



English Without Borders

2025 Olympiad

Hippo English Olympiad

The Global Youth English (Non-native) Challenge



English Without Borders

100000+ students participated globally in 2024 | **12 Years** History |

12 Difficulty Levels for Students Aged 6 to 19 |

Advancement Preliminary - National Finals - Regional Qualifiers - Global Finals |

Italy Free trip to Assisi for the Global Finals

Hippo English Olympiad Program Introduction

Hippo "English Without Borders" Olympiad is organized by the GLOBAL HIPPO ASSOCIATION, a non-profit organization founded in 2012 and based in Italy. With the mission "English without borders", the Hippo English Olympiad is based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages CEFR and is divided into 12 levels of difficulty for young people aged 6 to 19 from non-native speaking countries and regions. In the past 12 years, more than 60 countries and regions around the world have organized students to participate, and more than 100,000 students worldwide participated in 2024, making it the world's most influential English (non-native) challenge for youth.

Hippo English Olympiad Advancement System



Preliminary Round

March 15, 2025,
Saturday 10am

- Duration: 40-75 minutes (varies by grade)
- Location: Nationwide Schools as Test Center / Online
- Test Content: Reading | Use of English



National Finals

Grade1-4: 5.1 - 5.3, 2025
Grade5-12: 5.2 - 5.5, 2025

- Location: Macao, China
- Test Content: Reading | Writing
- Event Content: Hippo Assessment National Finals + All-Star Carnival
- Participants: First, Second and Third prize winners of the Preliminary Round



Regional Qualifiers

July, 2025

- Location: Da Nang, Vietnam
- Test Content: Use of English
Open-ended questions | Crossword
- Participants: Outstanding candidates from Asian countries



Global Finals

9.29-10.1, 2025

- Location: Assisi, Italy
(Participation, Registration and three-day half-board accommodation fees are free of charge)
- Test Content: Reading | Listening | Writing | Speaking | Use of English
- Participants: Top 180 worldwide

*The specific arrangements are subject to the actual notification.

Hippo English Olympiad Academic Support

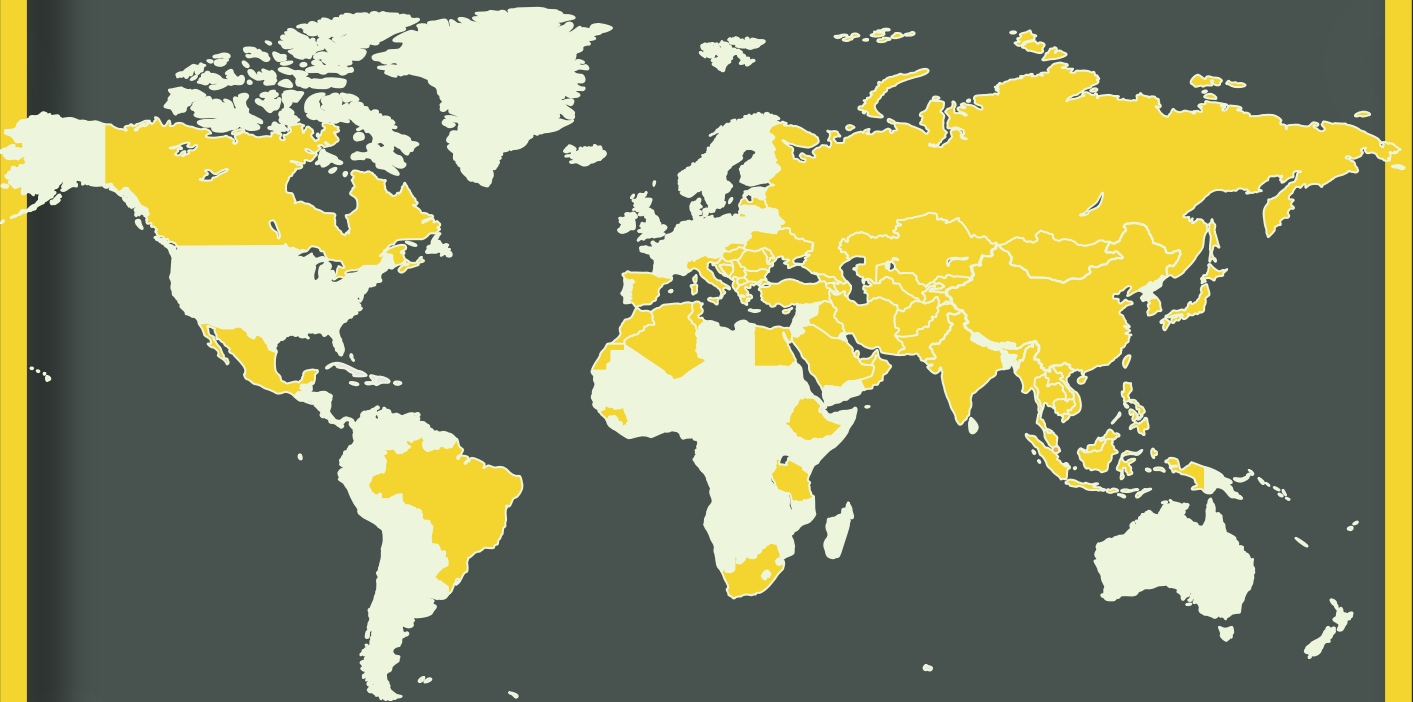


Officially Recognised by Ofqual, the Office of Qualification and Examinations Regulation



The Hippo English Olympiad Official Test Committee, provides test questions based on CEFR standards

Hippo English Olympiad Participating Countries and Regions



Asia:

- China
- Japan
- Korea
- Afghanistan
- Azerbaijan
- Brunei
- Cambodia
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Laos
- Lebanon
- Armenia
- Malaysia
- Mongolia
- Burma
- Pakistan
- Palestine
- Philippines
- Saudi Arabia

- Singapore
- Tajikistan
- Thailand
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan
- Vietnam

Europe:

- Russia
- Albania
- Cyprus
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Estonia
- Greece
- Hungary
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- North Macedonia
- Romania
- Serbia

- Slovenia
- Ukraine

South America:

- Brazil

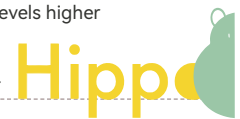
Africa:

- Algeria
- Egypt
- Morocco
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Tunisia
- Ghana
- Guinea

Hippo English Olympiad Difficulty Level and Age

	Grade	Preliminary Round of CEFR level	National & World Finals of CEFR level	Age Recommended	School Grade
Regular Category	Baby HIPPO	CEFR Pre A1 YL	CEFR A1 YL	6-7	Grade 1-2
	Little Hippo	CEFR Pre A1 YL	CEFR A1 YL	8-9	Grade 3-4
	HIPPO 1	CEFR A1 YL	CEFR A2 YL	10-12	Grade 5-6
	HIPPO 2	CEFR A1	CEFR A2	12	Grade 7
	HIPPO 3	CEFR A2	CEFR B1	13-14	Grade 8-9
	HIPPO 4	CEFR B1	CEFR B2	15-16	Grade 10-11
	HIPPO 5	CEFR B2	CEFR C1	17-19	Grade 12
Special Category	HIPPO S1	CEFR A1	CEFR A2	10-11	Grade 5-6
	HIPPO S2	CEFR A2	CEFR B1	12	Grade 7
	HIPPO S3	CEFR B1	CEFR B2	13-14	Grade 8-9
	HIPPO S4	CEFR B2	CEFR C1	15-16	Grade 10-11
	HIPPO S5	CEFR C1	CEFR C2	17-19	Grade 12

1. Baby HIPPO exam is the same level of difficulty as Little HIPPO exam.
2. Students may choose a higher HIPPO level than they are suggested based on their school grades, but not a lower HIPPO level. For example, a 7th grade student is recommended to take HIPPO 2, he may also choose to take HIPPO 3 and Hippo 4 if he'd like to, but not HIPPO 1 and lower level.
3. The Special Category is for students with very high English proficiency. The level corresponds to a difficulty level 1-2 levels higher than the Regular Category.
4. Students who enter the 2024 Hippo Global Finals cannot take the same difficulty level assessment as the 2024 Hippo.



*CEFR:

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) is an internationally recognized standard for describing language competence and proficiency and is the most widely accepted reference standard for language assessment worldwide. In many countries, the CEFR has replaced their respective assessment systems for foreign language education. For example, many European education authorities have explicitly defined the CEFR levels that secondary school students should achieve, such as B2 for the first foreign language level and B1 for the second foreign language level.



Benchmarking of CEFR with different language measurement systems

CEFR	Cambridge 剑桥	IELTS 雅思	TOEFL iBT 托福	TOEFL Junior	Lexile Score 蓝思指数
Pre A1	Starters	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
A1	Movers	0 – 2.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
A2	Flyers / KET	3.0 – 3.5	N/A	630-750	up to 450L
B1	PET / BEC Preliminary	4.0 – 5.0	42-71	750-840	450L-650L
B2	FCE / BEC Vantage	5.5 – 6.5	72-94	840-900	650L-850L
C1	CAE / BEC Higher	7.0 – 8.0	95 – 113	N/A	850L-1050L
C2	CPE	8.5 – 9.0	114-120	N/A	1050L+



Hippo English Olympiad Preliminary Round

- Time: March 15th 2025, Saturday, Starting at 10:00 a.m
- Location: Nationwide Schools as Test Center / Online*
- * Online tests require participants to prepare:
 - ① a computer with camera
 - ② a cell phone or Tablet/lpad
- Duration: 40-75 minutes (varies by grade, see below)

Preliminary Round Questions

All questions are Multiple Choice Question

Group	HIPPO Grade	Test content		
		Duration	Reading	Use of English
Regular Category	Baby HIPPO	40mins	30questions 1 point each	20questions 1.5 points each
	Little Hippo	40mins	30questions 1 point each	20questions 1.5 points each
	Hippo 1	50mins	30questions 1 point each	20questions 1.5 points each
	Hippo 2	50mins	34questions 1 point each	20questions 1.5 points each
	Hippo 3	50mins	34questions 1 point each	20questions 1.5 points each
	Hippo 4	70mins	34questions 1 point each	20questions 1.5 points each
Special Category	Hippo 5	75mins	40questions 1 point each	20questions 1.5 points each
	Hippo S1	50mins	34questions 1 point each	20questions 1.5 points each
	HIPPO S2	50mins	34questions 1 point each	20questions 1.5 points each
	HIPPO S3	70mins	34questions 1 point each	20questions 1.5 points each
	Hippo S4	75mins	40questions 1 point each	20questions 1.5 points each
	Hippo S5	75mins	40questions 1 point each	20questions 1.5 points each

Award Setting

- First Prize Top 10% in China
- Second Prize Top 10%-25% in China
- Third Prize Top 25%-40% in China
- Excellence Award Top 25 percent of each province/municipality/autonomous region/special administrative region (except first, second and third prizes)

*The First, Second and Third Prize winners will be invited to participate in the National Finals

*All contestants will receive a certificate of participation from the HIPPO committee



Certificate of Participation (Sample)



Certificate of Achievement (Sample)

Both certificates will identify the CEFR level that corresponds to the participant's level of entry.

- **Participants:** Students aged 6-19 (must have an ID from China or another non-native English speaking country)
- **Participation Fee:** 200 RMB/person or 230 HKD/person (fee includes: paper fee, examination fee, marking fee, certificate fee, reference questions and one online practice exam)
- **Deadline for Preliminary Round's Registration:** February 28th, 2025
- **Registration Methods:**
 - 1: Through the official website (www.seedasdan.org/hippo)
 - 2: Scan the QR code on the left
 - 3: Batch registration by school
- **Academic Supporting Materials:** Sample test papers and answers will be provided by the organizing committee upon registration

Hippo English Olympiad National Finals

- National Finals Theme:** Hippo English Without Borders – Hippo Journey to the West
- Theme Introduction:** For this year’s Hippo English National Round, we have chosen "Hippo Journey to the West" as our theme to convey the concept of "China Story to the World." By incorporating vibrant Chinese cultural elements into this event, we aim to showcase China’s culture and traditions while fostering global understanding and exchange. We believe that language knows no borders, and stories can bridge cultural differences, connecting people from various backgrounds. Through Hippo English, an international platform, we encourage every participant to share their interpretations of Chinese stories in English, allowing more people to appreciate the richness and depth of Chinese culture.
- National Finals Dates and Locations:** Grade1-4: 5.1 – 5.3, 2025 Macao, China
Grade5-12: 5.2 – 5.5, 2025 Macao, China

Hippo National Finals Sample Schedule

Date		9:00-12:00	14:00-18:00
Grade 1-4	5.1	Arrival and Check-in at Hotel	Opening Ceremony (16:30-17:30) · Welcome speech · Rules and Schedule Overview
	5.2	Written Assessment · Reading Test/Writing challenge	Hippo "Journey to the West" English Carnival
	5.3	Speech Showcase on Traditional Chinese Culture Hippo Talent Show	Closing Ceremony and Award Ceremony
Grade 5-12	5.2	Arrival and Check-in at Hotel	English Expression and Presentation Workshop Chinese Culture Fair Preparation
	5.3	Opening Ceremony · Welcome speech · Rules and Schedule Overview Written Assessment · Reading Test/Writing challenge	Chinese Culture Theme Booth Setup · Chinese Culture Theme Poster Preparation · Chinese Culture Presentation Preparation
	5.4	Spelling Bee Challenge (Round 1) Chinese Culture Fair Preparation	Chinese Culture Fair · Group Poster Show and Presentation
	5.5	Spelling bee Showcase Quiz Bowl "Journey to the West"	Closing Ceremony and Award Ceremony

* The schedule may be adjusted, please refer to the actual schedule for final details.

Written Assessment Content

Group	Hippo Grade	Test Content		
		Duration	Reading	Writing
Regular Category	Baby HIPPO	75mins	30questions 1 point each	30questions 1.5 points each, No Essay
	Little Hippo	75mins	30questions 1 point each	30questions 1.5 points each, No Essay
	Hippo 1	75mins	40questions 1 point each	30questions 1.5 points each, Essay*
	Hippo 2	75mins	34questions 1 point each	30questions 1.5 points each, Essay*
	Hippo 3	85mins	34questions 1 point each	30questions 1.5 points each, Essay*
	Hippo 4	90mins	40questions 1 point each	30questions 1.5 points each, Essay*
	Hippo 5	90mins	40questions 1 point each	30questions 1.5 points each, Essay*
Special Category	Hippo S1	75mins	34questions 1 point each	30questions 1.5 points each, Essay*
	HIPPO S2	85mins	34questions 1 point each	30questions 1.5 points each, Essay*
	HIPPO S3	90mins	34questions 1 point each	30questions 1.5 points each, Essay*
	Hippo S4	90mins	40questions 1 point each	30questions 1.5 points each, Essay*
	Hippo S5	95mins	40questions 1 point each	30questions 1.5 points each, Essay*



Certificate of Participation (Sample)



Certificate of Achievement

Both certificate will identify the CEFR level that corresponds to the participant's level of entry.

- Participants:** First, Second and Third Prize winners in the Preliminary Round will be invited to National Finals (must have an ID from China or another non-native English speaking country)
 - Registration Method:** All qualified candidates will receive email and SMS notifications of the registration opening date.
 - 1: Register through the website (www.seedasdan.org/hippo)
 - 2: Through ASEEDER Mini Program
 - 3: Batch Registration by school
 - Academic Supporting Materials:** Sample test papers and answers will be provided upon registration
 - Award Setting:**
 - Global Award Top 140 Ranking Globally
 - Gold Award Top 30% in China
 - Silver Award Top 30%-60% in China
 - Bronze Award Specified fraction line
- * The contestants who win the global award will successfully qualify for the global finals
* All participants will receive a certificate of participation from the organizing committee



National
Finals

English Without Borders

Global  **Hippo**
ASSOCIATION



- **Date:** July , 2025, specific dates to be confirmed
- **Location:** Da Nang, Vietnam
- **Shortlisting Criteria:** Students with the best ranking among those not qualified for the World Finals will be admitted to the Qualifiers. The number of students admitted to the Qualifiers per category and country will be proportional to the number of preliminary round participants in each category per country.
- **Participation Fee and Enrolment:** Until Further Notice

Regional Qualifiers





English Without Borders

Global Hippo
ASSOCIATION

- **Date:** 29 September–1 October 2025
- **Location:** Assisi, Italy
- **Shortlisting Criteria:** Top 180 contestants worldwide (Include National Finals and Regional Qualifiers promoted contestants)
- **Participation Fee:** Free of Charge for participation fees and three-day half-board accommodation fees during the Global Finals. Finalists will be responsible for their own international airfare and visa fees to and from Italy.

