Cambridge Assessment English

Linguaskill ▶▶

Candidate Quick Start Guide

CONTENTS

Introduction

Introduction

This is a quick start guide for those preparing for a Linguaskill test. Detailed training guides are available on the Linguaskill Support Site.

Technical and Hardware Requirements

Component	Minimum Specification
Processor	Pentium III 800 MHz or equivalent
RAM	512 MB
Free hard drive space	4 GB
Screen resolution	1280 x 1024

Operating system	Windows 7 or later Apple Macs running MacOS 10.12.6 (Sierra) to 12.1 (Monterrey) Chromebooks running ChromeOS 94+
Internet connection/bandwidth	2 Mbps per candidate The minimum bandwidth requirements are for each computer running the test. When running multiple tests concurrently on the same internet connection you should ensure this bandwidth is available to each computer. If less than 2 Mbps is available for each candidate, the test may take longer to run.
Web Browser	The Speaking Test uses HTML5 and so a compatible browser must be used to run the test **Windows:** Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are compatible and supported browsers. Newer versions of Microsoft Edge (version 93+) are compatible and supported. Microsoft Internet Explorer is not compatible with HTML5 so cannot be used for the Speaking Test. **Mac:** Google Chrome is compatible and is the supported browser. **Chromebooks:** Google Chrome is compatible and is the supported browser.
Adobe Reader	Latest version (must be able to read PDFs).
Sound Card	Yes

Internet Connection and Bandwidth

Headphones	Over-ear and closed back – the earpieces of the headphones should cover the entire ear, preferably with good padding for comfort.
Microphone	A microphone should be attached to the headset, via a 'boom' (in other words, on the end of a flexible stalk). The microphone should be noise-cancelling (at a minimum, directional), to increase sound pick-up and to minimise noise pollution on the recordings. Please do not allow the use of your computers' built-in microphones, these should be disabled, because they are not of the appropriate type nor of sufficient quality. In addition in Chrome if a candidate mutes their headset mic, Linguaskill will continue recording if there's more than one mic enabled on the machine.
Headphone and microphone connections	There is no preference on plugs (that is, USB or standard stereo) but please note that the use of USB means that appropriate drivers must be installed and confirmed as working before the test day.

Internet Connection and Bandwidth

You must have a reliable network connection, with sufficient internet bandwidth, to enable all users to access the test content at the same time. Ideally, each candidate should have access to upload and download speeds of above 2 Mbps.

Before the Test

Please follow the steps below to set-up the test before candidates arrive:

1. Ensure that all candidates' PCs meet the Minimum System Requirements above.

2. Check that the sound has not been muted on any of the PCs.

3. Save a link to the test login page on the Internet Browser on each candidate's PC:

https://www.metritests.com/metrica/

4. Ensure you have the candidate's entry codes or login details ready.

5. It is recommended that a spare PC and head-set are made available.

Starting and Running and Linguaskill Test

When the candidates are ready to start, they need to open a browser and navigate to the following URL:

 https://www.metritests.com/metrica/

On the Login page, candidates are required to either enter the Entry Code you have provided them, or login using an existing User ID, Password and Institution ID.

The first time a candidate logs in, they will need to read and accept the Terms of Use.
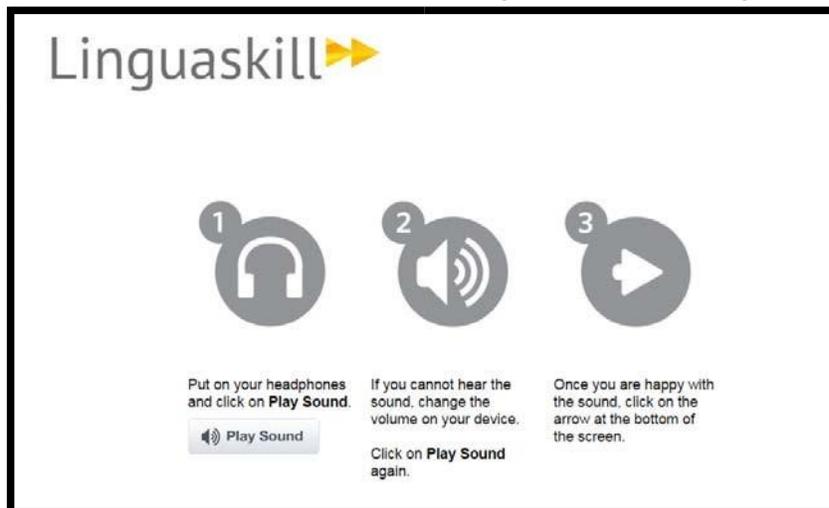
The Home page will display any available tests. Candidates need to click the test they wish to start.
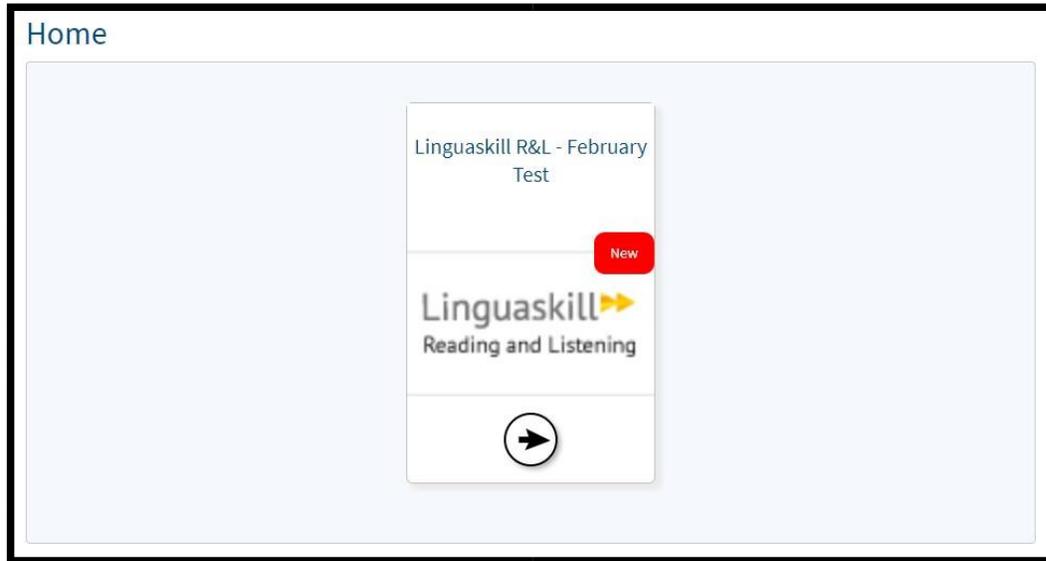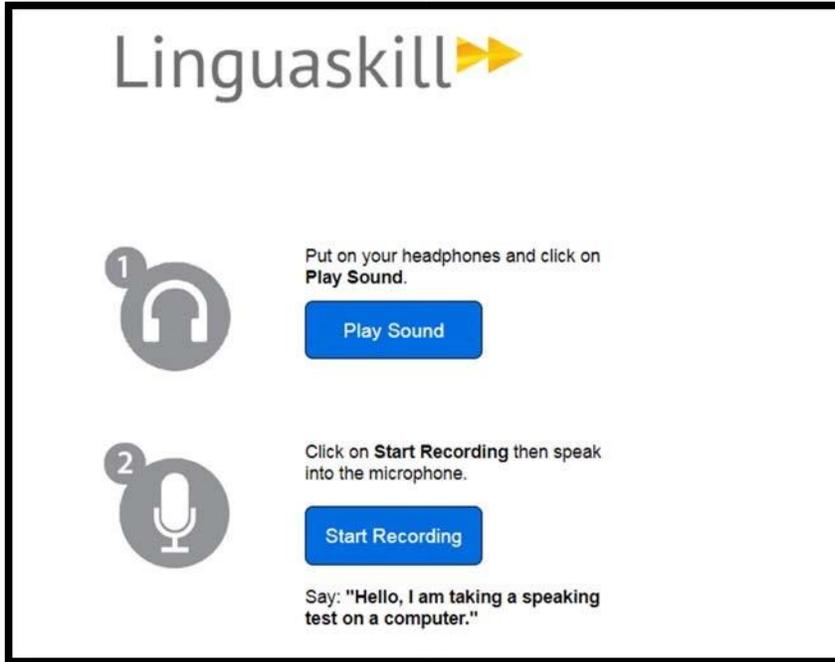

The timeline for that test will then appear. Once they're ready to start the test, they need to click on "Open".

For the **Reading and Listening** test, the Sound check screen will appear. This gives candidates the chance to check their audio is working before the test begins.
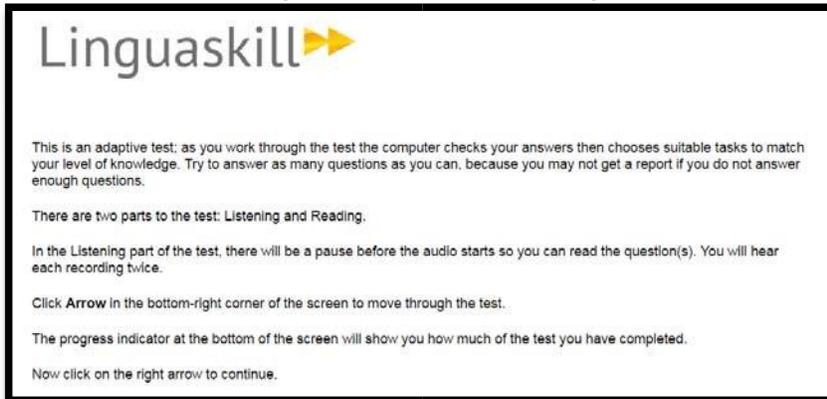
For the **Speaking** test, the sound and microphone check will appear.

Once the sound check has been completed, candidates can click on the right arrow in the bottom right of the screen to continue.

The introduction test for the selected exam will then display. Once candidates have read it, they need to click on the right arrow in the bottom right hand corner to continue.

The Candidate Information Screen will then appear. Candidates must complete the mandatory

fields, which are indicated with an asterisk.

Please note, it is vital that candidates enter the same telephone number and email address each time so that the system can link their accounts and produce a multi-skill Test Report Form.
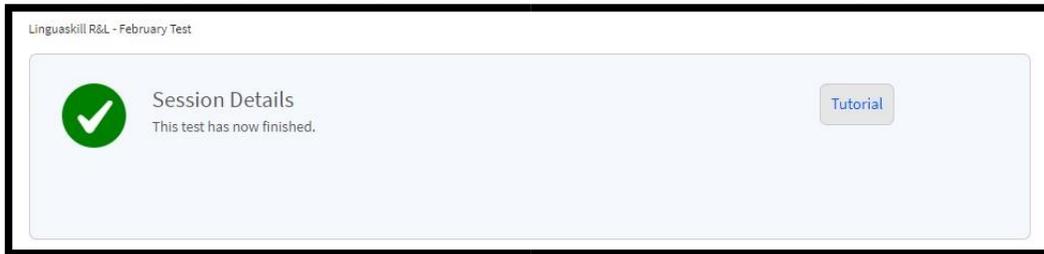
Once the candidate has entered their details, they can click Start and the test will then begin.

Once the test is completed, the test will update to show "Completed" on the Home page.
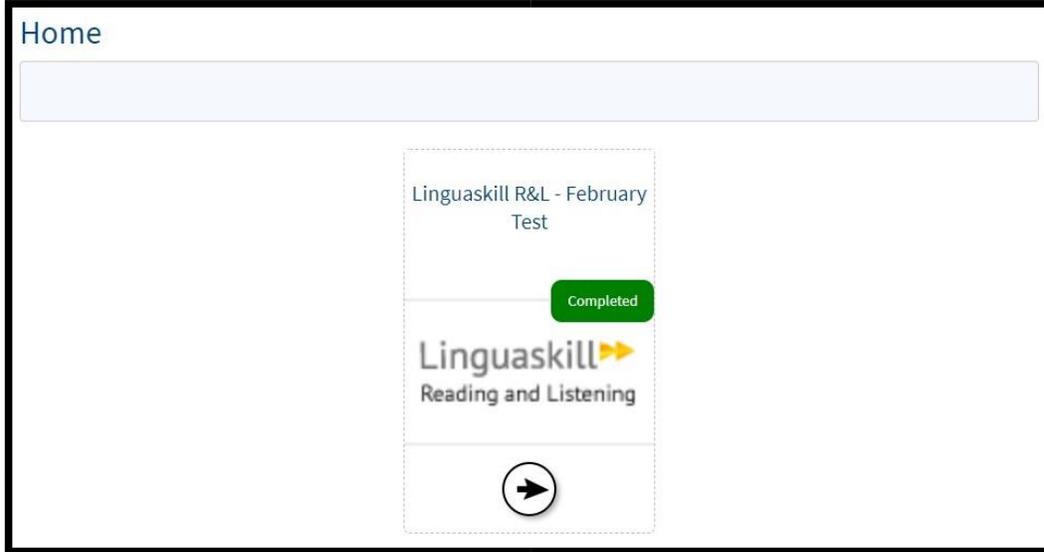
The timeline for the test will also show the test has now finished.

Support

If a candidate encounters a problem during a test, the best first action to take is to ask them to log out and then log back into the test delivery site. The candidate should then be able to re-enter the test at the last saved point, enabling them to continue to the end.

If the problem persists, please contact the Cambridge English Helpdesk using the details below:

Online: https://support.cambridgeenglish.org

Telephone: +44 (0) 1223 553997