

Jeremy Walenn

Sara Walenn

Start!

Preparation for the Pre A1 Starters
Cambridge English Qualifications



Teacher's Book



PUBLISHING

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**Preparation for the Pre A1 Starters
Cambridge English Qualifications
Teacher's Book
by Jeremy Walenn and Sara Walenn**

Managing Editor: Simona Franzoni
Editors: Linda Pergolini, Lisa Suett
Art Director: Letizia Pigni
Page design: Sergio Elisei
Page layout: Diletta Brutti
Production Manager: Francesco Capitano

Cover
Cover design: Sergio Elisei
Illustrated by: Marta Comito

© 2020 ELI S.r.l
P.O. Box 6
62019 Recanati
Italy
Tel. +39 071 750701
Fax. +39 071 977851
info@elionline.com
www.elionline.com

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Introduction

What is *Start!* ?

Start! is designed to help students to prepare for the Pre A1 Starters of the Cambridge English Qualifications. It is written for young learners between the ages of 7 and 10. The materials fully address the learning styles, interests and motivation of this age group by providing engaging activities to introduce new language with plenty of opportunities to practise language and skills. The words and grammar in the book are contained in the Starters vocabulary and structures lists. They are presented in a way that helps students to remember and use them. There is also recycling of words and structures that helps to build students' confidence.

Start! is very flexible. Teachers can use it with students who are:

- preparing to take the Pre A1 Starters
- not taking the exam but want an enjoyable and carefully structured course
- studying in both small and large classes
- studying in both monolingual and multilingual classes
- studying remotely

What is Pre A1 Starters?

Pre A1 Starters of the Cambridge English Qualifications:

- gives a reliable indication of how well children are performing in English in the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing
- is the first of three tests (Pre A1 Starters, A1 Movers, A2 Flyers) and is set just below level A1 on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR)

It is matched to these Pre A1 CEFR *can do* statements:

Listening and Speaking

Can understand:

- letters of the English alphabet when heard
- some simple spoken instructions given in short, simple phrases
- some simple spoken questions about self: *name; age; favourite things; daily routine*
- some very simple spoken descriptions of people: *name; gender; age; mood; appearance; actions*
- some very simple spoken descriptions of everyday objects: *how many; colour; size; location*
- some very short conversations using familiar questions and answers

Can name:

- some familiar people or things: *family; animals and school; household objects*

Can give:

- very basic descriptions of some objects and animals: *number; colour; size; location*

Can respond to:

- very simple questions with single words or a *yes / no* response

Reading and Writing

Can:

- read and understand some simple sentences, including questions
- follow some very short stories written in very simple language
- write the letters of the English alphabet
- write their name using the English alphabet
- copy words, phrases and short sentences
- spell some very simple words correctly

Components

- Student's Book with ELI LINK App
- Teacher's Book with photocopyable activities
- Online audio / ELI LINK App
- Digital Book

The Student's Book – Key features

All the vocabulary, grammar and structures from the Pre A1 Starters syllabus is covered in the book. New vocabulary is introduced in a large picture at the start of each unit. Grammar and structures are presented in a comic strip story involving the main characters: Eva, Mark and Rosie. This includes some of the more colloquial language from the syllabus such as *Me too*. Attention is also paid to revision and recycling of the vocabulary and structures. This provides students with confidence to use the language they have learnt and opportunities to personalise the language in meaningful ways. The book carefully integrates the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing using the vocabulary and grammar points that have been presented.

Topics

The body
Colours
Clothes
Family & friends
Food and drinks
Toys
Transport
Weather
Familiar surroundings: the home; the beach; the park; the street; the classroom
Animals
Daily routine
Sport

These topics follow the requirements in the Cambridge Pre A1 Starters syllabus and are presented in a way that reflects the age and the interests of the students. The characters in the stories do activities that the students can easily relate to, which helps them to fully engage with the language activities they are asked to do.

Listening

Listening activities include: *listen and point; listen and colour; listen and match; listen and check*. They are designed to develop the students' exam skills in listening for: *information; specific words; numbers and spelling*.

Reading and Writing

Reading and writing activities include: *circle the correct word; matching words; writing words such as numbers and colours; reading and writing short sentences; spelling words*.

The main exam skills that are practised are: *recognition of lexis; reading and writing about a text; spelling of words*.

Speaking

The speaking activities are planned to make sure the students are always exposed to the vocabulary and structures they need to complete the tasks successfully. They are also designed to be engaging so that the students enjoy what they are doing. Speaking activities include: *look, ask and say; say and play; say the sounds*. The main exam skills are: *carrying out instructions; identifying objects and places; answering questions*.

Introduction

Tour of a Unit

Start! consists of sixteen units. There are four pages per unit: two to introduce vocabulary; one to present structures and grammar and one for exam practice. There are two revision pages after every four units. At the end of the book, there is a complete practice test, followed by a picture dictionary, wordlist and grammar reference pages.

Pages 1 and 2 – Vocabulary



The first and second pages of the unit focus specifically on **vocabulary**. Each unit starts with a main picture which introduces the new vocabulary for the unit. The artwork usually illustrates activities involving the three main characters: Eva (aged 7), Mark (aged 8) and their friend, Rosie, a rabbit. They do lots of interesting things with other friends and family which provide a framework for the topics.

The words are practised using *listen and point*. They are then presented in a box below the picture. In the second exercise, there is always a listen and check activity to highlight pronunciation. **Say the Sounds** sections introduce activities, such as chants and tongue twisters, to practise specific sounds. Additional exercises, such as *match, look and write; say and play* provide enjoyable ways to help the students to consolidate their learning with pair and group activities. There are also **Look and Learn** boxes which focus on specific aspects of grammar and vocabulary. The **UK vs US** boxes highlight the differences between British and American English, such as *truck* (UK) and *lorry* (US), and ensure complete coverage of the Pre A1 Starters wordlist.

Page 3 – Grammar & Functions



The third page of the unit concentrates on a new **grammar point**. This is introduced in an enjoyable **comic strip** with the characters, which include some of the colloquial language from the Pre A1 Starters structures list. It is followed by a variety of exercises that encourage the students to use the **language in context**. There is also the opportunity to practise some of the vocabulary they have been presented with in the unit and to recycle words from previous units. The tasks include: *complete the sentences; ask and answer; say the sounds; listen and tick*.

Page 4 – Starters Practice



The fourth page provides **exam practice**. There are exercises that test different skills and they provide authentic test practice following the format of the Pre A1 Starters exam. This provides thorough preparation, familiarising students with the exam procedure, using the vocabulary and grammar points that have been highlighted in the unit. The students are also given an **exam tip** to help them prepare for the test. Other helpful hints on what to do in the exam are provided in the Teacher's Book.

Revision pages

The revision units occur after every four units and provide an opportunity for the students to practise using the language they have learnt and for the teacher to check on their progress. It is introduced with a **video** focusing on the main structures students have learnt in the four previous units. There are then exercises based on the language used in the video. These include: *circle the word*; *complete the table*; *say and play*. After the exercises based on the video, there is an enjoyable **speaking activity** (*Say & Play*) based on pictures. On the second page, there is an **exam practice exercise**.



The Picture Dictionary



At the end of the book there is a **picture dictionary** illustrating words contained in the Pre A1 Starters wordlist. In the digital book or via the ELI LINK App, students can listen and check the pronunciation of each word.

Introduction

The Teacher's Book

The Teacher's Book contains:

- advice on how to prepare a lesson plan
- clear guidance of the aims and objectives in each lesson
- suggestions on how to introduce each lesson with a guide to the materials and equipment that can be used
- a step-by-step approach on how to do each exercise
- answer keys and audioscripts of all the activities
- information on teaching sounds and prosodic features
- photocopiable activities
- suggestions for extra activities that can be done in class to practise vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation
- tips on how to help students to prepare for each part of the Pre A1 Starters exam

The audio

The audio is available via the ELI LINK App or in the digital book, or can be downloaded from www.elionline.com/start. Students can listen to the audio and practise at home.

The digital book

The digital book can be used in class on an IWB or on a projector, or at home for homework and extra practice. It is also an essential support for blended learning. It includes:

- all the audio files in the Student's Book
- all the videos in the Student's Book
- all the activities in the Student's Book which are interactive and self-correcting
- all the audio files of words included in the Picture Dictionary
- a **digital game** (*It's your turn!*) for revising vocabulary
- browsable **Flashcards** of all the words in the volume
- a picture bank for extra speaking activities
- a link to two extra online practice tests
- the phonetic chart with audio – a word with phonetic and audio transcription is associated with each phonetic symbol to enable students to listen and practise the pronunciation
- geographic maps: *UK and Ireland map, The United States map, English-speaking countries map*
- a **Digital Graded Reader** with audio tracks and a video

In addition, from the toolbar in the platform it is not only possible to access the traditional drawing palette (pencil, highlighter, boxes to insert notes, rubber) but also to make text cuttings, insert exercises, files, notes, videos, hypertext links and audio recordings to practise pronunciation.

The Teacher's digital book also contains a 'key' button with the key of all the interactive exercises.

To activate the Teacher's digital book, go to www.elionline.com/digitalbooks, follow the instructions and use the access code at the front of the Teacher's Book.

To activate the Student's digital book, go to www.elionline.com/digitalbooks, follow the instructions and use the access code at the front of the Student's Book.

ELI LINK

ELI LINK is an application that can be downloaded for free from the AppStore (for iOS) or GooglePlay (for Android) on a smartphone or tablet. Thanks to ELI LINK, the material you see is enriched with multimedia elements that can be activated directly from a smartphone or a tablet.

After downloading and launching the app, you can frame the page of your book and immediately access the connected video and audio content and the interactive exercises.

Thanks to its technology, the ELI LINK tool is designed to increase productivity in class or at home, while saving time, as well as keeping students' attention and involvement high. All the multimedia content of the course is in fact available at all times with one simple click from your mobile device.



Download the free ELI LINK App on a smartphone or tablet



Launch the app, frame the video icons or audio on the paper page of your book



Instant access to audio and video content

Online resources

Further flexibility is given to *Start!* thanks to an area dedicated to online resources on the website www.elionline.com/start. This will allow the materials to be continuously updated and enriched and downloaded free of charge.

The Pre A1 Starters exam

The Pre A1 Starters exam is divided into 14 parts.

Listening Parts 1-4

Each part begins with a clear example. All the texts are heard twice.

Test length: **20 minutes**. There are **20 items** in total.

| | Main skills focus | Input | Item type | Number of items |
|---|---|---|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Listening for names and descriptions | Picture with dialogue | Match names to figures in a picture by drawing a line | 5 |
| 2 | Listening for numbers Listening for spelling | Picture with dialogue | Write down numbers and names | 5 |
| 3 | Listening for specific information | 3-option multiple-choice pictures and dialogues | Choose from 3 options | 5 |
| 4 | Listening for specific vocabulary | Picture with dialogue | Follow instructions to locate and colour | 5 |