

A

How are they getting on?*

This is what Nastya, an English teacher, thinks about some of her students.

“Jade has a **wide vocabulary** [knows a lot of words] and speaks very **accurately** [without mistakes], but she needs to practise her speaking more in order to become more **fluent** [able to speak naturally without stopping].”

“Angel is quite fluent, but his **accent** [the way he pronounces words] is not very good. In particular, he has problems with certain **consonants** [letters of the **alphabet** (a–z), which are not the **vowels** a, e, i, o, u].”

“Jose has no problem **making himself understood** [saying things in a way people understand], but he needs to **increase** his vocabulary [make it bigger], because at the moment it's quite **basic** [elementary; *syn* simple].”

“Olga is always **willing to** [happy and ready to] **experiment** with language [try something new to see what it is like]. For that reason she sometimes **gets things wrong** [makes mistakes], but she learns from her mistakes and she's making a lot of progress.”

“Andreas is a fantastic language learner. He **picks things up** [learns things without trying] very quickly, and he **has a good ear for language** [is good at hearing, repeating and understanding sounds and words].”

*What progress are they making?



Nastya

Common mistakes

We use adjectives with nouns, and adverbs with verbs.

He's a **fluent** speaker. (NOT He's a ~~fluently~~ speaker.) She speaks **accurately**. (NOT She speaks ~~accurate~~.)

I need to speak English **well**. (NOT I need to speak English ~~good~~.)

B

Examinations

Language help

You can **take** or **do** an exam (NOT ~~make~~ an exam). If you are successful and do well, you **pass**; if you are not successful and do badly, you **fail**. Before taking an exam, you **revise** for the exam. [study /prepare for the exam] Sometimes you can also **retake** an exam. [do it again]

“My students are **taking** the Cambridge English: First **exam** in June, and for some of them it will be **hard work**¹. I think Angel might fail, but he's **doing his best**², so with a bit of luck he might pass. I expect most of the others to pass. Andreas is a strong **candidate**³, and I'm sure he'll get a good **grade** (*syn* **mark**). I think Jade and Olga will also **do well**.

At the moment I'm trying to **get through**⁴ the coursebook so that we can do some **revision**⁵. I think the most important thing is to do some **exam preparation**⁶. Today I want the students to **do/write an essay**⁷. Most of them still find it difficult to write accurately, so I need to **work on** that with them.”

¹ work that requires a lot of effort

² making as much effort as he can; *syn* **trying his best**

³ someone who is taking an exam

⁴ finish

⁵ revise for the exam

⁶ getting ready for the exam

⁷ a short piece of writing about a particular subject

Exercises

33.1 Choose the correct word to complete the sentences. Sometimes both are correct.

- 1 We *made / got* something wrong in the first question.
- 2 I had to *do / write* an essay.
- 3 My sister picks *up / out* languages very quickly.
- 4 I will have to *revise for / revise* my exam next week.
- 5 The students always *do / make* their best.
- 6 Tomas wants to *do / take* the exam in June.
- 7 Karin *failed / lost* the exam, but she can retake it next year.

33.2 Complete the sentences. The first letter has been given to help you.

- 1 There are twenty-six letters in the a *lphabet* .
- 2 A+ is the highest g..... you can get.
- 3 There are over 100 c..... taking the exam.
- 4 We had to write an e..... for homework in not more than 200 words.
- 5 I need to w..... on my grammar; it's not very good.
- 6 I need to i..... my vocabulary; it's still very b..... .
- 7 A and E are v..... ; B, C and D are c..... .
- 8 Studying for my exam is h..... w..... , but it will be worth the effort.
- 9 Our teacher was always w..... to help us with our exam preparation.

33.3 Rewrite the sentences on the left starting with the words given. Keep a similar meaning.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 Can you retake the exam? | Can you do <i>the exam again</i> ? |
| 2 They will need to revise for the exam. | They will need to do some |
| 3 I will work as hard as I can. | I will do |
| 4 We need to prepare for the exam. | We need to do some |
| 5 I make mistakes. | I get |
| 6 I can listen and repeat things accurately. | I have a good |

33.4 Complete the dialogues.

- 1 A: Do you think Natasha will do well?
B: Yes, I'm sure she'll *pass* the exam.
- 2 A: Is her pronunciation good?
B: No, she has quite a strong
- 3 A: Can Elke speak naturally without stopping?
B: Yes, she's quite
- 4 A: And does she make many mistakes?
B: No, she's quite when she speaks.
- 5 A: Does Victor know a lot of English?
B: No, but he can make himself
- 6 A: Will you finish the book?
B: Yeah, we should get it.
- 7 A: Did Amy do in her exam?
B: Yes, she got 80%.



33.5 Over to you

Answer the questions. If possible, ask someone else the same questions.

Do you think you ...

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| ... can make yourself understood? | ... have a wide vocabulary? |
| ... have a strong accent? | ... have a good ear for language? |
| ... are quite accurate? | ... pick things up quickly? |
| ... are quite fluent? | ... often experiment with new language? |