

Exam Preparation Courses: BEC

Business English Certificates

The Business English Certificates (BEC) are internationally recognised qualifications that show employers your skills for using English in the workplace. The BEC exams are aligned with Levels B1 to C1 of the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)*.

BEC is an ideal English language exam if you are preparing for a career in business. There are three different levels of BEC:

- BEC Preliminary
- BEC Vantage
- BEC Higher

Is BEC for you?

If your English language ability is sufficient for most simple communications, such as shopping, you may consider progressing towards BEC. You should have an understanding of, or interest in, the world of work, business and commerce.

Why take BEC?

More than ever, a good knowledge of English is needed to succeed in international business and commerce. If you can show you have relevant language skills, you'll have a great advantage in the jobs market and much greater flexibility if you want to work abroad.

BEC can help you show that you have learned English to an appropriate standard and can use it in a business context.

What is involved in taking the BEC exams?

**All 3 exams involved reading, writing, listening and speaking.
Each of the four sections carries equal marks of 25%.**

- **BEC Preliminary Exam:**

Section	Grade	Time
Reading	25%	1 hour 30 minutes in total.
Writing	25%	
Listening	25%	40 minutes
Speaking*	25%	12 minutes

* The speaking exam involves two examiners with two candidates.

- **BEC Vantage Exam:**

Section	Grade	Time
Reading	25%	1 hour
Writing	25%	45 minutes
Listening	25%	40 minutes
Speaking	25%	14 minutes

* The speaking exam involves two examiners with two candidates.

- **BEC Higher Exam:**

Section	Grade	Time
Reading	25%	1 hour
Writing	25%	1 hour 10 minutes
Listening	25%	40 minutes
Speaking	25%	16 minutes

* The speaking exam involves two examiners with two candidates.

How are the BEC exams graded?

Each of the exams is graded out of 100%. Please refer to the [Mapping your Level / Grade grid \(www.kli.ie/map\)](#) for a breakdown of the results.

Disclaimer: The above information on examinations is for reference purposes only for Kildare Language Institute students. This is general examination information only. The Kildare Language Institute Ltd. accepts no responsibility whatsoever if any of the information is inaccurate. For a comprehensive breakdown of each exam please refer to the relevant exam's website, exam descriptor and course book.