What is ACE Pre-Course Testing?

ACE recommends that if you are thinking about these courses, you should take a **Pre-Course Test**:

- Academic English
- Business Fast Track & Foundation
- Cambridge Exam Courses: PET, FCE, CAE, CPE & Foundation
- IELTS Fast Track & Foundation
- TOEIC Fast Track

Pre-Course Tests are a free service from ACE. You can take a Test even if you are not sure about the course you want to take, or even if you want to study with ACE.

Taking a Pre-Course Tests is easy:

1. ACE emails you the Pre-Course Test
2. You print and take the Test
3. You email or fax the Test back to ACE
4. ACE check your Test and tell you:
   - the Test result
   - whether the course is right for your level of English
   - how long you need to study to reach your objectives

We aim to check your test and reply inside 24 hours.

Why should I complete a Pre-Course Test?

Some ACE courses need a specific level of English.

For example, a beginner cannot take IELTS Fast Track - the level of the course is too difficult. If a beginner went into an IELTS Fast Track course, it would not be good for:

- **the beginner**, who would be very unhappy because the activities are so difficult
- **other students**, who could ask "Why is this lower-level student in my class?"

Taking a Pre-Course Test gives you important information about your English level and which courses are right for you.

It can also help you make a realistic decision about how long you need to study to reach your objectives.

What happens if I don't take a Pre-Course Test?

We always tests new students on their first day at ACE. If this Day One test shows that your level is not high enough for your course, you will not be able to start that course.

Instead, you will have to:

- take a lower-level course (e.g. FCE instead of CAE), or
- improve your English level in a Power English Gold class

This can be disappointing, especially if you cannot study longer.

We think it is better to be realistic about your English level from the beginning. Taking a Pre-Course Test is an excellent way to do this.

What are Day One Tests?

We always tests new students on their first day at ACE, even if you have taken a Pre-Course Test.

Usually the Day One Test and Pre-Course Test give the same results. However, if the Day One Test shows that your level is not high enough for your course, you will not be able to start that course.

Sometimes people take a Pre-Course Test at ACE. In this case you do not have to take the Day One Test as well.

What if I do not pass a Test, but I want to study hard?

We understand that many people are ready to take courses that are very challenging. They want to work hard and improve their English quickly, or take a specific exam like CAE, even if it is very difficult and they do not have a good chance of passing.

Sometimes this makes students want to take a course even when a Pre-Course Test or Day One Test shows that it will be too difficult.

ACE has a responsibility to give **every student** the best chance of success. This is not possible when some students in the class are not at the right level. For example, if one student always asks questions that the other students know, it takes up a lot of class time. In this situation it is not fair to waste the time of the other students or the class teacher.

For this reason, ACE always makes the final decision about entry to courses.