

R.1-2 · Preliminary reading: notices and needs matching

A2 Key and B1 Preliminary (KET, PET) · Cambridge English · B1 Preliminary (PET)

What this topic covers

B1 Preliminary (PET) B1 Reading opens with the same two beasts as A2 Key, one level bigger: **Part 1**, five short notices with three options each, and **Part 2**, five people matched to eight short texts.

- Everything from A2 Key still applies: correct answers are **paraphrased** ; traps repeat the text's words.
- The B1 upgrade: the texts are longer, the paraphrase is deeper, and the distractors are smarter.
- Memory hook: at A2 the trap repeats the words; at B1 the trap **repeats the idea, wrongly**. Read for meaning, or the trap wins.
- Reading is 45 minutes for six parts. Budget: Parts 1–2 are the fast ones – about 10 minutes together.

Part 1: the notice, upgraded

Five short real-world texts: a sign, a message, a timetable note. Three options each.

- The options are now **two-step paraphrases**: the text says “*students must return books before the last week of term*”, the answer says “*books cannot be kept until the holidays*”. Same fact, new clothes.
- △ Watch for **scope** words: *all / most / some / must / can / may*. The trap changes *may* to *must* and hopes you're tired.
- Strategy: as at A2, say the text's meaning in one Chinese sentence, then match the meaning – never the words.

Part 2: eight texts, five people

Five people with needs; eight short texts (courses, hotels, films, museums). Match five.

- The A2 rule grows teeth: wrong texts satisfy **two of three** needs – and at B1, some satisfy **three of four**. Count every requirement , including the quiet ones like “*cheap*” or “*for beginners*” .
- Strategy: write each person's needs as a checklist of three or four items, then tick texts against it. The text with **all** ticks wins.

- △ Two people can never share a text. If two answers point at the same text, one of them is wrong. Re-read both checklists.

Watch out: traps for Chinese speakers

- △ **The deeper paraphrase punishes word-matching harder.** At B1, the correct answer may share **zero** content words with the text. Trust your one-sentence meaning, not your eyes.
- △ **Scope words are the mark-stealers.** *some, most, all, only, except* – underline them in both text and options before choosing.
- △ **Don't drift over time.** Parts 1–2 fund the rest of the paper. Ten minutes, then move; the long texts in Part 3–4 eat whatever you leave them.
- △ **Answer sheet discipline** : Reading has no transfer time. Mark as you go.

Try it

Notice: “*Swimming pool: weekday mornings are for school groups only. Public swim starts at 12. Weekends: open to all from 9.*”

The notice says the public can swim: A) every morning B) weekday afternoons and weekends C) only at weekends. Answer: **B**. A is the scope trap (*mornings* belong to schools), C forgets the weekday afternoons.

Person: “*Jia wants a two-day course, in the evening, for beginners, under 200 yuan.*” – a checklist of four. A text missing **any** one of the four is not her course.

Check yourself

Answer first, then read the explanation.

1. The correct option shares zero content words with the text. – **Fine.** Meaning, not words: the B1 paraphrase.
2. *may* in the text, *must* in the option. – **The scope changed; it's a trap.**
3. A text satisfies three of Jia's four requirements. – **Not the answer.** Checklists don't negotiate.
4. Two people matched to the same text. – **One of them is wrong.** Re-read both checklists.
5. Spending 15 minutes on Part 1. – **Too slow.** Parts 1–2 fund the paper; ten minutes, then move.