About this Book

Get Ready for Cambridge Primary Checkpoint English will help you to revise all the main reading and writing skills you have studied at Stage 6. With lots of practice exercises, it will also prepare you for your end-of-year tests. The book has two main sections: Grammar, punctuation and writing skills; and Reading and writing.

Section 1: Grammar, punctuation and writing skills
This section reviews and practises the main grammar, punctuation and writing skills covered in the Stage 6 Checkpoint Primary English curriculum. After revising the explanations of the different skills, you will put your knowledge into practise by completing the Over to You! exercises. Section 1 also includes two Revise and Check tests, so that you can evaluate your progress and pinpoint any areas where you need further revision.

Take note!
Revision is most effective when you do a little bit at a time, but you do it often. Set yourself a goal to spend a small amount of time every day revising.

Section 2: Reading and writing
This section looks at a variety of different types of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. For each text type, you will read the extracts and poems, and then answer a number of comprehension questions and further questions about the writer’s use of language. You will then complete your own piece of writing, using the reading text as a model. This will give you the opportunity to practise writing in different styles.

At the end of this section, you will complete two tests – one based on two non-fiction texts and the other based on a fiction text. These tests will show you what you might expect to see when you take the Stage 6 Checkpoint Primary English tests, and they will help you to practise and be prepared.
Active and passive verbs

Sentences can be written using **active verbs** or **passive verbs**.

**Active verbs**
In sentences that have an **active verb**:
- the subject is the person or thing that performs the action of the verb (the doer); and
- the object is the person or thing that the action is done to (the receiver).

My brother ate all the cake.

subject / doer  verb / action  object / receiver

**Passive verbs**
In sentences that have a **passive verb**, it is the opposite way round, so:
- the subject is the person or thing that the action is done to (the receiver); and
- the object is the person or thing that performs the action of the verb (the doer).

All the grapes were eaten by my sister.

subject / receiver  verb / action  object / doer

When sentences have a passive verb, this is called the **passive voice**. The passive voice is used for several reasons:
- The doer of the action is unknown, for example, ‘The car was stolen in the night.’ We know that the car was stolen, but we do not know who stole it.
- The doer of the action is not important, for example, ‘The road will be closed for repairs from 13 June.’ We know that the road will be closed, but we do not need to know who will close it.
- You do not want to name the doer, for example, ‘Mistakes have been made, but we are doing all we can to improve.’ You do not want to tell anyone who made the mistakes, for example, if you do not want to embarrass them.
- You are talking about a general truth, for example, ‘Rules are made to be broken.’
- You do not want the doer to be emphasised in the sentence, for example, ‘A medical breakthrough occurred when penicillin was discovered in 1928.’ You know that penicillin was discovered by Alexander Fleming, but the most important thing you want to say is that penicillin was discovered in 1928.

Sentences using the passive voice are written like this:

receiver + be + past participle of verb + by + doer.

For example: ‘Our tests are marked by our teacher.’ and ‘My bike was stolen by someone Jake knows.’

The verb ‘be’ is written in the tense of the whole sentence, whether it is the present tense, past tense or future tense:
Present tense
Active: We are cleaning the house.
Passive: The house is being cleaned (by us).

Past tense
Active: Lena bought the book for two dollars.
Passive: The book was bought for two dollars (by Lena).

Future tense
Active: I will pay for Nick’s flight.
Passive: Nick’s flight will be paid for (by me).

Over to You!
1 Write the sentences in the passive voice.

   1 Bees make honey.

   2 Alexander Bell invented the first telephone in 1876.

   3 The police officer has taken the witness to a safe house.

   4 The birds ate all the seeds I planted.

   5 In June, people will deliver the baby panda to its new home in Berlin Zoo.

2 Rewrite the sentences and correct the mistakes in the passive voice.

   1 All the hens was shut up in the outhouse.

   2 The stolen goods were gived to the police.

   3 The tigers is fed with fresh meat every day.

   4 In 2003, the game was putted on the market for the first time.

   5 Tea will being served at 3 o’clock.

   6 Since 2013, 103,000 copies of the book has been sold.