

Testing grammar



The two major uses of language tests are:

- as sources of information for making decisions within the context of educational programmes;
- as indicators of abilities or attributes that are of interest in research on language, language acquisition, and language teaching.



There exist a number of
items that test
pupils' knowledge of
grammar:



multiple-choice test - is the incomplete statement type with a choice of four or five options.



This afternoon children _____ at home.

- a) am;
- b) is;
- c) are.



Now Mr Mc Donald _____ a small asket
of apples.

- a) carries;
- b) is carrying;
- c) carry.



Some multiple-choice tests explore pupils' knowledge of giving answers:



Is he wearing a cap?

- a) Yes, he is.
- b) Yes. he does.
- c) Yes. he do.



Where is Jack sitting?

- a) In the carpet.
- b) On the carpet.
- c) With the carpet.



Sentence reordering is a kind of test that shows pupils' ability to construct sentences with the help of the propoposed words:



1. all of them / doesn't care / Jack / about.

2. Ben's bedroom / into / is coming / Ben' granny.



Transformation test requires the learners to rewrite the sentences in another way beginning each new sentences with the words given.



- He is fair-haired.
He has _____.



- He is wearing a hat.
He has _____.



Sentence writing - tests the pupils' productive ability to write sentences. The teacher gives a picture and asks the learners to describe it, using structures in Present Continuous Tense.



Write five sentences about the girl in the picture.



Parallel writing - is easier than sentence writing, because the pupils are given a model text. The task is to rewrite it changing the third person singular into the first, or to use this information and write a description of themselves.



Ostap a boy from Ukraine. He lives in Lviv. He is ten. He studies English at school. His favourite sport is football. He has a brother. His name is Andriy. He is twelve.



Grammar tests can be successfully used at all levels of language learning. It's important for teachers to remember that test items should include thoroughly practised material and according to the pupils' level.

