

Preparing for VELT

VELT is a proficiency test. This means it tests how competent you are in mastering aspects of English grammar and vocabulary. Although you should be able to pass VELT without extensive preparation, you might nevertheless want to practise before taking the test.

The books below should help you get fit for VELT, but they are also books which you will be using in the language courses further in your academic career at the Department. All of these books are available in the departmental library.

Books:

- 1. Any monolingual, encyclopaedic English dictionary for foreign learners**
e.g. Collins Cobuild English Language Dictionary
- 2. Choice of handbooks of English usage**
 - Swan, M. 2005. *Practical English Usage* (3rd edition). Oxford: OUP.
 - Collins Cobuild. 2012. *English Usage*. (3rd edition). Glasgow: Harper Collins.
- 3. Choice of self-study grammar books**
 - Downing, Angela; Locke, Philip. 2006. *A University Course in English Grammar*. (2nd edition). Abingdon: Routledge.
 - Hewings, Martin. 2013. *Advanced Grammar in Use with answers and CD-Rom*. (3rd edition) Cambridge: CUP.
 - Huddleston, R; Pullum, G.K. 2005. *A Student's Introduction to English Grammar*. Cambridge: CUP.
 - Swan, Michael; Walter, Catherine. 1997. *How English Works*. Oxford: OUP.
(This book contains a test which should give you an idea of the grammar chapters you ought to revise)
- 4. Self-study vocabulary books** (all Cambridge University Press)
 - McCarthy, Michael; O'Dell, Felicity. 2001. *English Vocabulary in Use, Upper Intermediate*, (2nd edition). Cambridge: CUP.
 - McCarthy, Michael; O'Dell, Felicity. 2002. *English Vocabulary in Use, Advanced*.
 - McCarthy, Michael; O'Dell, Felicity. 2008. *Academic Vocabulary in Use*.
- 5. Choice of collocation dictionaries**
 - *Oxford Collocation Dictionary for Students of English*. 2009. Oxford: OUP.
 - Hill, J.; Lewis, Michael. 1997. *Dictionary of Selected Collocations*. London: LTP.
 - Benson, Morton, et al. 2010. *The BBI Combinatory Dictionary of English: Your guide to collocations and grammar*. (3rd edition). Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Activities:

- Listen regularly, e.g. to the news, and make a note of unfamiliar words or structures. Look them up in a monolingual dictionary and study the information given.
- Read extensively, e.g. quality newspapers or magazine articles. Again make a note of new words and phrases and revise them on a regular basis.
- Practise new words and phrases regularly using learning strategies (such as revising before going to bed).
- Practise test taking, for example on the internet.
- Learn to devise your own multiple choice tests. This way you will become more aware of the choices presented to you in a specific task.