EUROLINGUE NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Eurolingue school

in cooperation with

Cambridge Assessment English

SAVE THE DATE!

Teaching Skills



Workshops for teachers 2026

Time 15.30-18.30

- Wednesday 4 March
  AGRIGENTO
- Wednesday 25 March
  CALTANISSETTA
- Wednesday 15 April
  SCIACCA



Why students lose marks at B1

Many students at B1 level have a solid knowledge of English, yet still lose valuable marks in the exam. Why does this happen? In most cases, the problem is **not grammar or vocabulary**, but a lack of familiarity with **exam tasks, time management, and effective strategies.**

In this issue, we highlight the **10 most common mistakes** B1 candidates make in Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking, along with practical tips to help you avoid them. Understanding how the exam works — and how to approach each task — can make a significant difference to your final result.

Message from the School Director and Cambridge Exams Manager



January is the perfect time to focus on progress in your English learning journey. In this issue, we highlight common B1 exam mistakes and simple strategies to avoid them. **With the right guidance, improvement is always possible.**



Reading

Mistake 1: Not reading the task carefully

Students often answer what they think the question is asking.

How to avoid it:

- Read the task **before** the text
- Underline key words
- Check how many answers are required

Mistake 2: Looking for the same words in the text

B1 exams use **paraphrasing**, not identical wording.

How to avoid it:

- Focus on meaning, not single words
- Practise common synonyms

Mistake 3: Spending too much time on one question

Getting stuck wastes time needed for easier questions.

How to avoid it:

- Move on and come back later
- Manage your time carefully



Writing

Mistake 4: Not answering all parts of the task

Missing one content point means lost marks.

How to avoid it:

- Highlight all content points
- Tick them as you write

Mistake 5: Writing too little or too much

Too short = incomplete
Too long = more mistakes

How to avoid it:

- Aim for **100–120 words**
- Spend **2 minutes planning** before writing

Mistake 6: Using the wrong style

Writing to a friend is different from writing to a teacher or organiser.

How to avoid it:

- Informal: friendly tone, contractions
- Neutral: polite, simple language



Listening

Mistake 7: Panicking when you don't understand everything

You don't need to understand every word.

How to avoid it:

- Listen for key information
- Stay calm and keep listening

Mistake 8: Changing answers because of stress

Many students change correct answers.

How to avoid it:

- Trust your first answer
- Change only if you are sure

Speaking (continues on the next page)

"Successful exam performance depends not only on language ability, but also on understanding the task and applying effective exam strategies."

—Cambridge Assessment English



Speaking

Mistake 9: Giving very short answers
One-word answers lead to lower marks.

How to avoid it:
Use this simple structure:
Answer + reason + example

Mistake 10: Staying silent when you don't know a word
Silence is worse than making mistakes.

How to avoid it:
• Paraphrase
• Use simple language
• Say: "I'm not sure how to say it, but..."

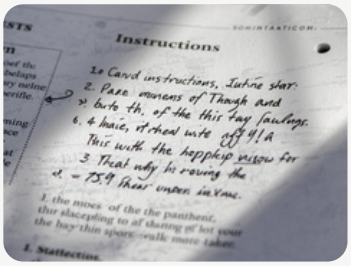
Final Tips for B1 Success



1. Be clear, not perfect



2. Communicate — don't translate



3. Practise real exam tasks task analysis (no guessing)



Award Ceremony at Liceo Generale Cascino in Piazza Armerina, one of the oldest Eurolingue School's Preparation Centers for Cambridge English Exams

How We Help B1 Students Succeed

- Cambridge-aligned exam strategies
- Clear task analysis (no guessing)
- Real exam-style practice
- Personalised feedback from qualified teachers

Want to Prepare the Smart Way?

This guide shows what to **avoid**.

In our **B1 Preliminary Preparation Course**, we focus on:

• Exam strategies
• Confidence building
• Real speaking and writing practice

👉 Visit our website to find out more

📞 For information: +327-759-9897

Eurolingue school **English brings people together**