once downloaded, open Firefox and use the links below to view the tests.

[Watch this tutorial](http://youtu.be/fr5fOwob8wI) before you start to help you understand what you need to do.

**Make a note of your answers as you do the test.**

[Reading sample test](http://esoltest.s3.amazonaws.com/cb-becv-reading/index.html)

[Listening sample test](http://esoltest.s3.amazonaws.com/cb-becv-listening/index.html)

[Writing sample test](http://esoltest.s3.amazonaws.com/cb-becv-writing/index.html)

**Use the answer keys below**:

[Reading answer key](https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/Images/142004-cb-bec-vantage-reading-answer-key.pdf)

[Listening answer key](https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/Images/142003-cb-bec-vantage-listening-answer-key.pdf)

There is no answer key for the Writing paper, but there are sample answers and examiner comments in the relevant pages of the [Business Handbook for teachers](https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/Images/business-english-certificates-handbook-for-teachers.pdf).

**Top tips videos**

View our series of 48 top tips videos produced to help you prepare for your BEC exam.

[Watch now](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpmCHL8PnXq_Ep1Wz0D2Q-mh2SKw6vQxN)

**Writing Practice**

Want to practice your written English? [Write & Improve](https://writeandimprove.com/) gives you feedback in seconds.

Write and Improve does not currently contain specific Business-related writing topics, it is still a fantastic way to improve your writing skills.

**Free: English practice**

Practise your English with our free online activities. We have activities for reading, writing, listening, grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary.

[Search for free English activities](http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/learning-english/activities-for-learners/?level=independent&rows=12)

**Speaking test information**

You can watch a full B2 Vantage Speaking Test with Examiner Commentary [here](https://youtu.be/FrJ0EnW3iRM)

A sample Speaking test worksheet for students from the B2 Business Vantage Speaking test preparation pack.

[Download B2 Business Vantage speaking test worksheet](https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/Images/22060-bec-vantage-sample-worksheet.pdf)

You can also watch a 360⁰ of a full B2 Business Vantage speaking test.

[Watch the 360⁰ video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFkrZVht8TM)

**Information for candidates**

A guide to the exam, with advice on preparing for the exam, tips for exam day and useful links.

[Download B2 Business Vantage information for candidates](https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/Images/22004-cambridge-english-business-vantage-info-for-candidates.pdf)

**Vocabulary list**

To access vocabulary at B2 level that could be used in B2 Business Vantage, please refer to the [English Vocabulary Profile](http://englishprofile.org/wordlists).

**Summary regulations for candidates**

All the important information you need to know when taking the exam.

[Download Summary regulations for candidates](https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/Images/113247-summary-regulations-for-candidates.pdf)

**Exam day tips**

[Exam day tips – paper-based exams](http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/Images/25008-paper-based-exam-document.pdf)