

## English language test suggested for Australia visa

10th October, 2020



Visa requirements in Australia just got a little tougher. Foreign partners of existing residents who want a permanent residence visa must soon have to pass an English language test. Australia's government says it is important that people

prove a predetermined level of English proficiency before they are granted a permanent visa. The prerequisite could be in place from the middle of 2021. Immigration Minister Alan Tudge said: "We will require an applicant and a sponsor to have met a functional level English or to have at least made reasonable efforts to learn English." He said such efforts would entail about 500 hours of free English classes on a government-run language programme.

The proposed requirement has stoked controversy in Australia's parliament. Politicians critical of the planned measure called the new language test "discriminatory" and "racist". They argue it targets people from non-Western nations and their partners. A spokesman for Australia's opposition party said: "English proficiency isn't a test of someone's love." He said couples already faced an uphill struggle in the application process and that the new requirement would add an "additional burden". An immigration expert said: "It certainly puts a lot of pressure on couples who've been hit hard by COVID. Many of them have lost their jobs and now they've got this added burden to pass an English test."

Sources: [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au) / [sbs.com.au](http://sbs.com.au)

## Writing

There should be no language requirement for any kind of visa. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

visa / foreign / partner / resident / proficiency / sponsor / functional / English classes / controversy / parliament / discriminatory / racist / nation / struggle / couple / burden

## True / False

- a) People will need to take a language test to get an Australian tourist visa. T / F
- b) The new test could start in around June or July next year. T / F
- c) The applicant for the visa will need a sponsor. T / F
- d) The government will give people 500 hours of free English tuition. T / F
- e) The proposed test has created little fuss in Australia's parliament. T / F
- f) Australia said it is targeting people from non-Western nations. T / F
- g) An opposition spokesperson said couples faced an uphill struggle. T / F
- h) Many of the people who want a visa have lost their jobs. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>1. requirements</b>   | a. prejudicial    |
| <b>2. residents</b>      | b. acceptable     |
| <b>3. proficiency</b>    | c. involve        |
| <b>4. reasonable</b>     | d. skill          |
| <b>5. entail</b>         | e. responsibility |
| <b>6. controversy</b>    | f. battle         |
| <b>7. discriminatory</b> | g. prerequisites  |
| <b>8. struggle</b>       | h. specialist     |
| <b>9. expert</b>         | i. disagreement   |
| <b>10. burden</b>        | j. citizens       |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Why do you think the proposal is controversial?
- c) Why might the test be seen as racist?
- d) How could you test someone's love for their partner?
- e) What uphill struggles have you faced with English?
- f) What English tests have you taken?
- g) Is the test an unwanted additional burden?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Australia's government?

## Phrase Match

- |                                        |                        |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Visa                                | a. proficiency         |
| 2. partners of existing                | b. burden to pass      |
| 3. a permanent                         | c. level of English    |
| 4. a predetermined level of English    | d. Western nations     |
| 5. a functional                        | e. residents           |
| 6. The proposed requirement has stoked | f. an uphill struggle  |
| 7. it targets people from non-         | g. requirements        |
| 8. couples already faced               | h. pressure on couples |
| 9. It certainly puts a lot of          | i. residence visa      |
| 10. now they've got this added         | j. controversy         |

## Discussion – Student B

- How good is your English?
- What do you think of English language tests?
- What do you think of visas?
- Should a visa depend on a language test?
- Should residents in a country all have to speak the language?
- Which country would you like to have a permanent residence visa for?
- What efforts are you making to learn English?
- What advice do you have for people studying English?

## Spelling

- partners of ingixset residents
- a permanent ecisernde visa
- a iptdeenmerde level
- English oipyrncfice
- The rtipeugesrie could be in place
- tinael about 500 hours
- stoked eyotcrsrovn
- Australia's armnptaiei
- oiyitarcsnmdri and racist
- the ilipcnaoatp process
- An iairnotimmg expert
- they've got this added rbeund to pass

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. j	3. d	4. b	5. c
6. i	7. a	8. f	9. h	10. e

## Role Play

### Role A – Spelling

You think spelling is the most important area of English to be good at. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the Least important of these (and why): vocabulary, grammar or pronunciation.

### Role B – Vocabulary

You think vocabulary is the most important area of English to be good at. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the Least important of these (and why): spelling, grammar or pronunciation.

### Role C – Grammar

You think grammar is the most important area of English to be good at. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the Least important of these (and why): vocabulary, spelling or pronunciation.

### Role D – Pronunciation

You think pronunciation is the most important area of English to be good at. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the Least important of these (and why): vocabulary, grammar or spelling.

## Speaking – English

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important English skills at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| • Listening    | • Speaking      |
| • Translating  | • Vocabulary    |
| • Writing      | • Pronunciation |
| • Interpreting | • Reading       |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.