

Introduction to *English Network Certificate Skills*

The *English Network* series of textbooks is a multi-level programme for adult learners in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, leading up to the “Certificate in English B1” (formerly “VHS Certificate”) of the “European Language Certificates” (TELC) and to the Cambridge PET examination.

English Network Certificate Skills is the last book in the *Network* series. It is the follow-on course from *English Network Plus* and prepares students for the TELC (Certificate in English B1) and the Cambridge PET examinations. It is also suitable for learners who are not interested in taking an exam, but would like to improve their general reading, listening, speaking and writing skills in English. It can be used by learners who have completed *English Network Plus* as well as by those who have acquired an equivalent knowledge of English either at school or in other courses (*Quereinsteiger*).

Like the preceding volumes, this course imparts practical language skills that learners can use in out-of-the-classroom situations. At the same time, the course develops structures, vocabulary and functions, based on the recommendations of the “Common European Framework for Languages”.

The aims of the course

English Network Certificate Skills aims to give students the knowledge, skills and confidence to communicate effectively in a wide range of everyday situations and to familiarise them with the task formats in the TELC (Certificate in English B1) and PET examinations.

In order to achieve these aims, the coursebook includes the following:

- **Themes** that appear in the TELC and PET syllabuses and that are also interesting and relevant to students’ everyday lives, e.g. body and health.
- Systematic training in the **four skills** of reading, listening, speaking and writing.
- Introduction and practice of all **exam tasks** that appear in the PET and TELC examinations.
- Revision and expansion of **vocabulary items, functional phrases and grammatical structures**.


Components of the course

English Network Certificate Skills consists of the following components:

The coursebook (Student’s book) Best.-Nr. 51 311
As with all the books in the *Network* series, *English Network Certificate Skills* contains complete classroom material and a built-in *Homestudy* section.


The Learner CD

This contains all the recorded material intended for the student’s use outside the classroom (Homestudy &

Practice test), and is included in the coursebook at no extra charge. Each recording is identified by the symbols  L ... in the coursebook.

The Text CD

Best.-Nr. 51 314

This contains all the recorded material intended for classroom use. Each recording is identified by the symbols  T ... in the coursebook and the *Teacher’s Book*.

The Teacher’s Book

Best.-Nr. 51 312

This book contains a unit-by-unit commentary with ideas for using the material, background information and keys. There is also an activity-based *Getting started* lesson, an *If time permits* section and a *Resource bank* with extra materials. It includes the tape-scripts to all recorded material on the Text CD.

The Einstufungstest

Best.-Nr. 50 447

The *English Network* placement test can be obtained from the publishers, Langenscheidt, or downloaded from www.langenscheidt.de/elt on the Internet.

Course schedule and coursebook design

English Network Certificate Skills has been designed for between 12 and 15 ninety-minute lessons. It can be used both in regular courses of one or two ninety-minute lessons a week, or in intensive courses.

The coursebook comprises 12 units, each of which can be completed in a ninety-minute lesson. Each unit focuses on a different topic, e.g. food and drink, consumer issues, managing your money, our audio-visual world, travel. There is also a *Practice test* in the coursebook, which can be worked through in class. If you have a longer course, supplementary material is provided in this *Teacher’s Book* (see *Getting started – your first lesson, Resource bank*).

With the exception of Unit 1, each unit covers five pages: one *Homestudy Preparation* page, three classroom pages, and one *Homestudy Consolidation* page. In Unit 1, there is no *Homestudy Preparation*.

After their first lesson, therefore, students will have two homestudy pages to complete before the next lesson: the consolidation page, the last page of Unit 1, and the preparation page, the first page of Unit 2. And they continue in the same rhythm throughout the book. The two homestudy pages are yellow, which distinguishes them clearly from the classroom pages.

Homestudy Preparation

In each unit, the topic is introduced in a short text on the *Homestudy Preparation* page. The texts provide a stimulus for students’ ideas and give interesting cultural information. In Unit 2, for example, which deals

with food and drink, there is a text about the British attitude to cooking and eating. Each text is followed by a short reading task or a vocabulary exercise that focuses on useful vocabulary from the text. There is also a feature called *Useful phrases* that serves to remind students of functional language that they can use in the next lesson. The exercises on this page are self-correctable (the key is at the back of the coursebook).

The classroom pages

Each unit has the following features:

- a short lead-in activity (**Talk about it**) that encourages students to talk about one or more aspects of the topic;
- an exercise on each of the four skills (**reading, listening, speaking and writing**), which are similar to the task types that students will meet in the TELC and the PET examinations;
- a **Skills focus** task that concentrates on a particular strategy or technique, e.g. using linking words in writing, listening for key words;
- a reference to the **Skills file** (in Units 1–8 only), where there are tips and short tasks on each of the sub-skills tested in the TELC and PET examinations, e.g. reading for gist, everyday conversation, writing informal letters;
- a **Vocabulary** exercise that revises and introduces useful words and phrases connected with the main theme of the unit;
- a **Grammar reminder** with an explanation and a short task;
- a **remember box**, with a short explanation and example sentence, to remind students of a useful language item.

Apart from *Talk about it*, the lead-in activity, the order in which the exercises appear varies from unit to unit, and there is a wide range of task types so that students are offered something new and exciting in every lesson. In every unit, the exercises are generally closely interwoven and serve to develop the unit topic.

Homestudy Consolidation

This page contains the following:

- a **Language tip** which explains and gives examples of a minor grammar point that appears in the preceding unit and which may cause confusion with German speakers, e.g. *too* and *either, unless*;
- a self-correctable **gap-fill** or **sentence transformation** task, which provides practice in the task types that

test "Use of English" in the TELC and PET examinations. As well as allowing students to revise grammar and vocabulary, this task often provides cultural information related to the unit topic;

- a **listening** task which students can do using the CD supplied with the coursebook;
- an **Internet reference** (on every second *Homestudy Consolidation* page) so that students have access to a topic-related text for extra reading.

Special section

This section contains the following:

- **Practice test** – a series of tasks that are similar to those that appear in the TELC and PET examinations so that students can practise under exam conditions. There is a key to the exercises at the back of the coursebook and the listenings are recorded on the Learner CD so that students can do the test at home (pp. 67–71);
- **Skills file** – a series of tips and short tasks on the skills tested in the TELC and PET examinations. There is also a list of useful phrases for writing informal and semi-formal letters (pp. 72–77);
- **Exam info** – a description of the tasks that appear in the TELC and the PET examinations with references to similar exercises in the coursebook. There is also a section that answers frequently asked questions about the exams (pp. 78–80);
- **File pages** – for partner activities in some units, in which each partner works with different information (pp. 81–82).

Appendix

This appendix contains reference material designed to encourage learner autonomy and to facilitate work at home between lessons. It includes the following:

- **Key** – for *Homestudy Preparation*, *Homestudy Consolidation* and the *Practice test* (pp. 83–84);
- **Tapescript** – tapescripts of the recordings for *Homestudy Consolidation* and for the *Practice test* (pp. 85–92);
- **Grammar file** – a comprehensive overview of major grammatical structures (pp. 93–103);
- **Dictionary** – the words used in *English Network Certificate Skills*. Each word is listed with its phonetic transcription, a German translation, and a reference to the unit and exercise where it first appeared (pp. 104–111).