

**English Proficiency Testing** is the process of determining oral and written language skills, as well as general comprehension, based on achievement scores in a written and/or oral examination. There are various types of English proficiency tests. **They are used as part of certification and licensing processes, for entry into an academic institution or for membership in a regulatory body of a specific trade or profession.** Language requirement includes demonstration of oral and/or written language skill and general comprehension prior to entry into an educational institution, a trade or a profession. Minimum standards may be set by the educational institution (university or college) or a regulatory body, and may include trade or profession-specific comprehension skills.

If you are planning to **study at a college or university or enter a licensed profession or trade**, you may have to take an English language test, such as the **Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)** or the **International English Language Testing System (IELTS)**. These tests evaluate your English ability level if you do not speak English as your first language. Each educational institution or licensing/certification agency requires applicants to achieve a minimum score on the test taken. The minimum score varies.

**TOEFL** – Test of English as a Foreign Language

**TSE** – Test of Spoken English

**TWE** – Test of Written English

TOEFL, TWE and TSE measure the ability of non-native speakers of English to use and understand North American English as it is used in college and university settings. For more information visit [www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl)

**We recommend that you contact your educational institution or professional regulatory body to find out what type of English proficiency evaluation/test is required and what is the minimum acceptable score. Also note that English proficiency tests are not free of charge.**

You may wish to take a language assessment test, as it is required for placement in a **LINC/ESL** program or in various occupation-specific programs. Or, you may wish to take an assessment as a preliminary step to English Proficiency testing. For a language assessment that determines your Canadian Language Benchmark, make an appointment at the local testing centre:

#### **YMCA Language Assessment & Referral Services**

800 King Street West  
Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 1E8  
(519) 579-9622

258 Hespeler Road  
Cambridge, Ontario, N1R 3H3  
(519) 621-1621

[www.ymcaimmigrantservices.ca/en/language/language.asp](http://www.ymcaimmigrantservices.ca/en/language/language.asp)

For more information on Canadian Language Benchmarks: [www.language.ca](http://www.language.ca)

#### **English Proficiency Testing – Preparation Courses**

These preparation programs are for ESL intermediate or advanced level students who have professional or academic goals such as attending secondary school, college or university, or who are planning to re-qualify in their profession.

St. Louis Adult Learning Centre

80 Young St., Kitchener, 519-745-1201

Email: [stlouis@wcdsb.ca](mailto:stlouis@wcdsb.ca)

<http://stlouis.wcdsb.ca/programs/esl-courses.html>

Conestoga College – Continuing Education

Conestoga College Information Centre at (519) 748-5220 ext. 3656

[www.conestogac.on.ca/ce/catlg/courselist.jsp?CatalogCode=C06\\_H0085](http://www.conestogac.on.ca/ce/catlg/courselist.jsp?CatalogCode=C06_H0085)

Other language proficiency testing:

**The International English Language Testing System – IELTS** covers all four language skills: Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking and is offered in two test formats - Academic and General Training. All candidates take the same Listening and Speaking Modules and there is an option of either Academic or General Training for the Reading and Writing Modules. The testing location in Ontario is:

Conestoga College, IELTS Test Centre

299 Doon Valley Drive, Kitchener, ON N2G 4M4

519-748-3516 or online [www.conestogac.on.ca/ielts/index.jsp](http://www.conestogac.on.ca/ielts/index.jsp)

#### **The Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB)**

**MELAB** evaluates advanced level English language competence of adult non-native English speakers.

Testing locations: Hamilton, Toronto, Kingston, Ottawa. For more information visit:

[www.lsa.umich.edu/eli/testing/melab](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/eli/testing/melab)

#### **The York English Language Test (YELT)**

**YELT** evaluates the ability to read, write, comprehend, and speak English at a university level & helps determine whether students will require additional ESL courses as part of their university program. For information, call the YELT office in Toronto at: 416-736-5599 or visit online:

[www.yorku.ca/web/futurestudents/requirements/yelt.html](http://www.yorku.ca/web/futurestudents/requirements/yelt.html)

#### **Canadian Academic English Language Assessment (CAEL)**

The **CAEL** is a standardized test of English in use for academic purposes for those who plan to study in English-medium colleges and universities. It tests the ability to use English as it is used in Canadian educational institutes. The fee is \$185.00 CAD. For more information, call the CAEL assessment office in Ottawa at: 1-613-520-2600 ext. 2271 or visit online

[www.cael.ca/taker/whatis.shtml](http://www.cael.ca/taker/whatis.shtml)

## CanTEST

The CanTEST is a standardized English proficiency test used to determine if you are able to meet admission requirements of Canadian post-secondary institutions or fluency requirements of professional licensing associations. The scores will also give you an idea of how much additional English language training you may need. The CanTEST measures four skills: Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking.

[www.cantest.uottawa.ca/index.php?lang=eng](http://www.cantest.uottawa.ca/index.php?lang=eng)

## CELBAN

The Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses (CELBAN) was designed to assess, within a nursing context, the communication skills of internationally-educated nurses whose native language is not English. It is a task-based evaluation of four communication skills which aligns the score to the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) in: speaking, listening, writing and reading.

The CELBAN provides a realistic measure of the language skills required to work as a nurse in a Canadian workplace context. The CELBAN provides feedback on strengths and weaknesses that will inform further language training if required.

[www.celban.org/celban/](http://www.celban.org/celban/)

For more information on this topic, visit our sources:

Conestoga College  
St. Louis Adult Learning Centre

[www.conestogac.on.ca/about/newtocollege.jsp](http://www.conestogac.on.ca/about/newtocollege.jsp)  
[www.wcdsb.ca](http://www.wcdsb.ca)  
[www.settlement.org](http://www.settlement.org)  
[www.language.ca](http://www.language.ca)

Find other topics of information in our Fact Sheet series.

## YMCA Immigrant Services Locations:

### Kitchener-Waterloo Office

800 King St. West, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 1E8  
Phone: (519) 579-9622

### Cambridge Office

258 Hespeler Road  
Cambridge, ON N1R 3H3  
Phone: (519) 621-1621

### School Settlement

77 Young Street, Rm 101  
Kitchener, ON N2H 4Y9  
Phone: (519) 742-8220

[www.ymcaimmigrantservices.ca](http://www.ymcaimmigrantservices.ca)

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YMCAs of Cambridge and Kitchener - Waterloo  
**Immigrant Services**

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Building healthy communities