



Windows

Title: *FCE Grammar ROM*

Authors: *Ingrid Freebairn and Hilary Rees-Parnall*

Title: *FCE Grammar ROM Specimen Examination Papers*

Authors: *Ingrid Freebairn and Hilary Rees-Parnall, Alan Stanton, Susan Morris, W.S. Fowler*

Software: *Epic*

Publisher: *Pearson Education*

Type: *Grammar practice and examination practice*

System requirements

Windows 3.1, 95, 98, NT, 66MHz 486 or above, 16MB RAM or more, 15MB free on hard disk

SVGA monitor (800x600, 256 colours)

Price: £46.20

Specimen examination papers Price £28.90

EU & UK add 17.5% VA

The FCE Grammar ROM

Not quite so over the top as its renowned predecessor (The Grammar ROM without the *FCE*) the design of this higher level package is more sober, perhaps reflecting its sober purpose. Although it retains the same jocular audio prompts to signal right and wrong, even these have been toned down. The streamlining has resulted in a more transparent and easy-to-steer-through program. Video does not feature because the FCE exam doesn't use video yet. In Exam Practice students can perform interactive tasks for each of the five FCE Papers. They are given guidance on how to do the different parts of each paper. They can make use of a Grammar Reference in the Use of English papers, get help with difficult words and expressions and have easy control of marking and correcting answers.

My only quibble is the curious use of the "Exit" symbol. This really means "go back a level" rather than exit.

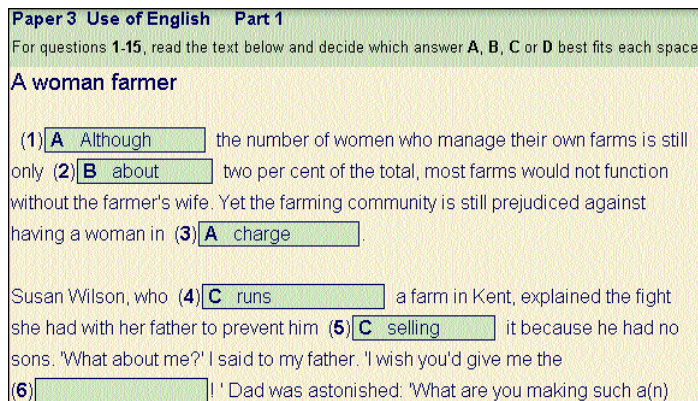


The FCE Grammar ROM Specimen Exams

In addition to the practice items included in the *FCE Grammar ROM* above Longman have also produced "Specimen Exams" as a separate low-cost package. Although it uses the same

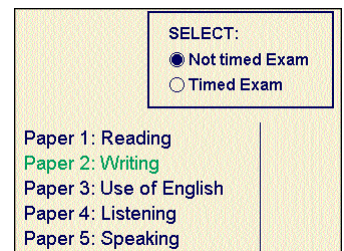
program shell you can work with it autonomously.

This contains all the grammar practice upper intermediate students need, and also gives guided exam training for the FCE. There are tasks for all five Papers: Reading, Writing, Use of English, Listening and Speaking. Students can check their answers and then go on to the different grammar sections to revise any problem areas. They can



study at their own pace, in a fully interactive environment with instant on-screen help.

Accurate spelling is a must, of course, and so much more use is made of typing at the keyboard than of dragging and dropping items selected from a pre-typed list. Students can elect to do timed exercises or not and on completion of the Reading, Listening and Use of English papers they can check their scores.



Both programs are technically easy for the students to find their way through. Installation instructions can be in English, French, Spanish, Italian or Portuguese, but not, oddly enough, German. Once the program is installed help given is in English.