

# English for your PR Application

## Fact sheet

To apply for the 186 Employer Sponsored Permanent Residency (PR) visa, **you must pass an English language test**. Many people need two or more attempts to succeed, so it's a good idea to start early. Once you pass, your test results are valid for three years.

This journey is about securing a future for you and your family, so don't let fear hold you back. Start preparing and book your test. **If you don't pass the first time, that's okay**—you'll gain valuable experience and can retake the test as many times as needed.

Don't delay! **Waiting until the last minute could force you to renew temporary visas, which can be costly**. To help you get started, here are some useful tips and resources to support your preparation.

### STEP 1: KNOW YOUR TARGET SCORE

For the Subclass 186 visa, the primary applicant must demonstrate competent English proficiency.

[Pearson Test of English \(PTE\)](#) is the recommended test for Filipino applicants and individuals more familiar with an American English accent.

[International English Language Testing System \(IELTS General Training\)](#) is the recommended test for applicants more comfortable with a British English accent.

These are recommendations only and you can take either test. Some people have only one option based on the availability of the testing centers near to your location. Please note that 'take at home' tests are not acceptable for this. **You must attend a test center for your English test to be acceptable for your visa.**

There is a minimum required score in each of the 4 core components: listening, reading, writing and speaking. Below are the latest required scores for **either** test:



At least **6.0** in each of the four components.

*The department accepts IELTS test results that include **One Skill Retake (OSR)** for subclass 186 visa.*



Listening **47**, Reading **48**, Writing **51**, Speaking **54**

*For exams taken **on or before 6 August** – at least **50** in each of the four components.*



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### STEP 2: UNDERSTAND THE TEST FORMAT

Familiarize yourself with the specific English language test you need to take. For this guide, we will focus on the **updated PTE Academic**, which includes [new enhancements](#) to better reflect real-world communication. New official practice materials are being released to help you adapt.

#### PTE ACADEMIC - Updated from 7 August 2025

##### Part 1: Speaking & Writing

- ➔ **Up to 2 hours and 15 minutes total** (remains the longest section)
- ➔ Contains nine different question types (Read Aloud, **Repeat Sentence**, Describe Image, **Re-tell Lecture**, Answer Short Question, **Summarise Written Text and Essay**, Respond to a Situation, and **Summarise Group Discussion**)

For more info, check this link: [PTE – Speaking & Writing](#)

##### Part 2: Reading

- ➔ **29–30 minutes long**
- ➔ **Contains five different question types** (Reading & Writing: Fill in the blanks, Multiple Choice, Multiple Answer, Re-order Paragraphs, Fill in the blanks and Multiple Choice, Single Answer)
- ➔ **One item type** - 'Reading and Writing: Fill in the blanks' also assesses writing skills.

For more info, check this link: [PTE – Reading](#)

##### Part 3: Listening

- ➔ **30–43 minutes long**
- ➔ Contains eight different question types (**Summarise Spoken Text**, Multiple Choice – Multiple Answers, **Fill in the blanks**, Highlight Correct Summary, **Multiple Choice – Single Answer**, Select Missing Word, **Highlight Incorrect Words**, and Write from Dictation)
- ➔ Questions are based on audio or video clips, which begin to play automatically.
- ➔ You hear each audio or video clip once.
- ➔ You are allowed to take notes.






For more info, check this link: [PTE – Listening](#)

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### STEP 3: PREPARE WITH PRACTICE TESTS

There are plenty of resources available online to help you. **Here are some review materials and providers you can access online.**

	Offers comprehensive PTE preparation with live classes, video lessons, AI-powered feedback, and customized study plans. <a href="#">Click here.</a>
	Known for its user-friendly interface and extensive question bank, including over 100 mock tests and section-wise practice materials. <a href="#">Click here.</a>
	The official platform from the test creators, providing authentic practice tests, scored practice tests with detailed feedback, and tips directly from PTE Academic test developers. <a href="#">Click here.</a>
	Features a gamified learning experience, adaptive technology focusing on weak areas, real-time pronunciation feedback, and community forums for peer support. <a href="#">Click here.</a>
	Provides over 3100 PTE test questions and various practice materials. <a href="#">Click here.</a>

There are also lots of **free resources available on YouTube** that you can utilise to prepare for your exam.

Below are some sample review materials that you can start with:

Take this **1-Hour PTE Practice Test** which covers tasks you'll see in all three sections of the PTE. [By watching this video](#), you'll learn more about the PTE exam pattern.



- ◆ [PTE Speaking - Sample Test & Practice with Answers](#)
- ◆ [PTE Speaking 90/90 Tips & Tricks | Re-tell Lecture](#)

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- ◆ [PTE Writing Tips, Tricks and Templates](#)
- ◆ [PTE Writing Sample Test: ALL WRITING TASKS](#)



- ◆ [PTE Reading - Sample Test & Practice with Answers](#)
- ◆ [Full PTE Reading Sample Test with Answers](#)



- ◆ [PTE Listening - Sample Test & Practice with Answers](#)
- ◆ [Full PTE Listening Sample Test with Answers](#)

### STEP 4: SURROUND YOURSELF WITH ENGLISH

Improving your English skills daily can significantly enhance your chances of passing an English test. **Here are some practical tips to help you achieve this goal:**

**Read Regularly:** Read books, news, or articles online to see different English words and styles. Try to read a little every day.

**Write Daily:** Keep a journal or write short texts about your day. This helps your grammar and vocabulary.

**Listen to English:** Watch English shows, movies, or listen to podcasts. Pay attention to how words are said.

**Speak Regularly:** Practice with friends, in a group, or even talk to yourself. This builds confidence.

**Learn New Words:** Try to learn a few new words daily. Use them when you speak or write.

**Talk with Native Speakers:** Speak English at work or in your community. Join events where native speakers are present or talk during breaks to improve fluency.

For any questions, please **contact your Case Manager**,  
email [rma@milestonemigration.com](mailto:rma@milestonemigration.com) or call **08 9463 6624**.