# PREPARATION GUIDE FOR THE BRIGHT ENGLISH TEST



# INTRODUCTION

Are you planning to take the Bright English test, or are you going to take it again? In this guide, you'll find advice on how to best prepare for the Bright test and access to a Bright practice test platform. Practicing for the Bright test is one of the keys to success!



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART 1- HOW TO STUDY F	OR THE BRIGHT TEST	4
Use multiple learning resou	irces	4
Study every day, even for a	short time	5
Identify your weak points ar	nd work on those	
Take some refresher course	es	
PART 2 - BRIGHT: WHAT TO	DEXPECT?	7
Test structure		7
Structure/Written test		8
Oral comprehension test		
Once the test is done		9
PART 3 - WHAT TO STUDY		11
Written comprehension		11
Oral comprehension		17
PART 4 - MOCK TESTS		



# HOW TO STUDY FOR THE BRIGHT TEST

Would you like to take (or retake) the Bright test to assess your language skills? Whatever your current proficiency level is, it's wise to prepare adequately before an exam. So don't forget to study a little (or a lot) before taking your Bright test. This will help you avoid unpleasant surprises or drawing a blank because of stress! To be at your best on the big day, here are a few easy-to-apply tips.

# **USE MULTIPLE LEARNING RESOURCES**

Students often have their own favorite learning or revision method: a language app, textbooks, vocabulary lists, etc. But to settle for just one learning resource is to risk neglecting part of your learning. To ensure that you work on both written and oral comprehension (or written expression if you're taking the Writing Solution test), it's advisable to multiply your learning platforms.

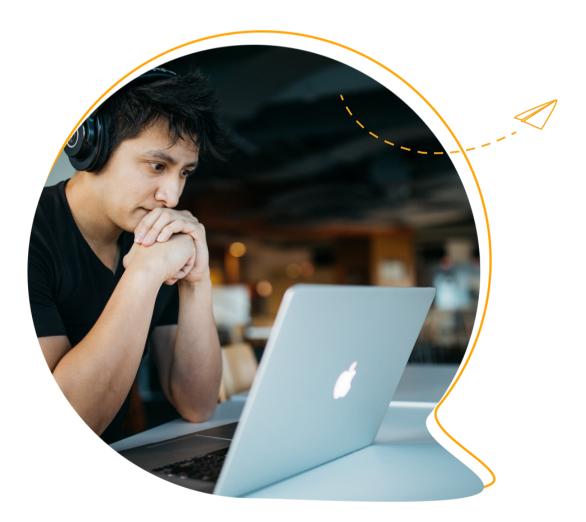
Here are a few examples of resources to explore.

- Online courses for a comprehensive approach
- Grammar and conjugation workbooks
- Audiobooks or podcasts for oral comprehension
- e Foreign news websites for written comprehension

# STUDY A LITTLE EVERY DAY

Once you've collected all your favorite resources, don't leave them in a corner gathering dust! It's a proven fact that our brains forget information faster if it's only heard or learnt once. To make sure you retain what you learn, it is important to practice every day (even for just a few minutes) and to repeat the most difficult lessons more often.

We're not telling you to spend three hours a day studying for the exam (unless you really want to), but rather to make studying part of your daily routine. **15 minutes of exercises** on an online application, an audio podcast, an article read in the language you're studying, and voilà: you've refreshed your knowledge and your brain thanks you for it. Remember, consistency is key in language acquisition. A little every day, with regular revision, will produce better results.



### **IDENTIFY YOUR WEAK POINTS AND WORK ON THOSE**

It's important not to simply review what you've already mastered: instead, focus on your weak points. Admittedly, it can be tricky to pinpoint exactly where your weaknesses lie, but a good first step would be to look at the mistakes you make most often in your exercises or mock exams.

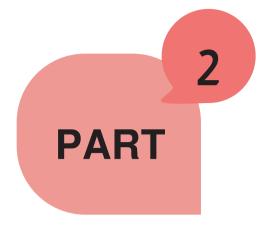
For example: Having trouble with the passive voice? Confused about adverbs of location? Review those lessons several times without, however, neglecting to revise the rest of the material.

# **TAKE A REFRESHER COURSE**

Finally, the best way to make sure you've got the level you need before taking the test is to check with an expert! Treat yourself to <u>a few online lessons</u> to check the basics and find out where you stand. At **Global Lingua**, our teachers know the Bright test inside out: they'll be able to point out the areas you need to review and prepare you for all parts of the test.

Now that you've got everything you need to pass your Bright test, let's find out more about what to expect on exam day.





# BRIGHT TEST: WHAT TO EXPECT?

The Bright test offers a quick and reliable assessment of overall language skills, thanks to a two-parts quiz available entirely online. It's simple, fast and the results are immediate. Many schools, universities and employers use the Bright test to assess the level of their students and employees.

# **TEST STRUCTURE**

The test consists of **two parts**: one to assess knowledge of structures, grammar and the written word, the other to assess oral comprehension. Each part contains 60 questions, and the entire test lasts between 45 and 60 minutes. Before the test begins, we recommend that you settle down in a quiet place where you won't be disturbed and can concentrate on answering the questions.

Please note that the questions are timed. You have **45 seconds** to answer the structures/written questions and **60 seconds** to answer the oral questions. You can pause the test at any time, but a new question will appear when you resume.

# **STRUCTURES/WRITTEN TEST**

For the structures/reading test, you'll have to answer single-answer multiple-choice questions. In other words, you have four choices of answers, but only one of them is correct.

#### **Example**

Complete this sentence : She went ... the market.

a) to

b) on

c) for

d) at

The correct answer is a). She went to the market.

## **ORAL COMPREHENSION TEST**

The listening comprehension section comprises **60 questions**. For each question, a short audio clip is provided. Listen to it and, depending on what you understand, choose the corresponding answer. You can listen to the audio clip as many times as you like, but beware of the stopwatch. Please note that it may be necessary to deduce the correct answer by cross-checking the information given.

#### Example

Audio clip : "The 8am train for Lyon will leave from track 12."

- a) The train from Lyon arrives at 7am.
- b) The train will be 12 minutes late.
- c) The train for Lyon is on track 12.

The correct answer is c).

# **ONCE THE TEST IS DONE**

Bright test results are immediate, and you'll see them as soon as the test is over. You'll see how many mistakes you've made, as well as your score. You can request a list of your mistakes from the test administrator.

Note that the Bright test does not require a minimum score to pass: the score to be achieved varies according to the requirements of schools or employers.

If you fail to achieve the required or expected score, you can retake the test after 30 days. If you fail the test a second time, you will have to wait 90 days to take it again. These delays are important: they allow candidates to work on their level and study more intensively before the next test. Some people choose to take online courses during this period.

## BRIGHTLANGUAGE : WHICH TEST SHOULD YOU TAKE ?

#### **Bright test**

Online quiz consisting of two parts (written / oral) of 60 questions each, lasting 45 to 60 minutes.

#### **Writing Solution**

Allows you to assess your writing skills. It consists of an online Bright test (approx. **45 to 60 minutes**) and a written expression test (**30 minutes**).

#### **BLISS test**

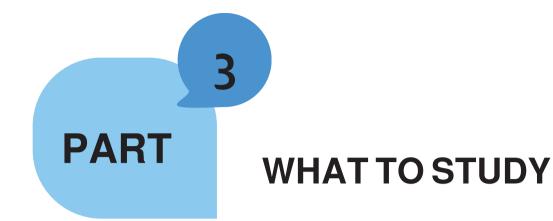
Perfect for assessing oral skills, the BLISS test combines an **online assessment** (written and oral comprehension) with an **oral communication test via telephone** or Teams.

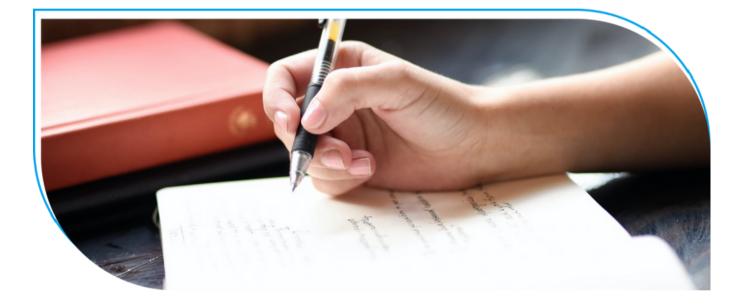
#### **Five Stars**

Ideal for companies, this test is the complete solution for assessing employees' global skills. It consists of an **online test** (written and oral comprehension), a **written expression test** and an **oral expression test** based on direct interaction with native language experts.

	Oral comprehension	Written comprehension	Written expression	Oral expression		
Bright test	~	~				
Writing Solution	~	~	~			
BLISS	~	~		~		
Five Stars	~	~	~	~		







# WRITTEN COMPREHENSION

Of course, it's impossible to know in advance the exact questions you'll be asked on your Bright English test. However, it is possible to focus on the grammar and conjugation points that are sure to come up, and thus revise them in greater depth.

To give you a helping hand with your revision, we've outlined various notions and concepts for you to review before taking the Bright test.

# CONJUGATION

#### Subject-Verb Agreement

Ensure you understand how verbs work with their subjects in both singular and plural form with their subjects in both singular and plural forms.

Example: She runs every morning. They run every morning.

#### **Past Participle Agreement**

Understand the usage of past participles and auxiliary verbs. When to use the simple past form vs the present perfect form – when an action started in the past and continues to this day, or when the action is finished and can be situated in time.

Example: I have lived in England for five years. Vs I lived in England for five years.

#### **Gerund Form**

Familiarize yourself with the gerund form of verbs (verb + -ing). A gerund is a verb that's acting as a noun.

Example: Biking is my newest hobby.

#### Tenses: Present Simple, Future Simple, Past Simple, Present Perfect, Past Perfect, Present Continuous

Study all these tenses and don't forget the irregular verbs.

#### Imperative Mood

The imperative mood is a verb form that gives a command (request, advice, order, etc.)

Example: Open the door!

#### Conditional

Learn how to use conditionals to talk about possibilities or hypothetical situations.

Example: If I had a lot of money, I would travel around the world.

#### **Subjunctive Mood**

Understand the usage of the subjunctive mood to express wishes, doubts, hypotheticals, or actions that have not yet occurred.

Example: I wish it were real.

#### **Phrasal verbs**

A phrasal verb combines a normal verb with an adverb or a preposition, referred to as the particle of the phrasal verb, to create an entirely new verbal phrase.

Example: get + over = Get over yourself!

#### **Indirect speech**

Know how to report what someone has said

Example: She said that she would come.

#### **Passive voice**

Formed using the auxiliary to be and the past participle of the verb.

Example: Anne signed the contract -> The contract was signed by Anne.

#### The sequence of tenses

If the main verb of a sentence is in the past tense, then other verbs must also express a past viewpoint, except when a general truth is being expressed.

Example: She was hungry, so she went grocery shopping.

### GRAMMAR

#### Prepositions

A preposition is an invariable connection word such as "to", "at", "in", "on", "below", "above", etc.

Example: She lived in the apartment above me for ten years.

#### **Pronouns**

They can be simple or complex, masculine or feminine, singular or plural, at the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. person.

Example: My mother is beautiful. She has long hair.

#### **Indefinite Pronouns**

As indicated by the name, indefinite pronouns are used to designate beings or objects of which we do not know the number or identity.

Example: Someone took my laptop.

#### **How to Write Dates**

This is an essential skill for a student, but also for a professional, namely in order to organize meetings.

Example: We will schedule a meeting for September 21st, 2022.

#### **Expressing Time**

This is done first through verb conjugation, but also by using temporal conjunctions such as adverbs, prepositions, or subordinate conjunctions.

Example: He will not go to class tomorrow.

#### **Adverbs of Quantity**

These adverbs are invariable and express a quantity or intensity: somewhat, approximately, enough, as much, a lot, how much/many, hard, almost, intensely, very, etc..

Example She should work less and enjoy life more.

#### **Manner Adverbs**

They often finish with -ly: slowly, quickly, strongly, impatiently, savagely, unintentionally, recklessly, carefully, happily, etc. Take close notice of spelling: when you need to double a letter or change a "y" for an "i", etc.

Example: The dog played <u>happily</u> in the backyard.

#### **Possessive Pronouns**

They indicate possession or a particular connection.

Example: I love that coat. Is that yours?

#### **The Interrogative Sentence**

It is important to know the different ways in which to ask a question: inversing the subject and the auxiliary verb, adding an interrogative pronoun after the verb, or by adding an interrogative pronoun to the beginning of the sentence, followed by an inversion of the subject and the auxiliary verb.

Example: Which dress do you prefer?

#### **Prepositions + Nouns**

Some nouns are typically used with certain prepositions.

Example: He is good <u>at soccer</u>.

#### **Relative Pronouns**

They introduce a relative clause and can have several functions: subject of the subordinate sentence, direct complement of the verb, etc.

Relative pronouns **that**, **who**, **which** – these relative pronouns can only be used in restrictive clauses. They can introduce a relative clause and can act as an indirect complement of the verb or a complement of the adjective or the noun. Use **who** when referring to a person, and which when referring to things. That is often heard in speech, whereas **who** and **which** are seen more often in writing.

Example: Here is the book which you mentioned earlier.

Example: This restaurant is where I had my first date with my wife.

#### **Demonstrative Pronouns**

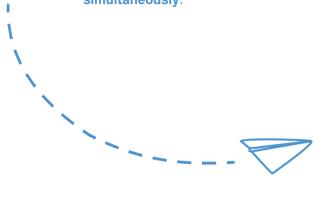
Learn how to use this, that, these, and those as pronouns. These are used to point something out.

Example: This is delicious. I'll have that.

#### Idioms

These are a group of words established to mean something other than the words that are written in the sentence. In other words, if you translate it word for word, it doesn't mean much, but the overall expression is known.

**Example**: To kill two birds with one stone = to accomplish two actions or tasks simultaneously.



# **ORAL COMPREHENSION**

It is more difficult to list the points to revise in terms of oral comprehension. To prepare for the test, we recommend listening to as much dialog as possible and learning to understand the nuances of the language.

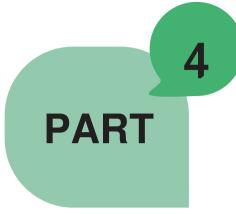
During the test, listen to the whole dialog before answering the question: it is possible that the correct answer is at the end of the audio clip. Also avoid relying on a single vocabulary word to make your decision, as the word could have several different meanings according to the context.

**Example:** "John will not continue the negotiations as long as the client has not banished toxic products from their factory."

- a) John doesn't want to negotiate with the client anymore.
- b) The client has banished the toxic products from their factory.
- c) John wants the client to banish toxic products from their factory.

The correct answer is c), but it is important to understand the nuances of the sentence. It is true that John doesn't want to negotiate anymore for the moment, so answer a) seems correct. However, note the presence of "as long as", a conjunction that expresses a relation of time.







# **MOCK TEST**

Before attempting the real Bright test, we suggest that you practice with a mock test. In this way, you will know exactly what to expect on exam day: number of questions, time allocated, precision of the answers, type of questions... You won't be taken by surprise!

As soon as you finish the mock test you will have access to your results, as well as a correction of each wrong answer. This way, you will know exactly why you failed a question and will be able to ensure you don't make the same mistake again.

Practice for the Bright test by completing our mock tests available on <u>Test Lingua</u>.

You now have all the tools necessary to revise efficiently before taking the Bright test. If you still have doubts, don't hesitate to follow a few online courses in order to check your level and target the points you should study more.



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