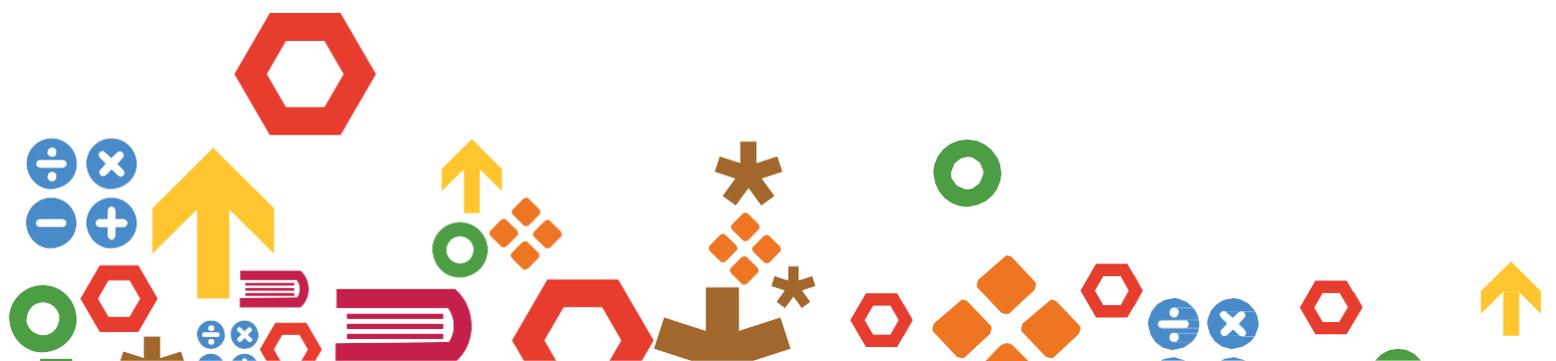


**PAT Grammar and  
Punctuation Trial 2025**  
Year 3–9 test administration  
instructions

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## TRIAL INFORMATION

### Purpose

This trial is vital to the ongoing development of PAT Grammar and Punctuation. Following the trial, statistical analysis will be carried out and this along with feedback from schools will help determine what has worked and can be included in the final assessments.

### Year levels

This trial is open to students in years 3–9. Students will be assigned a trial test based on their current year level.

### Trial period

The trial period runs from **Monday 28 April** to **Friday 4 July**. Your students will be able to complete the trial tests at any time between these dates.

### Content

The trial tests contain a selection of updated content in contemporary contexts that we need to try out with a similar population to the one that will ultimately sit the final tests, to make sure the content works well.

The trial tests are not necessarily representative of the whole test construct. This means that there can be a disproportionate number of questions relating to a particular strand or that one trial test might be slightly harder or easier than another.

For equating purposes, some questions from the current PAT Grammar and Punctuation assessments are included in the trial tests.

### Test time

The suggested time is **30 minutes** for all students per form.

### Test assignment

ACER is responsible for the assignment of trial tests to your students. There are a number of trial tests consisting of different trial questions and only one PAT Grammar and Punctuation trial test will be assigned to each of your participating students. Within each year level, students will be assigned a mix of trial tests to enable the gathering of a varied data sample.

### Incentive

The first 50 schools to complete at least 50 PAT Grammar and Punctuation trial test will receive a year of complimentary access to the new edition of PAT Grammar and Punctuation when it is released in 2026.

## Examples of new text selection items

In addition to traditional multiple-choice questions, students may encounter new interactive formats that require them to select specific text within a passage.

Choose the correct forms of the verbs from the list to complete the sentence.

It  to get dark while they  home.

starts  
 started

were driving  
 have driven

Click on the word that needs to be **removed** to make this sentence correct.

Millie's the one who I saw **her** at the park playing footy yesterday.

## Teacher expectations

After the trial tests have been completed, the teacher who administered the tests is encouraged to complete a post-test feedback survey. The survey will ask for general feedback about the test content, as well as students' experience with the assessment. The link will be provided at the end of the trial period.

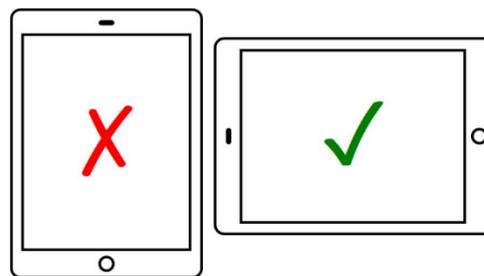
## Results

Instant raw score reports will be available from within your online school account. Note, however, that the purpose of the trial is to test content and not students. The reports will only display your students' correct and incorrect responses and the percentage correct within your selected group for each question. Results will not be supplied to the system your school belongs to, if applicable.

We do not recommend that schools review the trial questions in detail or take students through the answers. In a trial we do not know how the questions will work, and we may find that questions are not suitable for inclusion in final assessments. It does, however, serve as valuable practice for students and teachers alike and allows schools to have direct input into the makeup of future assessments through teacher feedback.

## PRIOR TO TESTING

- Tablets must be held in landscape orientation
- iPad minis should **not** be used, as their display is too narrow even when held in landscape orientation.
- Ensure that all students are listed within your school's online assessment account and have been assigned the necessary trial test forms. If you do not have access to the account, check with the staff responsible for this at your school.
- Schedule your testing date and time. ACER recommends that tests are administered in the morning and not immediately before or after an exciting school event.
- Run the browser exam from a student computer or device to check whether your school's setup meets the minimum technical requirements. Alternatively, send the technical requirements to your school's IT technician.  
Browser exam: <https://oars.acer.edu.au/browserexam/>



### Technical requirements

- Minimum screen resolution: 1024w × 768h
- Tablet screen size: 10.2"
- Minimum DSL or cable internet connection: 56 Kbps
- Compatible computers and devices: PC or laptop, Apple Mac, iPad (not iPad Mini), other tablet devices
- Compatible web browsers (latest versions): Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Safari, Microsoft Edge
- The following domains must be whitelisted/permitted by the network firewall or security settings:
  - acer.org/
  - acer.edu.au/
  - delivery.acer.edu.au/
  - delivery2.acer.edu.au/
- Make note of your school's online assessment login page, or make sure that the page URL is saved on student devices, or available as a link from your school's intranet. The web address will be similar to <https://oars.acer.edu.au/your-school-name>.
- Download or print a list of your students' login details. This is completed from the **Students** page within your school's online assessment account.
- You may determine that some students require changed testing provisions due to specific learning needs. There is no need to report these accommodations to ACER for the purpose of the technical trial. Please note there are unfortunately no accessible versions of the trial forms available.

## ON TESTING DAYS

### Notes

- ACER’s trial tests should be administered under standard testing conditions with invigilation.
- Students will not be automatically locked out of the tests after the allowed time passes. You must monitor and manage the time, including accommodating toilet breaks or other interruptions that may occur.
- Student responses are automatically saved each time they navigate to another question.
- If technical problems cause the need to postpone the completion of the tests, students may close the browser without losing their progress.

## STARTING THE TEST

Once students are seated at their computers or devices, instruct them to load your school’s online login page:

ACER School of Excellence Menu

### Log in

Username

Password

[Log in](#)

[Forgot your password?](#)

[I have a registration code](#)

Contact us

- ✉ school.support@acer.org
- ☎ 1300 006 577
- 🌐 User guide and assessment documentation

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Each student should be given their username and password. Students should enter their usernames and passwords and then click **Log in**.

**Please note:** Usernames and passwords are case sensitive.

Once students have logged in, say:

*Please follow my instructions and do not click through the screens unless you are told to do so. Please enter the username and password given to you and then click **Log in**.*

Students will see a screen listing all assessments currently assigned to them:

The screenshot shows a web interface for the ACER School of Excellence. At the top left, it says "ACER School of Excellence". At the top right, there is a "Menu" button with a hamburger icon. Below the header, the user is greeted with "Welcome, Wade Abbott". Underneath, the title "PAT Grammar and Punctuation Trial 2025" is displayed. A prominent card features a green "NEW" badge, the text "Trial Test 4A1", and "Last updated: 10th April 2025, 02:49pm". A right-pointing arrow icon is on the right side of the card. The footer contains the copyright information "© 2025 Australian Council for Educational Research" and "ABN: 19 004 398 145" next to the ACER logo.

Each student's name will be displayed at the top of the welcome page.

Check that all students are logged in with the correct details.

Say:

*Please raise your hand if the name at the top of the page is not your own.*

Otherwise, you may have to inspect the devices yourself to check.

Once you have ensured all students are logged in with the correct names, they may open the test.

Say:

*Please click **PAT Grammar and Punctuation Trial Test**.*

The following screen will be shown:

**PAT Grammar and Punctuation Trial Test 4A1**

This is a test of your grammar and punctuation skills.  
You will have 30 minutes to complete the test.

## Directions

- Carefully read each question, then choose the one answer you think is best.
- You can change your answer if you want to.
- The number at the top of the screen will change colour and shape when you answer that question.

1 2 3 4 5

- If you skip a question, you can click on that number to go back.

Click the **Start test** button when your teacher tells you to.

**Start test**

Say:

*I will read through the directions shown on your screen. Please listen carefully and read silently along with me so you understand the instructions. Please do not begin the test until you are told to do so (Dictate directions above).*

Then say:

*Work as carefully as you can. Do not spend too long on one question, even if it is hard. After you complete the last question, review your work and check that you have answered all of the previous questions. Once you have completed your test, click **Finish** on the last page. Are there any questions?*

Check that the instructions have been understood. You can answer any questions about the test but not the test content and make sure students are ready to begin.

Say:

*Click **Start test** to begin.*

After 25 minutes, say:

*You have five more minutes to finish your work.*

After a further five minutes, say:

*Please click **End** in the navigation bar and then click **Finish**. Please click **Finish** again to log out.*

## TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter any problems when administering the tests, contact ACER for support:

Phone: **1300 006 577**

Email: [school.support@acer.org](mailto:school.support@acer.org)

### Why can't my student log in?

There are several possible causes:

- Logins are case sensitive. Check that the student is entering their username and password correctly.
- Some devices and browsers will automatically capitalise some words, or automatically fill login fields with saved details. The student should be able to overwrite these automatic suggestions by typing their complete details. If the problem persists, check the browser or device settings, or use another web browser.
- Check that the student is on the correct login page.
- If you have a staff login, check that the student's login details are correct by logging in to the account with your staff login details and clicking the student's name on the **Students** page.

### Why is the test not appearing for my student?

The test is not currently assigned to the student. Please contact ACER to assign the test to your student.

### Can I re-open a student's test if they submit it before they are finished?

Yes. If you have a staff login, follow the steps below to re-open a student's test to allow them to continue:

1. Log in to your school's account using your staff login.
2. Click **Students** and locate the student's name in your list.
3. Click the student's name to view their profile and then click the **Tests** tab.
4. Click the dropdown menu next to the test you need to re-open and then click **Re-open test**.

### Can I close a student's test if they forget to submit it?

Yes. If you have a staff login, follow the steps below to close a student's test:

1. Log in to your school's account using your staff login.
2. Click **Students** and locate the student's name in your list. (You will see the unfinished test listed in the **Active tests** column and marked with a pencil icon).
3. Click the check box next to the student's name and then click **Tests > Close unfinished tests**.
4. Select the test you need to close and then click **Close test**.

## GENERATING REPORTS

After your students have completed their test, you can view reports.

The reports for the trial forms should be generated from the Students page of your online school account by following the steps below:

- Log in to your online school account
- Go to the Students page
- Select the group of students you want to include in the report (you may want to filter by year level and/or tags)
- Click 'Select all X students'
- Click 'Generate Report'
- Choose 'PAT Grammar and Punctuation Trial 2025'
- Choose 'Group Report'
- Choose the test form (e.g., PAT Grammar and Punctuation Trial Test 4A1)
- Specify the time period (optional)
- Click 'Generate Report'
- Click 'View Report'

You can save the report as a spreadsheet by clicking the 'Download' button and choosing 'Table (Excel file)'. You can also click the 'View charts' button and print a chart showing the students' performance, which can be sorted by either question number or the percentage of correct responses to each question.

The trial reports will only show you the raw scores achieved by each student on the test, as well as the percentage of students within the group that responded correctly to each question.

While you will not be able to preview the questions the students were asked from this Group Report, you can do so by using the test preview feature from the 'Students' section:

- Log in to your online school account
- Go to the Students page
- Click the 'Tests' button
- Choose 'Preview' from the drop-down menu
- Choose 'PAT Grammar and Punctuation Trial 2025)
- Choose the test form (e.g., Trial Test 4A1)



- Click 'Preview'
- You will now see the test as your students saw it

For assistance with generating reports, please contact the ACER School Support team:

Phone: **1300 006 577**

Email: [school.support@acer.org](mailto:school.support@acer.org)