ENGLISH as a SECOND LANGUAGE TESTING

All new test takers fill out a Language Profile to help us determine if they may need English as a Second Language courses. We administer two exams to students who may need ESOL classes: the CELSA and the WritePlacerESL.

GRAMMAR TEST: The CELSA (Combined English Language Scores Assessment) test is used for grammar course placement. The CELSA is a 75-question multiple-choice exam. There is a 45 minute time limit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CELSA Score</th>
<th>Course Placement:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-38</td>
<td>Faculty review*; may be referred to non-credit ESOL programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39-48</td>
<td>Level B Grammar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49-58</td>
<td>Level C Grammar</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>Level D Grammar</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-75</td>
<td>Faculty review*</td>
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SAMPLE CELSA QUESTION

Yesterday, Mary’s brother let her ______ his car.

A. to drive  
B. drive  
C. driving  
D. drove

WRITING TEST: The Accuplacer WritePlacer ESL test is used for Writing course placement. Students take this test on the computer.

There is no time limit for this exam.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WritePlacer ESL Score</th>
<th>Course Placement:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Faculty review*; may be referred to non-credit ESOL programs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Level B</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Level C/offer Math test</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>Level D</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Faculty review*</td>
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Sample Prompt

A woman recently received an inheritance of $25 million from an unknown, distant relative. She cannot decide what to do: spend it, save it, or give most of it away.

Assignment

If you suddenly received a large sum of money, what would you do with it?

*Faculty review: Students who score at the very top or bottom of either chart will not receive their course placements right away. In these cases, faculty will review the work and make a recommendation for placement and/or additional testing. Reviews typically take 2-3 business days.

MATH and SCIENCE CLASSES for ESOL STUDENTS Students who place into ESOL Level D courses may take Math courses concurrently. If you wish to take Math classes, you are allowed to take the Math Placement exams. Or, you may wish to work on English for a semester or more before taking the placement exams for Math and Science and starting those courses. If you are not sure what is best, take the ESOL tests and visit Advising for more information.
CELSA PRACTICE       A JOB IN A BOOKSTORE

Jim and Mary are friends. They want a job in a bookstore. Mr. Smith is the bookstore owner.

MR. SMITH: Good afternoon. My name is Mr. Smith.

1. a. are  
   b. is  
   c. am  
   d. was

JIM:  

2. a. I'm  
   b. I  
   c. Me  
   d. Mine

Jim and name is Mary.

3. a. his  
   b. she  
   c. my  
   d. her

MR. SMITH: Nice to meet you.

4. a. meet  
   b. greet  
   c. like  
   d. talk

MARY: We looking for jobs.

5. a. is  
   b. want  
   c. are  
   d. am

MR. SMITH: you have any experience in a bookstore?

6. a. Does  
   b. Do  
   c. Are  
   d. Is

JIM: Yes, I some experience. I for two years.

7. a. am  
   b. do  
   c. have  
   d. has

8. a. was  
   b. worked  
   c. working  
   d. works

MR. SMITH: What did you ?

9. a. do  
   b. does  
   c. did  
   d. are
JIM: I a cashier, but I am not now.

b. is

c. want
d. sell

MARY: I my father in his restaurant one year.

b. helping
c. helped

d. will help

12. a. help

13. a. from

b. to

c. in

d. for

MR. SMITH: When you work?

b. are
c. is
d. be

14. a. can

15. a. upset

b. angry
c. hungry
d. free

What days are you ?

Answer key to CELSA PRACTICE

1. b 6. b 11. c
2. a 7. c 12. c
3. d 8. b 13. d
4. a 9. a 14. a
5. c 10. a 15. d
Introduction to WritePlacer® ESL

Prompts within the ACCUPLACER® System have been carefully designed so that the student can respond quickly and in a variety of ways. Prompts are free of technical or specific literacy references and do not require specialized knowledge. The prompts are designed to stimulate critical thinking and are relevant to any number of fields and interests. Students will be asked to draw on a broad range of experiences, learning and ideas to support their point of view on the issue in question.

Scores on WritePlacer ESL range from 1 to 6. An essay that is too short to be evaluated, written on a topic other than the one presented, or written in a language other than English will be given a score of zero. A prompt consists of a short passage followed by an assignment that asks the student to focus on the issue addressed in the passage.

Instructions to Students

Writing an essay gives you an opportunity to show how effectively you can develop and express your ideas in writing. On the next screen, a brief statement will be presented, followed by an assignment that relates to the statement. You should respond to the assignment by writing an essay in which you develop your point of view. You should support your position with appropriate reasoning and examples. The position you take will not influence your score.

Your essay will be given a holistic score that represents how clearly and effectively you expressed your position. The following four characteristics of writing will be considered.

- **Word Use** - The extent to which you are able to use a wide range of words and phrases accurately.
- **Sentence Use** - The extent to which you are able to use a variety of sentence patterns with both independent and dependent clauses.
- **Grammar** - The extent to which you are able to express ideas using grammatically correct English.
- **Organization and Development** - The extent to which you are able to focus on the assigned topic and to develop ideas clearly.
Sample Prompt

Passage
A woman recently received an inheritance of $25 million from an unknown, distant relative. She cannot decide what to do: spend it, save it, or give most of it away.

Assignment
If you suddenly received a large sum of money, what would you do with it?

Sample Essays

On the pages that follow there are descriptions of each of the eight Writeplacer ESL score points followed by two sample essays that were assigned the indicated score. Annotations are provided for each essay explaining why the essay was given the score it received. Studying these sample essays and the accompanying annotations will point out the elements considered during the scoring process.

SCORE of 1

Description of Score of 1

A response in this category demonstrates little competency in the elements of on-demand essay writing in English.

- The writing sample exhibits a simplistic expression of ideas and little to no development or organization.
- The writing sample exhibits a very limited range and variety of simple words and word phrases. Frequent errors in word selection, word forms, and spelling obscure meaning.
- The writing sample is typically characterized by short, choppy, simple sentences.
- The writing sample exhibits little or no control of grammatical forms.
- Sentence punctuation is omitted or used incorrectly.

Shown below are sample essays that received a score of 1. The annotations explain why the essay received the indicated score.
Sample Essay #2 - Score of 1

A sudden increase in the price of oil has caused a significant rise in the cost of living. Many people have lost their jobs, and others have had to work long hours to afford basic necessities. This has led to a decrease in disposable income, making it difficult for many to pay for essential services like housing and education. The government has implemented various measures to address this issue, including providing subsidies and tax breaks. However, these measures have not been enough to alleviate the situation for everyone. In conclusion, the rise in oil prices has had a profound impact on the economy and the lives of its citizens.

Annotations:
- Lack of clear organization and development of ideas.
- Frequent use of simple vocabulary.
- Inconsistent use of punctuation and grammar.

Description of Score of 1

A response in this category demonstrates limited competency in the elements of on-demand essay writing in English.

- The writing sample exhibits rudimentary development of ideas with an inconsistent ability to express ideas clearly in an organized pattern or with sufficient supporting details.
- The writing sample exhibits inconsistent competency in word use containing commonly used words and word phrases. Frequent errors in word selection, word forms, and spelling often obscure meaning.
- The writing sample exhibits inconsistent control of sentence use with some evidence of control of simple sentences. Commas and periods may be used to mark sentence boundaries, although there are many errors. Minimal attempts to coordinate sentences and to use subordinate clauses may be evident. Errors in grammatical forms are numerous.

Shown below are sample essays that received a score of 1. The annotations explain why the essay received the indicated score.
If suddenly receive a large sum of money, I can’t decide easily whether like when get shopping. I think good ideas, want to buy all of them, but, too much money, would hesitate and couldn’t decide.

At first, I’ll deposit half of the money in a safe place and will buy tickets for going to Europe. I have to reserve hotel too. I want to go especially London. It’s my first time there. I want to take trip as long as possible.

Next, I’ll go to shopping mall to buy stuff for my family, friends and my new house.

I have another money to buy a new car. I will buy that used car, and will hold big party in my new house. My close friends and family can’t forget big party of course.

Before going to Europe, I’ll give some money to my family. I think my dad will buy many thing for fishing and climbing, mom will save that money, my sister will buy clothes, brother will buy computer and games.

Last, I’ll receive money to pay for family, when I return.

And then, I’ll go to a part to have a great time in Europe.

How about your plan?

If you have other plans, than me, tell me too.

I will think about yours.

This writing sample displays limited competency in the elements of on-demand essay writing, including the use of on-demand essay writing skills, sound vocabulary, and grammatical form. Errors in grammar, vocabulary, and spelling are numerous. Although minimal attempts to economize sentences are evident, errors in grammatical form are numerous. If suddenly receive a large sum of money, I can’t decide easily whether like when get shopping. I think good ideas, want to buy all of them, but, too much money, would hesitate and couldn’t decide.

This writing sample receives a score of 2.
Sample Essay #1: Score of 3

If I suddenly receive a large sum of money, which is my dream, first I'll organize a big party to invite all my close friends and family to join in. I'll buy a house and especially a car for my husband. Then I'll do the most important projects. As for my husband, doctors in our country, we can't graduate in USA, in fact I don't have much money to release his dream. To do this, we have to learn very well, because we must have a high level in English to pass the test to take residency. So I'll register in the most serious schools and offer the most interesting books. When our English is good, we'll start to prepare the medical exam. This is very expensive but during the preparation we could not work, I'll reduce a sum of money especially for learning and medicine. I'll work ten hours a day for a year. Of course medical schools are very expensive and without a lot of money I can't get the degree which I want, too. But I need to spend all my money until I get the degree to become a doctor in USA. We pass this exam before we'll start residency we'll need a rest so I'll have two weeks for me and my husband to visit our parents. After this, my husband will continue his studies and I'll try to have a baby, for which I'll offer myself all things and I'll spend with him a nice time. If we spend time together I'll continue my studies.

Annotations:
The writing sample exhibits an emerging competency in the elements of on-demand essay writing in English, but it lacks overall focus and development. Errors in word selection and word forms sometimes obscure meaning. As meaning is critical to doctors in our country, we can't graduate here in USA, in fact I'm able to spend all my money to release his dream. So, I'll register in the most serious schools and offer the most interesting books. The writing sample contains many errors in word order and punctuation. After this, my husband will continue his studies and I'll try to have a baby, for which I'll offer myself all things and I'll spend with him a nice time. Varied and numerous errors in word choice also occur. This writing sample merits a score of 3.
Sample Essay #2: Score of 4

If someday, I receive a large sum of money, like the woman in the example, one of the first things I would do is to take a trip to Europe and see all the historical places. It would take a really long time but it's worth it.

After I travel around Europe, I would see all the great buildings, famous monuments, and art. I think I would also like to see some different climates. I would like to see the ice in the Arctic and the snowy mountains. I would like to see the hot deserts and the rainforests.

When I am back, I would like to get a job and travel somewhere else. I would like to do some volunteer work. If I could, I would like to help people in the slums of Africa. I would like to help build schools and hospitals. I would like to help people get clean water and food. I would like to help people get education.

The writing sample exhibits moderate control of the elements of on-demand essay writing in English, with some distracting errors in word selection, word forms, and spelling.

The writing sample demonstrates moderate control of vocabulary but with some distracting errors in word selection, word forms, and spelling.

The writing sample demonstrates moderate control of complex and varied sentence structure.

The writing sample demonstrates moderate control of grammatical forms. Repetitive errors in word order, punctuation, and other aspects of grammar are distracting but may not interfere with comprehension.

The annotations explain why the essay received the indicated score.

Sample Essay #1: Score of 4

Suddenly receive a large sum of money wide go to three things with it. First will give away half of it to the needy. Second, I will buy a house for my parents. Third, I will give a part of it to the school. I will have my own business when I am ready.

When I have my own business, I will make more money and help the poor people. I will give money to the poor people and help them. They will have enough food to eat. They will have enough money to buy clothes. They will have enough money to do other things.

Second, I will buy a house for my parents. They need a place to live. They need a place to stay. They need something to come back to. They need a place to call home.

The writing sample exhibits an emergent use of the sentence and topic sentence. However, there is a lack of focus and development in some of the body paragraphs. It would be advisable to further develop the ideas in the body paragraphs. The writing sample shows an emergent use of complex sentence structures and word selection and spelling. It is obscure meaning when the writer refers to their adventure. To be more specific, it would be necessary to be more precise in the selection and substitution of words. After these errors, the writing sample is only moderate control of the on-demand essay writing in English.
Sample Essay #1

I know I will be a part of this family so that I can start my own business when I am ready. I will go to an excellent college and get the best education I can. Having to start my business in my country, I will save some money before I start my own business. I will be able to pay off a lot of people who need it.

Finally, if I do make a large sum of money, I will do three things. First, I will give a part of it to my parents, buy a house for my family, and I will save a part of it for myself so that I can start my own business when I am ready.

Annotations

This writing sample exhibits moderate control of focus, organization, and supporting details. The writer displays evidence of practice in developing a strategy. First, I will give a part of it to my parents. Second, I will buy a house for my family. And third, I will save some money for myself so that I can start my own business when I am ready.

Sample Essay #2

With people would spend all the money to themselves. If they get a chance to save it, it is better to have a large amount of the money. I will show a good example to my parents. If I get a large amount of the money, I should save some money and give half of it to my family. I will use the money for my family.

The reason why I want to save it is because I can use it for later. I have to use the money for buying a house. I also have to save it to buy a car. I will use the money for my family in the future.

Second, I can save most of it for emergency reasons. I need to keep my house and car. If I get a large amount of money, I can save it for a house or buy a car.

Third, I can save most of it for a vacation. I can use the money for a trip to a country that I would like to visit. I can use the money for a trip to a country.

If I want to give the half of money or my parents or to my family. Because if my parents get sick, they need the money to pay the hospital bill. I can certainly help them by giving the money that I have. Also, if I want my family members to help, I can give some money to them.

Most people say that a person would do anything to get a money or if they have a money. Receiving a large amount of money would make a person think about a lot of things. But if I have a large amount of money, I am not going to have a lot of time to do it. I am going to share the money with people that I care about. So, I will give some to my family. So that they can help themselves with money and make money as well.

Annotations

This writing sample exhibits moderate control of focus, organization, and supporting details. The writer displays evidence of practice in developing a strategy. First, I will give a part of it to my parents. Second, I will use the money for my family in the future. And third, I can save most of it for a vacation.
SCORE of 5

Description of Score of 5

A response in this category demonstrates consistent control of the elements of on-demand essay writing in English.

- The writing sample exhibits consistent control of focus, organization, and supporting details, with a sense of audience awareness. The writing sample exhibits the use of a prewriting strategy with some analytical development.
- The writing sample exhibits consistent control of a wide and complex range of vocabulary, but there may be a few distracting errors in word selection, word forms, and spelling.
- The writing sample generally exhibits consistent control of sophisticated and varied sentence structure.
- The writing sample exhibits consistent control of grammatical forms. Some errors in word order, punctuation, and other aspects of grammar may be distracting but do not interfere with comprehension.

Shown below are sample essays that received a score of 5. The annotations explain why the essay received the indicated score.

Sample Essay #1 - Score of 5

I recently received a large sum of inheritance money. I know that many people would consider it as a windfall, but for me, it was more like a second chance. I had always dreamed of buying a house, but I never had the money to do so. With the inheritance money, I was able to save it all and put it into a savings account. It would take me a while before I could see the fruits of my labor. I was determined to use the money wisely. I was going to make sure that my dreams came true.

I was going to use the money to buy a house. I had always wanted to own a house. I was going to use the money to buy a house. I was going to use the money to buy a house. I was going to use the money to buy a house. I was going to use the money to buy a house. I was going to use the money to buy a house. I was going to use the money to buy a house. I was going to use the money to buy a house. I was going to use the money to buy a house. I was going to use the money to buy a house. I was going to use the money to buy a house. I was going to use the money to buy a house. I was going to use the money to buy a house. I was going to use the money to buy a house. I was going to use the money to buy a house. I was going to use the money to buy a house. I was going to use the money to buy a house. I was going to use the money to buy a house. I was going to use the money to buy a house. I was going to use the money to buy a house. I was going to use the money to buy a house. 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Sample Essay #2 - Score of 5

I decided to make a large part of my money. I would invest $25 million in different countries that are not yet the biggest, but have the most potential. I would open shops lining the streets of poor countries. I would also help the poor people around the world. I would buy them food, clothes, and medicines. I would help them improve their quality of life. I would help them improve their quality of living.

The money could be used to build schools, houses, and hospitals for them. My goal would be to find peace and harmony worldwide. I would be a great satisfaction to accomplish this.

- Annotations

The writing sample exhibits consistent control of focus, organization, and supporting details. The writing sample demonstrates a good understanding of a prairie strategy with some analytical development. It is well-organized and focused. The writing sample exhibits consistent control of the sophisticated and varied sentence structure. There are no distracting errors in punctuation and other aspects of grammar. The writing sample merits a score of 5.

- Annotations

The writing sample exhibits consistent control of focus, organization, and supporting details. The writing sample demonstrates a good understanding of a prairie strategy with some analytical development. It is well-organized and focused. The writing sample exhibits consistent control of the sophisticated and varied sentence structure. There are no distracting errors in punctuation and other aspects of grammar. The writing sample merits a score of 5.
The question is: What would I do if I suddenly received a large sum of money? To answer this question, I would first consider my current financial situation and long-term goals. I would then allocate funds for immediate needs and future investments. I would also consider giving back to the community by supporting local charities and organizations that align with my values.

I would use a significant portion of the money to pay off any existing debts, as this would provide peace of mind and improve my credit score.

I would invest in a new car or update my current vehicle to ensure reliable transportation for both myself and my family. This would also be a practical choice, as it would allow me to save money on transportation costs and reduce stress associated with car maintenance.

I would allocate funds for travel and experiences that align with my interests and values. This could include exploring new places, trying new activities, and spending quality time with loved ones.

I would also consider setting aside funds for retirement or other long-term financial goals. This would provide a sense of security and financial stability for the future.

Overall, receiving a large sum of money would be a significant opportunity to improve my financial well-being and quality of life. It would allow me to address immediate needs, invest in future goals, and enjoy experiences that bring joy and fulfillment.
Sample Essay #1: Score of 6

I would love to donate money to orvolunteer to help children who do not have the opportunity to play in extra activities outside of school, such as hockey and baseball. These activities were my saving grace. They have kept me busy as a family and they keep my kids off the street, looking for their next fix. As a result, I decided to pursue these activities.

Not enough money is given to these children to help them out of the poverty and out of town tournaments. This is where the money would come in. I would raise money to buy 10-15 extra sets for my new children. I deliver the goods to these children every morning at 9:30 am. Not everyone does the same thing there. I would love to help.

Believing that coming into a large sum of money at this time would be beneficial for my family because of the past few years, I can't help but think about all the opportunities lost. If other people thought in the past, the money would be a down fall for them, I have been in such a fortunate situation.

In conclusion, I would like to set the record straight. I am not a con artist. In fact, I haven't consumed a large sum of money. Probably not that much, but that's not the point. I would have a problem spending it. I am a family of five.

Annotations

Demonstrating strong control of focus, organization, and supporting details, the writing sample exhibits an insightful and engaging expression of ideas (thoughts). I have corrected a few minor grammatical errors and typos. The writing sample displays strong control of style, tone, and wording. The writing sample generally exhibits strong control of sentence structure, with few errors. I don't want them to have to cut out of school, and start out in debt. I would then begin to help outside of my family and specific charities I believe in. I have a strong control of grammatical form (e.g., willing to come into a large sum of money at this time). The writing sample exhibits strong control of the elements of narrative and ease of writing in English. This writing sample merits a score of 6.

Sample Essay #2: Score of 5

There are lots of things that we can do with a large sum of money in this world. We can spend it to help our children, or we can spend it to help others. Since my parents are easy working, I have an interest in volunteering. I would spend the large amount of money for my family and volunteering.

First, I would like some of the money for my family. I would use my parents' money to save their kids by paying tuition and fees to help them get a job so that they can pay for their college. I would like to help them get a job and make it to the next level. I believe that if they pay for their college, they will be able to make it to the next level.

Second, I would volunteer for their children and I am interested in volunteering. I would spend the large amount of money for my family and volunteering.

In conclusion, I would like to set the record straight. I am not a con artist. In fact, I haven't consumed a large sum of money. Probably not that much, but that's not the point. I would have a problem spending it. I am a family of five.

Annotations

Demonstrating strong control of focus, organization, and supporting details, the writing sample exhibits an insightful and engaging expression of ideas (thoughts). I have corrected a few minor grammatical errors and typos. The writing sample displays strong control of style, tone, and wording. The writing sample generally exhibits strong control of sentence structure, with few errors. I don't want them to have to cut out of school, and start out in debt. I would then begin to help outside of my family and specific charities I believe in. I have a strong control of grammatical form (e.g., willing to come into a large sum of money at this time). The writing sample exhibits strong control of the elements of narrative and ease of writing in English. This writing sample merits a score of 5.
Sample Essay #2  Score of 9  Continued

Annotions:

Displaying an insightful and engaging expression, this essay exhibits strong control of focus, organization, and supporting details. Despite some errors in word selection, word forms, and spelling, the essay demonstrates a wide and complex range of vocabulary. There are hundreds of thousands of people dying from disease, starvation, immigration and other reasons. I believe that those money I donate would help improve their lives by educating them, constructing sanitary facilities, giving them medical care and providing them food. Strong control of grammar, punctuation, and other aspects of English is evident. The essay also demonstrates strong control of grammar, punctuation, and other aspects of English. Since my family has four children, it is hard for us to afford the fees. If the government could provide some support, it would help a lot. With comprehension, exhibiting strong control of the elements of an demands essay writing in English, the essay receives a score of 9.