



## ASSESSING ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY: TRADITIONAL VS. ALTERNATIVE METHODS

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**Abstract.** This article discusses assessing English language proficiency: traditional vs. alternative methods.

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In today's world, knowledge of English is not just a valuable skill, but also a prerequisite for professional growth, education, and international communication. Given this need, methods and approaches to assessing English proficiency are also evolving, including various forms and methods from traditional testing to modern portfolios.

Traditional testing has long been the main tool for assessing knowledge. Standardized tests such as TOEFL and IELTS assess English proficiency by focusing on reading, writing, listening, and speaking. These tests are widely used by universities and employers around the world as a requirement for employment or training [3].

Modern approaches: However, in recent years, there has been a shift away from traditional methods towards more comprehensive assessment approaches. One such approach is the use of online learning and assessment platforms that offer adaptive learning and instant feedback on the language acquisition process. These platforms can track a user's progress in real time, adapting learning materials to their individual needs and learning speed.

Modern platforms usually include a variety of learning methods, such as interactive exercises, video tutorials, artificial intelligence for personalized recommendations, and game elements that make the learning process more engaging and less monotonous [2]. This approach helps maintain a high level of motivation among learners, as they see concrete results of their progress and receive feedback in real time, which allows them to quickly adjust their learning plan and focus on those aspects of the language that require additional practice. In addition, many online platforms include functionality for communicating with native speakers and other students through forums or chats, which provides an opportunity to practice real communication in English, improve speaking and listening skills in a context close to the natural language environment. This not





only increases the level of language competence, but also stimulates cultural exchange and understanding between people from different countries [1].

Portfolios as an assessment method are becoming increasingly popular in the field of education. This is an approach that allows students or language learners to demonstrate their achievements and progress in learning English through a variety of work: essays, projects, video presentations and audio recordings. Portfolios highlight not only the final result, but also the learning process, allowing you to identify strengths and areas for development.

Advantages of using a portfolio compared to traditional tests:

Firstly, a portfolio provides deep individualization of the learning and assessment process, allowing students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills through various forms of work: written assignments, projects, video and audio materials. This contributes to the development of critical thinking, independence and a creative approach to problem solving [1].

Secondly, a portfolio allows you to track the student's progress over a long period of time, which gives a complete and more objective picture of their level of English proficiency, as well as strengths and weaknesses. Unlike standardized tests, which assess knowledge at one point in time and can be influenced by external factors such as stress or fatigue [2].

A third benefit is that portfolio creation can be more motivating for learners, as it gives them the opportunity to express and present themselves, unlike standardized tests, which are often perceived as disconnected from real life and not directly related to the practical use of the language.

Communicative: the basis is conversational practice, diverse communication in the language being studied, allowing you to overcome the notorious language barrier with surprising ease. Combines: communication in English from the very first lesson, even for those learning the language "from scratch"; the use of superbly developed teaching aids, the material of which can be successfully applied in everyday life. It is on this approach that training programs with native-speaking teachers are based. A striking example is the British school CIS International School, which offers training for preschool children and complete secondary education (Russian state certificate + Cambridge certificate) - call right now and find out how your child can become bilingual and gain access to further education at the best universities in the world.

The method excludes cramming grammar rules, replacing memorization of rules with their repeated practical application, and ensures knowledge of a





foreign language at the level of a second native language. Learning through reading: the basis is reading specially adapted literature, learning in an easy mode, which is well suited for beginners. This passive method is remarkable in that the process is based on fascinating reading and does not involve doing exercises: associative thinking already allows our brain to absorb new material, the process is only provided with additional efficiency. Of course, we are not talking about reading English-language authors in the original. Books built according to this method are a thoughtful combination of adapted text and interlinear Russian translation with transcription and explanation of individual words. The approach excludes mechanical cramming (as well as “development of skills”) and is based on involvement and novelty of impressions. The method is proprietary, the author is Ilya Frank [3].

Thus, to summarize, we can say that modern approaches to assessing English language proficiency reflect the desire to make the process more flexible, personalized and multimodal. The move away from exclusively testing to complex and integrative assessment methods, such as portfolios, allows for a complete and more accurate picture of language proficiency, taking into account its practical application in real life.

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