



## Kev's English Podcast: Episode 18 Introduction to OET

Hello, in this episode I say more about OET (Occupational English Test) which I mentioned in my previous episode. This is the English test that healthcare professionals need to be able to work in the UK, America, Canada, Australia, etc. In future episodes I will talk about the different sections, writing and speaking. If you have any qs, you can message me on italki and I will be happy to answer them.

If you want lessons, click here <https://www.italki.com/en/teacher/1078268>

If you want to see my videos, click here <https://www.youtube.com/@TheEnglishNative>

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Hello and welcome to Kev's English Podcast, Real English, every week.

Hello, hello, it's Kevin here, welcome to Kev's English Podcast episode 18. Once again, sorry, it's been a while, it's been, I don't know, almost a month now, but I don't have a lot of topics and I can't think of anything, and pretty busy here on Italki, but I'm going to do a series beginning today talking about the OET, the Occupational English Test.

So, you know, out of all the students I have on Italki, about half are for the IELTS and TOEFL and about half are for the OET test, the Occupational English Test, which is for medical healthcare professionals to register and practise in an English-speaking environment. So if you're a doctor, a nurse, there's like 12, 12 different categories, so it's like if you're a doctor, a nurse, a pharmacist, a psychiatrist, paediatrician, I can't remember all 12, but there's kind of 12, anyway, I usually get doctors and pharmacists. Who else? Oh, veterinarians, yeah, I sometimes get some veterinarians from various countries who want to go and work.

Usually in the UK I've had quite a lot of Turks who want to live in the UK, some Eastern European types who are in Ireland and the UK as veterinarians, lots of Brazilians for America and quite a few Koreans also wanting to work in America, so I have quite a lot of medical students taking this particular test. So I'll just talk about it for, you know, an overview at first and then in subsequent episodes I'm going to talk about how to write a letter, how the speaking section works and etc. And of course if anybody's got any suggestions or requirements, any particular topics you want me to cover, if you send me a message on Italki I'll be glad to oblige if I can.

So let's get down to business then. So the OET, as I said, English Language Test, assesses your proficiency to register and practise in English speaking environment. So my current students, I've got this Egyptian doctor who wants to go to Canada, some Koreans wanting to go to America, a Slovak wants to go and work in Scotland and currently this week that's it, I think.

So it's a very useful examination. Now it was originally an Australian examination developed by Cambridge Box Hill, which is why if you go on to YouTube, most of the longer existing channels dealing with OET are Australian, such as Jay from E2, Steve, OET Online, Rebecca Official, because it was originally an Australian examination. So it's recognised in the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

Also I think in Dubai, Singapore, Namibia, Ukraine, I think. Oh yes, and of course, as I already mentioned, in America. So it's a very useful exam.

Now there's three delivery modes. You can either get it on paper at a venue, on computer at a venue, but most people take the OET at home. Depending where you live in the world, depending where you live, what country, you know.

For example, some of my students in some countries, because of various international political issues, which I probably don't need to explain, they can't take it in their country of origin. So they have to go to Turkey, they have to go take it in Istanbul or they have to take it in Yerevan, Armenia or Tbilisi in Georgia and, you know, you can probably guess what countries I'm talking about. Well, anyway, the at home is the more popular.

Okay, so you can schedule it. So if you want to find out more, just go to OET.com. That's the official site, OET.com. They'll explain it all in a lot more detail than I have time for today. So usually it's going to be OET at home.

Okay, so you'll be talking to an interlocutor from the speaking section on a Zoom-y type, you know, Skype type Zoom kind of a call. Okay, so but the test format, tasks, etc, it's exactly the same. Paper, computer or at home.

So you've got your listening, reading, writing and speaking. Now, the listening and reading are the same for everybody. Alright, so whether you're a doctor, a nurse, a pharmacist, a veterinarian, paediatrician, occupational therapist, etc, it's the same.

Listening and reading. The difference is writing and speaking. So for the writing and the speaking, it's applicable to your particular discipline or subject.

So if you're a nurse, you write a letter for nursing. Your role play for the speaking, you are acting as a nurse. If you're a vet, your writing is for a vet, speaking for a vet, etc.

Okay, so listening, reading. So you've got about 45 minutes for listening. You've got three parts, A, B, C. You know, different extracts, different recordings.

You've got, is it about, hmm, there's about 10 different extracts. Again, if you go to oet.com, you'll find all this out in greater detail. So you've got A, B, C, that's about 45 minutes.

Reading, 60 minutes. Again, A, B and C, different question types, etc. Now, I can help with all this, but I mainly help my students with writing and speaking.

Most students work on listening and reading by themselves, but they need somebody to correct their

letter and to help them with the role play in their speaking. So for the writing, again, maybe for the next episode later this week, I'll explain how the writing works in detail. But you've got 45 minutes to write a letter of about 200 words or thereabouts.

It's usually a referral. You're referring a patient or an animal to a specialist, though it could be a transfer or a discharge. Depending on the profession, it could be a letter to inform a patient, advise a patient, a carer or a group, etc.

Again, oet.com will explain and for every subject or discipline, you've got about, was it four or five case notes to download from oet.com. So if you go there first, find your subject and you can download the free guide, you can download some case notes for your field, you can download some speaking cards, etc. Now, as for speaking, you've got two five-minute role plays. So you're speaking to an interlocutor who is playing the role of a patient, a client, a patient's relative or carer, or if it's a vet, the owner or carer of the animal.

So you take your own profession, so you're a nurse, you act as a nurse, you're a pharmacist, you act as a pharmacist, etc. And, you know, it's about 20 minutes in total. You've got two five-minute role plays which are recorded and which go to external examiners.

The person you're speaking to has no input on your assessment. And yeah, they give you a card, you've got three minutes to prepare, and you can ask them any questions, and then you start your role play off. Now, how it's scored.

Now, for most, so it goes from 0 to 500, EDC, C plus B, up to A. For most of you, a B is a pass, that's 350 plus. That means you can communicate effectively with patients and health professionals using appropriate registered tone and lexis with only occasional inaccuracies and hesitations. You show good, sorry, you show good understanding in a range of clinical contexts.

So for most of you, a B, 350 to or 40. Most of you, 350 is okay, that's a bare pass. For nursing, some of it, I think the writing is C plus, so that's 300 to 340.

It's a little lower for nursing, I don't agree with that myself, but still. Anyway, a standard pass, a B, that's what most people aim for. Now, unless you have a special need to get more, I've had a few students who have to, who were applying for scholarships or fellowships or internships and they needed higher scores, 400 and above.

So that takes a little more time and certainly a lot more practise. But for most of you, three months is optimal. I've had some students do it in a week, which was kind of mad, I wouldn't do it myself, but they came to me on italki every day and usually they pass.

I think that they are passed. I've had quite a few people, mainly from Korea, and they've come and said, oh Kev, I'm taking the OET test. So I say, oh when? Next weekend.

Aha, hmm, what can we do? So it's possible, I wouldn't recommend it, the more time and preparation the better, especially for the writing section. But if you look at my comments on italki, I've got a pretty high pass rate. I think nearly, I've got 98-99% pass rate for all of my students.

It's not that difficult. If you've got a good, strong upper intermediate English, your pronunciation is not overly harsh and you've got sufficient time to study and practise, everybody, nearly, should be able to pass this. It's not that hard.

If you understand it, you get some proper professional assistance with writing and speaking, such as

here on italki, and you give yourself enough time, you study every day, nine times out of ten you will pass. It's not that hard, I guarantee. Actually, this is easier than the IELTS test.

Before the OET was accepted worldwide, well, English-speaking countries worldwide, all you doctors had to take the IELTS test and I know because I had quite a lot of students, you all failed because of the writing section. Essay writing is not a skill that doctors naturally possess. All my students passed when they came to me with sufficient time and I explained how the writing section worked.

But still, this is why nobody does IELTS now if you're a doctor. Everybody takes the OET test. Anyway, so I'll call that quits for today.

That's just a general outline. If you want more information, go to [oet.com](http://oet.com). It's all down there. You can check your area, what kind of tests are available and if you need any particular help, you can send me a message on italki and we'll see what we can do.

Okay, so that will do for today. Later in the week, I'm going to be talking about how to write a letter in detail. I'll talk about the speaking section a little bit more as well.

So, if anybody's got any questions, you can message me directly on italki. Okay, I hope that helps. I'll see you, well, I'll see you, you will not see me, hear me the next time.

Okay, bye for now.