

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) 154 CERTIFICATION PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. Which ESL program type involves total instruction in the target language with minimal use of the native language?**
 - A. Dual Language
 - B. Self-contained
 - C. Pull-out
 - D. Immersion

- 2. What are the comparative and superlative forms of 'interesting'?**
 - A. Most interesting; more interesting.
 - B. More interesting; most interesting.
 - C. More interesting; more interesting.
 - D. More interesting; most interesting.

- 3. Which sentence describes a routine?**
 - A. She studies every day.
 - B. She is studying every day.
 - C. She will study every day.
 - D. She study every day.

- 4. Which strategy encourages interaction for ELL students?**
 - A. Listening quietly and taking notes
 - B. Watching videos without discussion
 - C. Asking questions and assigning group activities
 - D. Completing worksheets individually

- 5. Which term describes someone who writes a book or article?**
 - A. Author
 - B. Editor
 - C. Publisher
 - D. Illustrator

- 6. Which term describes easy performance in something?**
 - A. Orthography
 - B. Automaticity
 - C. Practice
 - D. Dysnomia

- 7. Which sentence correctly uses a comma to separate an introductory element from the main clause?**
- A. After finishing the work, I went home.
 - B. After finishing the work I went home.
 - C. I went home after finishing the work.
 - D. After the work finished, I went home.
- 8. Anecdotes and incidents used in Anecdotal Records should be described in a way that is:**
- A. Incidents described completely and objectively
 - B. They should be described subjectively
 - C. They should be recorded only once a month
 - D. They are not used for guiding responses
- 9. What type of information does an expository text primarily provide?**
- A. Narrative
 - B. Information (nonfiction)
 - C. Persuasion
 - D. Entertainment
- 10. Which program model allows ESL students to spend most of the day in general education classrooms and are taken out for ESL instruction in smaller groups?**
- A. Self-contained
 - B. Pull-out
 - C. Newcomer centers
 - D. Online learning

Answers

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1. D
2. D
3. A
4. C
5. A
6. B
7. A
8. A
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

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1. Which ESL program type involves total instruction in the target language with minimal use of the native language?

- A. Dual Language
- B. Self-contained
- C. Pull-out
- D. Immersion**

Immersion means teaching almost entirely in the target language, with minimal use of the students' native language. In this approach, classroom instruction, discussions, and tasks across subjects are conducted in the target language, giving learners continuous, meaningful exposure to vocabulary, structures, and pronunciation in authentic contexts. That constant use helps students think and express ideas directly in the language, which supports faster development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in that language. This differs from other models: a dual-language setup uses both languages for instruction, often to develop bilingualism; a self-contained ESL model provides English-focused instruction in separate ESL settings, sometimes with more reliance on students' first language for support; a pull-out model moves students out of the regular class for language support rather than delivering content primarily in the target language throughout the day. The defining feature here is the near-total use of the target language for all classroom learning.

2. What are the comparative and superlative forms of 'interesting'?

- A. Most interesting; more interesting.
- B. More interesting; most interesting.
- C. More interesting; more interesting.
- D. More interesting; most interesting.**

Longer adjectives, especially those with three or more syllables, form their comparative and superlative with more and most. Interesting has four syllables, so we don't add -er or -est. That means you say more interesting when comparing two things, and most interesting when comparing three or more. So the correct pairing is more interesting; most interesting. For example, This article is more interesting than the last one, and this one is the most interesting in the collection. Other options try to use -er/-est with a long word or mix the order, which isn't how these forms are built.

3. Which sentence describes a routine?

- A. She studies every day.**
- B. She is studying every day.
- C. She will study every day.
- D. She study every day.

Describing routines uses the simple present with habitual time expressions. The sentence "She studies every day" correctly uses the third-person singular form "studies" and places the adverbial phrase "every day" to show a regular, repeating action. The present continuous version would imply something happening right now or around this time, not a habitual habit. The future tense would talk about something that will happen later, not something that happens regularly. And "she study every day" is not correct grammar for subject "she."

4. Which strategy encourages interaction for ELL students?

- A. Listening quietly and taking notes
- B. Watching videos without discussion
- C. Asking questions and assigning group activities
- D. Completing worksheets individually

Providing opportunities for interaction is essential for language development because language is learned through use. When students ask questions and work in groups, they must negotiate meaning, practice new vocabulary and grammar in real contexts, and receive immediate feedback from peers. This collaborative activity builds speaking and listening skills in a low-anxiety setting, helping ELL learners become more fluent and confident. Options that keep students passive—listening quietly and taking notes, watching videos without discussion, or completing worksheets individually—limit opportunities to produce language, interact with others, and receive feedback. In contrast, encouraging questions and group activities actively involves students in conversation, turn-taking, and shared problem-solving, which are the kinds of social language practice that support true language development.

5. Which term describes someone who writes a book or article?

- A. Author
- B. Editor
- C. Publisher
- D. Illustrator

The term describes the person who creates the written work. The author is the writer—the one who creates the text for a book or article. Editors revise and improve writing, but they don't typically originate the main writing themselves. Publishers are responsible for printing and distributing the work, and illustrators provide drawings. So, for the action of writing the content, the author is the right fit.

6. Which term describes easy performance in something?

- A. Orthography
- B. Automaticity
- C. Practice
- D. Dysnomia

Automaticity is the ability to perform a skill with ease because it has become automatic through practice. When you have automaticity, you respond quickly and accurately with little conscious thought, freeing your mind to focus on more complex tasks. A common example is recognizing familiar words while reading or typing familiar phrases without pausing to spell them out. Orthography is simply the spelling system of a language, not the ease of performance. Practice is the activity that helps you develop automaticity, while dysnomia describes word finding difficulties, which would hinder easy performance rather than describe it.

7. Which sentence correctly uses a comma to separate an introductory element from the main clause?

- A. After finishing the work, I went home.**
- B. After finishing the work I went home.
- C. I went home after finishing the work.
- D. After the work finished, I went home.

Introductory elements are words or phrases that come before the main clause, and a comma is used to separate them to signal a pause and prevent misreading. In the sentence provided, "After finishing the work" is an introductory participial phrase that tells when the action happens. The comma after that introductory phrase sets it off from the main clause "I went home," making the sentence easy to parse and sound natural. This structure is the clearest and most common way to show the separation. The other forms don't illustrate this separation as cleanly. One version leaves out the comma after the introductory phrase, which makes the sentence harder to read. Another version moves the introductory element after the main clause, so it no longer demonstrates separating an introductory element from the main clause at the front. A different variant uses a finite clause for the introductory part, which can feel less smooth than the participial phrase in everyday usage.

8. Anecdotes and incidents used in Anecdotal Records should be described in a way that is:

- A. Incidents described completely and objectively**
- B. They should be described subjectively
- C. They should be recorded only once a month
- D. They are not used for guiding responses

Anecdotal records are meant to capture real events in a clear, unbiased way so anyone reading them can understand exactly what happened and use the information to guide next steps. Describing incidents completely and objectively means noting who was involved, what happened, where and when it occurred, and specific, observable actions or speech. It focuses on facts rather than interpretations or judgments, so the record remains reliable and useful for planning supports or interventions. If you describe events subjectively, you introduce personal opinions that can color the interpretation and make it harder to rely on the record for decisions. Recording only once a month risks missing important incidents and doesn't give a complete picture. And if the records aren't used to inform responses, they lose their purpose.

9. What type of information does an expository text primarily provide?

- A. Narrative
- B. Information (nonfiction)**
- C. Persuasion
- D. Entertainment

Expository writing is built to inform and explain. It presents facts, definitions, steps, descriptions, and explanations in a clear, logical order so readers can understand a topic. The information it provides is factual and nonfiction, focusing on real topics rather than telling a story, arguing a point, or entertaining. You'll see this in textbooks, how-to guides, encyclopedias, and explanatory articles.

10. Which program model allows ESL students to spend most of the day in general education classrooms and are taken out for ESL instruction in smaller groups?

- A. Self-contained
- B. Pull-out**
- C. Newcomer centers
- D. Online learning

The program model described is pull-out ESL. It blends general education participation for most of the day with brief, targeted language instruction taken outside the classroom in small groups. This setup lets students access grade-level content alongside peers while still receiving focused support on vocabulary, grammar, academic language, and reading strategies in a smaller, more controlled setting. It differs from self-contained models, where students stay in an ESL classroom most or all of the day, and from newcomer centers, which centralize newcomers in separate spaces for longer periods. Online learning isn't about regular in-person pull-out sessions.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://esl154.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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