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# Cambridge ESOL E-magazine

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*For the first Issue...*

The main aim of this newsletter is to enable us to share your ideas and also to keep you up-to-date on the improvements and changes of ESOL Exams. In addition, we'll inform you about the training workshops, teacher training courses and resources

from which you'll benefit. We'll have interviews with department heads. Even students' feelings and opinions about the ESOL examinations will be published in this magazine. The first interview is with an English Language teaching and training expert:

Gülfem Aslan. We asked her a couple of questions about the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations and British Side Exams Services. You can read the interview on page two.

*Welcoming the New Academic Year and wishing happy teachers' day!*

A warm hello to all Teachers,

The new academic year has begun with news! We will update you on the latest issues via this ESOL E-magazine.

First of all, thanks to increasing numbers of students and demand, British Side has moved into a new premises. It is the former Novartis Building on Barbaros Boulevard. Not far from the old building, it has an amazing Bosphorus view!

Secondly, We'd like wish you all a 'Happy Teachers' Day' and remind you that there'll be a FREE ESOL Teacher Training Workshop on 7th November , 10:30 at British Side.

**HAPPY TEACHERS' DAY!**





*Motivation, Experience, Lifelong Learning, competence, international recognition*

## *An interview with an Expert! Here's Gülfem Aslan.*

For this issue, we had an interview with Gülfem Aslan, Bahcesehir Schools. They've been encouraging their students to take ESOL Exams for a few years. She describes the benefits below:

"ESOL exams are a powerful motivator for our learners; a lot of them take these exams just for the fun of it. Many pupils actually enjoy the experience of chatting with a native speaker who is a total stranger in a non-threatening manner. The experience helps to boost their confidence and strategic competence in communicating in a foreign language. What is more, the Cambridge ESOL certificates are of great importance to parents and learners alike as they are internationally recognized records of their language learning successes, which they are now required to keep in our institutional European Language Passport as part of our European Language Portfolio, devised ac-

cording to the standards of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment. With these internationally recognized language qualifications in their portfolios, our learners can relocate to any school in Europe and be placed at their own levels to continue their lifelong learning, or have the opportunity to present these language qualifications to their potential employers or universities. We at Bahçeşehir Schools hold the conviction that as European citizens of the future, it is a must for us to help our learners secure the necessary credentials to be able to operate effectively in a global marketplace – and this is exactly what Cambridge exam certificates can do for them."

When it comes to British Side Exam Services, she adds: "Well, what can I say? They were absolutely marvelous! We were so impressed with

their meticulous planning and preparation for the exams, which involved several meetings and venue inspections leading up to the event and speedy, complete results after the exams. They were incredibly supportive and held our hands every step of the way, making exceptions for learners with special needs and bending over backwards to accommodate our institutional requirements. Not only were the examiners friendly and effective, but the whole British Side Cambridge ESOL Exams administrative unit put forward a show of outstanding teamwork which helped to make the exams a great success with the school, the pupils and the parents alike. I would highly recommend them to all schools who are looking for a humanistic, yet high-quality exams service that they can rely on. "

A big thank you to Ms. Aslan.  
Nil

## *New KET /PET & FCE /CAE Exams*

### **What's going on with ESOL Exams ?**

With an increasing number of younger candidates taking KET (CEF Level A2) and PET (CEF Level B1) Exams, Cambridge ESOL has developed two new tests with age-appropriate content. The format and level of the tests are exactly the same as standard KET & PET exams, but the content and treatment of the topics are mainly targeted at the interests and experience of

younger people. As you know, KET & PET exams were targeted at adult language learners. Now, young candidates can take either the standard KET and PET or the age-relevant KET for Schools and PET for Schools.

Given that, enhancements have been made to the FCE (First Certificate in English, CEF B2) and the Certificate in Advanced English (CAE, Level C1) following a thorough review aimed at increas-

ing benefits to candidates and teachers. What are the differences?

- A reduction in length of the test by about an hour.
- Focusing on a wider range of skills
- New and improved task types, user-friendly components
- Enhanced statement of Results, standardized score out of 100

**"KET & PET  
become Age-  
relevant  
while FCE &  
CAE are  
more user-  
friendly"**

# Helping your students to feel confident about YLE



All of us feel more confident and motivated about something when we have information about it and feel familiar with the subject or task, and young learners are no different. They may also feel nervous about taking tests so it is important that you do not overemphasise the idea of an exam. Focus on their successes and on the award they will get after they have done it. You can help your young learners to prepare for the tests by:

- using tasks in class that are success oriented, in other words, that ensure all students can feel that they have achieved something.
- praising your students' work as much as possible.
- talking about the tests and giving your students an opportunity to ask you questions about them.
- using similar kinds of pictures to those that they will see in the test so they are aware of the fun element.
- bringing in another teacher to ask questions or listen to so they get used to speaking or listening to other adults in English.
- doing a short quiz about the test in class, such as a true/false activity.
- creating interest in the test by telling them about other children that may be taking it around the world.

## 2010 Exam Dates: Have you reserved yours?

Just a quick tip: After last years' exam sessions and certificate dispatches, many schools are opting for March sessions this academic year. The advantage? Handing out the certificates before the end of term, evaluating your students progress and achievements during the year and organizing the next academic year's curriculum and evaluating your needs in advance!

Key English Test (KET)	Preliminary English Test (PET)	First Certificate in English (FCE)
27 February PB	27 February PB	13 March PB
20 March PB	4 March PB	15 May PB
22 May PB	20 March PB	12 June PB
4 June PB	6 May PB	15 June PB
5 June PB	22 May PB	7 December PB
11 June CB	4 June PB	11 December PB
26 June CB	5 June PB	
9 July CB	11 June CB	Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)
7 August CB	26 June CB	6 March PB
17 September CB	9 July CB	16 May PB
16 October PB	7 August CB	16 June PB
29 October CB	17 September CB	13 November PB
20 November PB	16 October PB	5 December PB
26 November CB	29 October CB	8 December PB
3 December PB	20 November PB	
10 December CB	26 November CB	Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE)
	3 December PB	6 March PB
KET for Schools	10 December CB	16 May PB
24 March PB		17 June PB
7 May PB	PET for Schools	5 December PB
15 May PB	24 March PB	9 December PB
19 June PB	7 May PB	
24 June CB	15 May PB	
8 July CB	19 June PB	
23 October CB	24 June CB	
26 November CB	8 July CB	
4 December CB	23 October CB	
	26 November PB	
	4 December PB	

**“Please note that YLE (Starters Movers Flyers) & TKT tests can be arranged anytime upon request.”**



Key: PB paper-based CB computer-based  
 Flexible dates: The following exams are available throughout the year: Worldwide: Teaching Knowledge Test (TKT), Young Learners English (YLE).

# Cambridge ESOL E-Magazine

## A brief intro to British Side:

British Side was established in July 2006 at its state-of-the-art premises on Barbaros Bulvari, bearing a mission statement to provide the highest quality English language services in Turkey. The organisation is based around former managers and teachers from the British Council and since its foundation new members have been added to the training team and new departments created, leading to the establishment of an Exams Unit, a Teacher Training Department, a library, an Educational Counselling division and a Professional Development Centre (PDC), in order to provide a comprehensive range of services to meet the needs of our varied client base.

British Side is a centre authorised to deliver ESOL Exams in Turkey by University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations, the world's leading range of certificates for learners of English. Each year they are taken by over 3 million people, in 135 countries, (including 30,000 candidates in Turkey). We offer our customers a range of internationally-recognised exams for every need: General English, Business English, Financial English, legal English exams, teaching qualifications, as well as courses to help candidates prepare for these tests.



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE  
ESOL Examinations

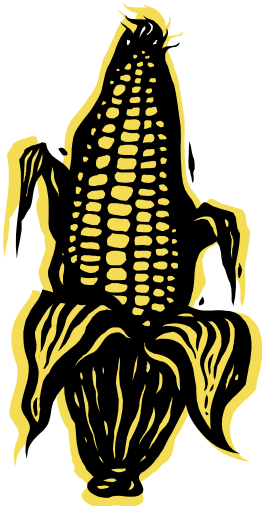
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**FREE ESOL  
Teacher Training!  
Contact Us!**

## *The next FREE ESOL Teacher Training Workshop!!!*

There's a strong connection between how language learners perform in tests and how teachers prepare their students. For that reason, we'd like to invite you to attend this workshop to get top tips for exams preparation.

British Side is offering YLE Teacher Training workshops for teachers in cooperation with Cambridge ESOL during the academic year.

Our first YLE Teacher Training workshop will be **on Saturday, 7th November at 10:30.**

Here're the venue details: Barbaros Bulvari No:91 Besiktas (Formerly the Novartis Building).

The workshop will take approximately 2 hours, focusing on Starters, Movers and Flyers exams. General information about YLE Exams will be given including: task types,

structures, lexis. Also, top tips will be introduced during the session. To reserve your place, please send an email to :

[Nilgun.akbaht@britishside.com](mailto:Nilgun.akbaht@britishside.com)



[www.britishside.com](http://www.britishside.com)