

Rules of the contest

The objective of The Big Challenge

The main objective of **THE BIG CHALLENGE** is to **support English learning through a fun, educational activity**. For the event to be a success and create real motivation among students, it needs to bring together as many participants as possible within the school.

Who is it for?

The contest is open to students from **Primary level through Level 5** of secondary education, learning English in schools across the Benelux region (Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg). Students not meeting these criteria and registered by mistake will be classified out of competition.

Native speakers and students who are proficient in English due to outside learning other than in school may take part **out of competition**: they receive all participant prizes but do not appear in the regional/national rankings. Schools must **tell us the names of these students in advance**, at the time of registration. Alternatively, the coordinating teacher can attribute the status of native speaker to the students in their teacher account themselves once they have taken the contest. This must be done as soon as possible and **one day after the end of the contest period at the very latest**.

How to take part

In each school, a member of the teaching staff - the **BIG CHALLENGE COORDINATOR** - registers the school online.

The coordinator is the **point of contact** between the contest secretariat, teachers and the school's administrative staff.

Contest materials, final rankings and prizes are sent to the coordinator for all registered classes.

Schools unable to run the contest on the scheduled date can contact us to request an **exemption**.

Funding

THE BIG CHALLENGE receives no financial support and is entirely funded by the participation fee charged per student:

- 5 EUR per student

Payment

The participation fee can be paid by **families**, by the **school itself**, or **shared** between the two. Fees must be paid **in full at the time of registration**, and no later than the registration deadline, to allow for prize ordering.

Once registered and paid, entries **cannot be cancelled or refunded**. Prizes are sent to the school for **all registered students**, whether present on contest day or not. An **invoice** is issued on request.

How it runs

Contest date	15 - 27 March 2027
Duration	45 minutes
Time slot	Chosen by teachers (several sessions possible)

The test itself takes **45 minutes**. We recommend setting aside a full hour for the session, to leave time to set everything up and make sure all students are settled in before the test begins.

The test

The contest is a **multiple-choice questionnaire** (4 possible answers, one correct). Questions cover **vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation and civilisation**. A separate questionnaire is set for **each grade level**, matched to the school curriculum.

The test is **strictly individual**, with no outside help or aids (book, dictionary, search engine, another person). It takes place under the **supervision of a teacher** or another member of the teaching staff. Any student found to have used outside help of any kind will be **disqualified from the rankings**.

Scoring - 55 questions, 350 pts max

- **25 easy questions:** +4 pts / correct answer, -1 pt / wrong answer
- **15 medium questions:** +5 pts / correct answer, -1.25 pt / wrong answer
- **15 hard questions:** +6 pts / correct answer, -1.5 pt / wrong answer
- No answer or multiple answers: 0 points
- Total + **85 pts** (final score between 18.75 and 350)

Marking and rankings

All marking is carried out by **The Big Challenge**. Scores and rankings are sent to the school together with the prizes.

In the event of a **tie** at the top, priority goes first to the highest number of questions answered, then to the youngest student.

Prizes

- **Per student:** certificate of participation + a small English-themed gift.
- **Per school:** extra prizes are sent to the school, in a quantity proportionate to the number of registered students — teachers can then give these out as they see fit. In each school, the top student of each level also receives a special medal.
- **At national level (best of the year):** the top-ranked students receive a special prize + gold certificates. A student can win a national prize only once during their school years.
- **The BOOST Award:** prize draw among students with at least 50% correct answers.
- **The CHALLENGE Award:** prize draw among students who improved compared to last year.
- **The STRATEGY Award:** prize draw among students with the best ratio between correct answers and number of questions answered.