ESL Placement Practice Test B2 – Test 1

Name: Class: Date: Score: / 36

Take this test online and check your answers instantly

Read each question carefully and choose the one best answer (A, B, C or D).

Part 1: Reading Skills – College Notice

Read the notice from a community college. Then choose the best answer to each question.

Riverside Community College – Student Services Update

Starting this spring, all new students will be required to meet with an academic advisor before they can register for classes. In the past, students were allowed to choose their own courses online, but many ended up taking classes that did not count toward their degree or transfer plans. As a result, some students spent an extra semester, and hundreds of dollars, on credits they did not need.

Advising appointments last about thirty minutes and can be scheduled online, by phone, or in person at the Student Success Center in Building C. Evening and Saturday appointments are available for students who work during the day. Students should bring a copy of their placement results and, if they have attended another college, an unofficial transcript.

Returning students who have already completed at least 15 credits are not affected by the new rule, although advisors strongly encourage them to check in once a year. Students who miss their scheduled appointment will need to rebook, which may delay their registration by up to a week. Since popular classes fill up quickly, the college recommends booking an appointment as early as possible.

For questions, contact Student Services at (555) 014-2290 or visit the center Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

1. What is the main purpose of the notice?
   A To advertise evening and weekend classes at the college
   B To explain a new advising requirement for new students
   C To remind returning students to register for spring classes
   D To announce that the Student Success Center is moving

2. Why did the college introduce the change?
   A Too many students were registering late for classes
   B The online registration system was not working properly
   C Many students had taken classes they did not need for their goals
   D Advisors wanted to meet students in person instead of by phone

3. Which student does NOT need to meet an advisor before registering?
   A A returning student who has completed 18 credits
   B A new student who works during the day
   C A new student who has attended another college
   D A new student who has just received placement results

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4. Besides their placement results, what should a student who has attended another college bring?
   A A letter from their previous advisor
   B A copy of their class schedule
   C Proof of their work hours
   D An unofficial transcript

5. In paragraph 3, the phrase "are not affected by the new rule" means that returning students _____.
   A must follow the rule more carefully
   B do not have to follow the rule
   C were not told about the rule
   D disagree with the rule

6. What can be inferred from the notice?
   A Advising appointments are only available on weekdays
   B Returning students must see an advisor every semester
   C Students who book late may not get the classes they want
   D Missing an appointment means a student cannot register that year

Part 1: Reading Skills – Workplace Memo

Read the memo from a manager to employees. Then choose the best answer to each question.

To: All Warehouse and Office Staff

From: Daniel Okafor, Operations Manager

Subject: New shift-swap policy

Over the past few months, several of you have told me that the current process for swapping shifts is confusing and slow. At the moment, you have to fill out a paper form, get a signature from your supervisor, and then wait for Human Resources to update the schedule. Sometimes this takes so long that the swap is approved only after the shift has already happened.

Beginning March 1, all shift swaps will be handled through the scheduling app that most of you already use to check your hours. Once you and a coworker agree to trade shifts, one of you submits the request in the app and the other confirms it. Your supervisor will then receive a notification and has 24 hours to approve or reject the swap. If the supervisor does not respond within that time, the request will be approved automatically.

Please keep in mind that swaps are allowed only between employees with the same job training. For example, a forklift operator cannot trade a shift with someone who has not completed forklift certification. Also, no employee may work more than six days in a row, so the app will block any swap that would break this rule.

I realize that not everyone is comfortable with the app yet. If you would like a quick training session, Priya in HR will be running fifteen-minute sessions in the break room next week. Paper forms will still be accepted until the end of February.

Thanks for your patience as we make this change.

7. Why is the company changing its shift-swap policy?
   A The paper process was confusing and sometimes too slow
   B Employees wanted to work more shifts
   C Supervisors refused to sign swap forms
   D HR had lost several schedule requests

8. What happens if a supervisor does not respond to a request within 24 hours?
   A The request is canceled
   B HR makes the final decision
   C The employees must submit a paper form
   D The swap is approved automatically

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9. Which swap would the app NOT allow?
   A A swap between two certified forklift operators
   B A swap that would make someone work seven days in a row
   C A swap requested two weeks in advance
   D A swap between two office workers with the same training

10. In paragraph 2, the word "trade" is closest in meaning to _____.
    A exchange **B** cancel **C** refuse **D** extend

11. What can employees do if they are not comfortable using the app?
    A Ask a coworker to submit all their requests
    B Keep using paper forms after March 1
    C Attend a short training session next week
    D Call their supervisor for special permission

12. What can be inferred about the paper forms?
    A They will still be accepted after March 1 for urgent swaps
    B They will no longer be accepted starting in March
    C They must now be signed by HR instead of a supervisor
    D They will be scanned and stored in the app

Part 2: Sentence Meaning

Choose the sentence that has the same meaning as the sentence given, or the word that best completes the meaning of the sentence.

13. "Tom is in charge of the new training program." Which sentence has the same meaning?
    A Tom is paying for the new training program.
    B Tom is responsible for the new training program.
    C Tom is taking part in the new training program.
    D Tom is against the new training program.

14. The doctor told Luis to _____ down on sugar because his test results were high.
    A take **B** turn **C** cut **D** put

15. "The meeting has been put off until Thursday." Which sentence has the same meaning?
    A The meeting has been canceled and will not happen.
    B The meeting has been moved to an earlier day.
    C The meeting has been moved to a later date, Thursday.
    D The meeting lasted until Thursday.

16. Our new manager is very _____; she always listens to new ideas before making a decision.
    A stubborn **B** careless **C** bossy **D** open-minded

17. "I'm not used to driving on the highway." Which sentence has the same meaning?
    A Driving on the highway still feels new and difficult for me.
    B I drove on the highway in the past, but I don't anymore.
    C I am not allowed to drive on the highway.
    D I didn't use the highway when I drove today.

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18. "Kevin had his car repaired last week." Which sentence has the same meaning?
    A Kevin repaired his car himself last week.
    B Kevin's car broke down last week.
    C Someone repaired Kevin's car for him last week.
    D Kevin had to sell his car last week.

19. The hiring committee is still _____ the applications and will contact candidates next week.
    A reminding **B** reviewing **C** replacing **D** recalling

20. "Despite the heavy rain, the game went ahead." Which sentence has the same meaning?
    A The game was canceled because of the heavy rain.
    B The game was delayed until the rain stopped.
    C The game started early to avoid the rain.
    D The game took place even though it was raining hard.

21. "Hardly anyone came to the workshop." Which sentence has the same meaning?
    A Very few people came to the workshop.
    B Most people found the workshop difficult.
    C Almost everyone came to the workshop.
    D People came to the workshop late.

22. "If I had known about the traffic, I would have left earlier." Which sentence has the same meaning?
    A I knew about the traffic, so I left earlier.
    B I didn't know about the traffic, so I didn't leave earlier.
    C I always leave early when there is traffic.
    D I will leave earlier if there is traffic.

23. "Applications will not be accepted unless they are signed." Which sentence has the same meaning?
    A Signed applications will not be accepted.
    B Applications do not need to be signed.
    C Only signed applications will be accepted.
    D All applications will be accepted, signed or not.

24. "Sara can't have taken the bus this morning; she doesn't have a bus pass." Which sentence has the same meaning?
    A Sara wasn't allowed to take the bus. **B** Sara should have taken the bus.
    C Sara was unable to find the bus. **D** I'm sure Sara didn't take the bus.

Part 3: Language Use

Choose the word or phrase that correctly completes the sentence, or choose the sentence as instructed.

25. The new public library _____ next year.
    A will build **B** is building **C** will be built **D** will have build

26. Which sentence is grammatically correct?
    A If it won't rain tomorrow, we'll have a picnic.
    B If it doesn't rain tomorrow, we'll have a picnic.
    C If it doesn't rain tomorrow, we have had a picnic.
    D If it didn't rain tomorrow, we'll have a picnic.

27. By the time we got to the theater, the movie _____.
    A had already started **B** has already started
    C already starts **D** was already start

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28. The apartment _____ we looked at yesterday was too expensive.
A where **B** what **C** who **D** that

29. I wish I _____ more time to study, but I work full-time.
A have **B** had **C** will have **D** would have

30. Maria said that she _____ to Chicago the following week.
A was moving **B** has moved **C** moving **D** had been move

31. I'll never forget _____ the Grand Canyon for the first time.
A to see **B** see **C** seeing **D** to seeing

32. Because it was raining, my friend suggested _____ a taxi.
A to take **B** take **C** us to take **D** taking

33. You _____ me you were coming! I would have picked you up at the airport.
A should have told **B** must have told **C** should told **D** should have tell

34. Which sentence contains an error?
A Each of the employees has a parking pass.
B The news was surprising to everyone.
C The information you gave me were very useful.
D There is a lot of furniture in the office.

35. Not only _____ late for the interview, but he also forgot his résumé.
A he was **B** was he **C** he is **D** did he

36. If Ana hadn't missed the bus this morning, she _____ at her desk right now.
A would have been **B** had been **C** will be **D** would be

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Answer key – ESL Placement Practice Test B2 – Test 1

1 B	2 C	3 A	4 D	5 B	6 C	7 A	8 D	9 B	10 A
11 C	12 B	13 B	14 C	15 C	16 D	17 A	18 C	19 B	20 D
21 A	22 B	23 C	24 D	25 C	26 B	27 A	28 D	29 B	30 A
31 C	32 D	33 A	34 C	35 B	36 D				

Explanations

1. **B** – The first paragraph says all new students must now meet an advisor before registering.
2. **C** – The notice says many students took classes that did not count toward their degree or transfer plans.
3. **A** – Returning students with at least 15 credits are not affected by the new rule.
4. **D** – The second paragraph asks these students to bring an unofficial transcript.
5. **B** – If a rule does not affect you, it does not apply to you.
6. **C** – The notice says popular classes fill up quickly, so a late booking could mean those classes are full.
7. **A** – The first paragraph says the current process is confusing and slow, and swaps are sometimes approved too late.
8. **D** – The memo states that the request will be approved automatically if there is no response in 24 hours.
9. **B** – No employee may work more than six days in a row, so the app blocks such swaps.
10. **A** – To trade shifts means to exchange them with another person.
11. **C** – Priya in HR will run fifteen-minute training sessions next week.
12. **B** – Paper forms are accepted only until the end of February, so they will not be accepted from March.
13. **B** – To be in charge of something means to be responsible for it.
14. **C** – To cut down on something means to use or eat less of it.
15. **C** – To put something off means to postpone it to a later time.
16. **D** – An open-minded person is willing to listen to and consider new ideas.
17. **A** – 'Be used to' means be familiar with something, so 'not used to' means it still feels unfamiliar.
18. **C** – 'Have something done' means another person does the job for you.
19. **B** – To review applications means to read and evaluate them carefully.
20. **D** – 'Despite' shows contrast, and 'went ahead' means the event happened as planned.
21. **A** – 'Hardly anyone' means almost nobody.
22. **B** – The third conditional describes an unreal past: the speaker did not know and did not leave early.
23. **C** – 'Unless' means 'if not', so an application without a signature will be rejected.
24. **D** – 'Can't have + past participle' expresses a strong belief that something did not happen.
25. **C** – The library does not build itself, so the future passive 'will be built' is needed.
26. **B** – The first conditional uses the present simple in the if-clause and 'will' in the main clause.
27. **A** – The past perfect shows an action completed before another past action.
28. **D** – 'That' is the object of 'looked at'; 'where' cannot be used because the clause already has a preposition and needs an object.
29. **B** – 'Wish' + past simple expresses a wish about a present situation.
30. **A** – In reported speech, the present continuous for a future plan usually shifts back to the past continuous.
31. **C** – 'Forget + -ing' refers to remembering a past experience.
32. **D** – 'Suggest' is followed by a gerund, not by an infinitive or object + infinitive.
33. **A** – 'Should have + past participle' expresses criticism or regret about a past action.
34. **C** – 'Information' is uncountable, so it takes a singular verb: 'was', not 'were'.
35. **B** – After 'Not only' at the start of a sentence, the subject and verb are inverted: 'was he'.

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36. **D** – This mixed conditional links a past condition to a present result, so 'would be' is correct.

Notes for teachers: Give students about 45 minutes and ask them to work without a dictionary. As a rough guide, 29 or more correct answers (about 80%) suggests a learner is secure at B2, 22-28 suggests B2 with gaps, and fewer than 22 suggests placing the learner at B1. The test targets common B2 errors such as confusing 'be used to' with 'used to', using 'suggest' with an object and infinitive, mixing up past and mixed conditionals, and misreading 'unless' and 'can't have'. For follow-up, ask learners to rewrite the sentences they got wrong in their own words, or to summarize each reading text in three sentences.

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