

Press release

EF Education First and University of Cambridge ESOL collaborate on a groundbreaking English language assessment to rate language skills on a recognized global scale

(November 3, 2009, London) EF Education First (EF) and University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations (Cambridge ESOL) today announced a new English test that will enable EF students to accurately rate their level of spoken and written skills.

The EF Cambridge English Level Test (EFCELT- pronounced “/efkelt/”), available at all EF schools, will allow students to determine their level of achievement at the completion of EF English courses according to international standards. The 40-minute test is aligned with standards established by the Common European Framework, a benchmark recognized by governments, institutions, schools, and employers worldwide. It will give students a clear indication of their level and the progress they’ve made, as well as providing an ideal stepping stone to an internationally recognized Cambridge certificate.

The EFCELT is the culmination of 18 months of design and development including intense research trials that involved 8,000 EF students in 14 different countries. The EFCELT offers:

- Cutting-edge testing methods developed by Cambridge ESOL, the world’s leader in English language assessment.
- A clear indication of language proficiency on an international scale with results directly linked to the Common European Framework level (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2).
- A regular testing schedule, timed to correspond with the completion of EF’s English courses.
- An opportunity for younger students to be assessed, with a Junior version to be launched in Q2 of next year.

“Standardizing the way English is assessed is a big step towards improving how the language is taught throughout the world,” says EF President Philip Hult. “We are thrilled to be working with Cambridge ESOL to help improve the way students learn.”

EF has been establishing a network of Cambridge ESOL exam centers at EF schools around the world to deliver EFCELT along with Cambridge ESOL certificates such as the Preliminary English Test, Certificate in Advanced English, and a range of qualifications in business English.

Cambridge ESOL’s CEO Dr. Mike Milanovic says that “EFCELT is an exciting development, and I’m delighted that EF has taken this step. It means that EF students will get a clear indication of the level they have achieved and this will give them the

confidence to take an internationally recognized qualification that will help them in their education and work lives.”

EF is also working with University of Cambridge’s Research Centre for English and Applied Linguistics to establish an EF research unit devoted to improving and accelerating language learning.

Press and Media inquiries are advised to contact ming.chen@ef.com

About EF Education First:

Established in 1965 with the mission to "break down barriers in language, culture, and geography", EF is the world’s leading international education organization that has helped over 15 million students to learn a new language and travel abroad. With a network of 400 schools and offices worldwide, EF specializes in language training, educational travel, academic degree, and cultural exchange programs. For more information please see www.ef.com

About Cambridge ESOL:

Cambridge ESOL offers the world's leading range of certificates for learners and teachers of English - taken by over 3 million people in 130 countries. They help people gain entrance to university or college, improve job prospects or measure progress in English. More than 9,500 employers, universities and government bodies around the world [recognize Cambridge ESOL qualifications](#).