



English Paper 1: answer guide

Warm-up level · 15 questions · 20 minutes · + optional 10-minute writing task



PrimaryTools

How to mark

- Give 1 mark for each correct answer. There are no half marks.
- Use the answer key below, then read the explanation and tip for every question your child got wrong – and for any they guessed.
- Fill in the topic table at the end. A pattern (for example, losing marks on several questions of one type) tells you what to practise next.

The writing task is marked separately, out of 6, using the mark scheme near the end of this guide. Don't add it to the score out of 15.

Answer key

Q	Answer	Q	Answer	Q	Answer	Q	Answer	Q	Answer
1	A	4	C very big	7	A worried	10	B	13	D laughed
2	C a lolly stick	5	B squelched	8	D	11	A friend	14	C
3	B Brave Betty	6	D the breeze	9	B	12	C because	15	A because

What the score means

Score	What it suggests
14-15	Secure at warm-up level. Move on to the standard papers (4-8).
10-13	A good start. Read the tips for the questions missed, then try the next paper.
8-9	Getting there. Use the topic table to choose one or two topics to practise before the next paper.
0-7	Some foundations need work. Practise the topics without a timer first, then come back to timed papers.

This is a warm-up paper, so scores will usually be higher than on the standard and stretch papers. Scores on practice papers are a guide only – they don't predict a pass mark, which varies by area and year.



Question by question

Each answer shows how to work it out, and a **Next time** tip aimed at the most common mistake.

Question 1 · Answer A: On Saturday morning

Reading – Finding information

When did Isla see the big puddle?

The first paragraph says Isla looked out of the window 'on Saturday morning'.

Next time: Find the answer in the story before choosing. Look for a time word like 'morning' or 'night'. It rained at night, but that's not when Isla saw the puddle.

Question 2 · Answer C: a lolly stick

Reading – Finding information

What did Isla use to make the mast?

'She pushed the lolly stick into the middle for a mast.'

Next time: Skim the story for the key word from the question – here, 'mast' – and read the sentence around it.

Question 3 · Answer B: Brave Betty

Reading – Finding information

What was the boat called?

Isla wrote its name on the side: Brave Betty. Biscuit is the dog.

Next time: Names in a story belong to different characters and things. Check who or what each name belongs to.

Question 4 · Answer C: very big

Reading – Understanding descriptions

The puddle lay across the path 'like a little lake'. This tells us the puddle was ...

A lake is a large stretch of water, so comparing the puddle to a lake shows how big it was. The story also calls it 'the biggest puddle she had ever seen'.

Next time: When a writer says something is 'like' something else, ask: what do they have in common?

Question 5 · Answer B: squelched

Reading – Word meaning

Which word tells us the grass was very wet?

'Squelched' is the soft, wet sound of stepping on soggy ground.

Next time: Say each word aloud and picture it. Some words sound like what they mean – 'squelch' sounds wet.



Question 6 · Answer D: the breeze

Reading – Finding information

What made the boat move across the puddle?

'A breeze caught the sail and it glided away across the puddle.' Isla set it down gently – she didn't push it.

Next time: Read the exact sentence where the boat starts moving. Don't guess from what might happen.

Question 7 · Answer A: worried

Reading – Understanding feelings

'Isla's heart thumped.' How was Isla feeling?

Her boat was heading for the drain, so she was worried. A thumping heart is a sign of feeling scared or worried.

Next time: Think about what is happening in the story at that moment, and how you would feel.

Question 8 · Answer D: She was too far away

Reading – Explaining events

Why couldn't Isla catch the boat herself?

'She splashed round the puddle as quickly as she could, but she was too far away.'

Next time: 'Why' questions often have the answer after words like 'but' or 'because'.

Question 9 · Answer B: Isla wrote the boat's name

Reading – Order of events

Which of these happened first?

Isla wrote the name while she was making the boat, before she went outside. The other events all happen later.

Next time: Find each event in the story and put a small number by it. The one nearest the start comes first.

Question 10 · Answer B: Biscuit was brave but very muddy

Reading – Understanding characters

Why does Grandad say Biscuit needs 'a medal – and a bath'?

Biscuit saved the boat, so he deserves a medal, but he is dripping wet and has a muddy paw, so he needs a bath too.

Next time: When a character says two things, make sure your answer explains both parts.



Question 11 · Answer A: friend

Spelling – Common exception words

Which word is spelt correctly?

'Friend' is spelt f-r-i-e-n-d. The 'ie' makes an 'e' sound, which is unusual.

Next time: Tricky words like 'friend' don't sound how they look. Say it in a silly way – 'fri-end' – to remember the letters.

Question 12 · Answer C: because

Spelling – Common exception words

Which word is spelt correctly?

'Because' is spelt b-e-c-a-u-s-e.

Next time: Try the saying: Big Elephants Can Always Understand Small Elephants.

Question 13 · Answer D: laughed

Spelling – Adding -ed

Which word is spelt correctly?

'Laughed' is 'laugh' + 'ed'. In 'laugh', the letters 'augh' make the 'arf' sound.

Next time: Spell the root word first ('laugh'), then add the ending ('-ed').

Question 14 · Answer C: The dog ran outside.

Punctuation – Capital letters and full stops

Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

A sentence starts with a capital letter and ends with a full stop. 'Dog' doesn't need a capital because it isn't a name.

Next time: Check both ends of the sentence: a capital at the start and a full stop at the end.

Question 15 · Answer A: because

Grammar – Joining words

Which word best fills the gap?

Isla was happy _____ her boat floated.

'Because' explains why Isla was happy: her boat floated.

Next time: Read the sentence with each word in the gap. Choose the one that makes sense all the way through.



Marking the optional writing task

Prompt: *Brave Betty goes on another adventure. Write four or five sentences about what happens.*

Give marks for each part below, for a total out of 6. Spelling and handwriting should be judged kindly – this is Year 2.

What to look for	Marks	Details
Ideas	2	Tells a short adventure for Brave Betty that makes sense. 2 marks if something clearly happens and is sorted out.
Sentences and punctuation	2	Mostly correct capital letters and full stops (1). Uses a joining word such as 'and', 'but' or 'because' (1).
Word choice	1	At least one interesting describing word or phrase, e.g. 'a gust of wind', 'sparkling'.
Spelling and handwriting	1	Most common words spelt correctly; writing is clear to read.
Total	6	

Model answer

The next week Isla took Brave Betty to the pond in the park. A family of ducks swam over to look at the little red sail. Suddenly a gust of wind pushed the boat into the reeds and it got stuck. Isla gently untangled it with a long stick because she didn't want to fall in. Brave Betty sailed home safely, and the ducks quacked as if they were cheering.

Why it works

- Something happens (the boat gets stuck) and is sorted out (Isla frees it).
- Sentences are punctuated correctly and use joining words: 'and', 'because'.
- Interesting phrases such as 'a gust of wind' and 'gently untangled' help the reader picture it.

Next time: Plan in three steps: a beginning, a problem and an ending. Read your writing back quietly and add any missing full stops.



Topic table

Tick the questions your child got right and write the total for each topic. Topics where marks were lost are the ones to practise first.

Topic	Questions	Score	Skills tested
Reading	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	/ 10	Finding information; Understanding descriptions; Word meaning; Understanding feelings; Explaining events; Order of events; Understanding characters
Spelling	11, 12, 13	/ 3	Common exception words; Adding -ed
Punctuation	14	/ 1	Capital letters and full stops
Grammar	15	/ 1	Joining words
Total		/ 15	

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