

Selecting the appropriate pupil book

English Skills and the National Curriculum

The table below indicates how the **English Skills** books match to the end-of-year expectations set out in the National Curriculum. This will help you decide which book is most suitable for your class.

Pupil book	National Curriculum coverage
English Skills Introductory Book	Revision of Years 1 and 2 (Suitable as a bridge to lower Key Stage 2)
English Skills 1	Year 3
English Skills 2	Year 4
English Skills 3	Years 4 and 5 (Suitable as a bridge to upper Key Stage 2)
English Skills 4	Year 5
English Skills 5	Year 6
English Skills 6	Years 6 and 7 (Suitable as a bridge to Key Stage 3)

Entry tests

To further assist you in choosing the right book, two **Entry tests** are provided (available as separate downloads). You may wish to test all of the class or only those whose abilities you are unsure of.

- **Entry test A** is suitable for lower Key Stage 2 and covers **English Skills 1 to 3**.
- **Entry test B** is suitable for upper Key Stage 2 and covers **English Skills 4 to 6**.

Administering the Entry tests

Before administering the **Entry tests**, ensure that you have a photocopy of the appropriate test for each pupil.

Explain to the pupil or the class the following points.

- The purpose of the test is to make sure that the English work they do in the future is at a suitable level – not too easy or too difficult for them.
- The test is not timed but should be completed in a lesson.
- The questions are arranged to become increasingly difficult as the pupils work through the test. If they can't answer a question, they can miss it out and try the next one.
- If they come to a point where they are unable to answer any more questions, they can stop and read quietly so as not to disturb others who are still working.
- They should think about their answers and check their work carefully, taking particular care with spelling and punctuation.

You may then distribute the **Entry test** and tell the pupils to start.

Marking the Entry tests

Use the **Entry test marking keys** to mark the test (available as separate downloads).

Award one mark for each correct answer. Where a question has two parts, give half a mark for each. Where a question requires multiple words, award one mark if all words are correct; award half a mark if there is just one error among the answers.

For some questions there is only one correct answer, but other questions require pupils to write words, phrases or sentences where more than one answer is acceptable. Where there is more than one possible answer, a sample answer is given to help guide you in judging whether a pupil's answer is acceptable. The **Focus** panels on the **Entry test marking key** indicate the area of learning being tested and this will also help you to decide whether a pupil's answer is satisfactory.

When you have marked the **Entry tests**, add up the marks awarded and note the results on the **Entry test group record sheet** (available as a separate download). The table below indicates which book will be most suitable for each child, based on their Entry test score.

Entry test	Entry test score	Next step
Entry test A	0–5	Begin with the English Skills Introductory Book .
	6–12	Begin with English Skills 1 .
	13–15	Would benefit from working on English Skills 1 for consolidation but, if confident, could start English Skills 2 .
	16–27	Begin with English Skills 2 .
	28–32	Would benefit from working on English Skills 2 for consolidation but, if confident, could start English Skills 3 .
	33–40	Begin with English Skills 3 .
Entry test B	0–5	Take Entry test A for more information or begin with English Skills 3 for consolidation of lower Key Stage 2 work.
	6–12	Begin English Skills 4 .
	13–15	Would benefit from working on English Skills 4 for consolidation but, if confident, could start English Skills 5 .
	16–28	Begin English Skills 5 .
	29–32	Would benefit from working on English Skills 5 for consolidation but, if confident, could start English Skills 6 .
	33–40	Begin English Skills 6 .