



# Safety and Rules

Note-taking: water safety lessons | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0510/0511

## 1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you read.

1. Where do young people swim or play near water?
2. Why can lakes and rivers be dangerous?
3. What safety rules should children learn?
4. Should water safety be taught at school?

### Exercise 3 at a glance

In this activity, you will read one factual text and complete notes using information from the text. In the exam, this task is usually worth 7 marks. This practice version includes extra notes to help you build confidence. Use short words or phrases from the text, not your own ideas.

## 2. Read for overall understanding

Read the text. What do water safety lessons teach students?

### Water Safety Lessons

Water safety lessons are designed to help students recognise risks and respond safely near water. The lessons may focus on beaches, rivers, lakes, canals or swimming pools. Teachers explain that even strong swimmers can get into difficulty if the water is cold, fast-moving or deeper than expected.

Students learn to identify common dangers. These include slippery banks, hidden rocks, sudden drops and strong currents. In some places, water may look calm at the surface but move quickly underneath. Students are warned not to jump into unknown water because they cannot see what is below.

The lessons also teach safe responses. Students should stay with friends, read warning signs and enter the water only in supervised areas. If someone is in trouble, they should call for help rather than jump in immediately. They may be shown how to throw a floating object or use a long branch to help from the side.

Schools sometimes invite lifeguards or rescue workers to give demonstrations. These visitors can explain real incidents without frightening students. The aim is to build sensible habits, not fear. By practising simple rules, students are more likely to make safe choices during holidays, sports trips or hot weather.

Some lessons use real stories, but teachers choose them carefully. The aim is to make students alert, not terrified. Students may discuss why a person made a risky choice and what safer option was available. They can also practise giving clear instructions, such as telling someone to move away from the edge or call emergency services. This helps safety advice become practical language, not just a list of rules.

The lessons can be adapted for different local areas. A school near the coast may focus on tides and flags, while a school near canals may discuss slippery edges and cold water. This makes the advice feel relevant rather than general.

Students may practise the language of emergency calls too. They learn to give a location, describe what has happened and stay on the line. These speaking skills can be important in any emergency, not only near water.

Some schools ask students to design safety messages for younger children. This checks whether they have understood the advice well enough to explain it simply.

### 3. Strategy focus

#### Separate danger from advice

Safety texts often describe a danger and then advice. Make sure each note matches the heading.

### 4. Practice note-taking task

Complete the notes using information from the text. Use short words or phrases from the text. Do not add your own ideas.

Notes	Write short answers
Places covered in lessons	- ..... - ..... - .....
Common water dangers	- ..... - ..... - .....
Safe responses	- ..... - ..... - .....
Helping someone in trouble	- ..... - ..... - .....

### 5. Vocabulary notebook

Underline five useful words or phrases from the text. Check their meaning, then record them in your vocabulary notebook.

### 6. Follow-up tasks

1. Discussion: Which water safety rule is most important for teenagers?
2. Strategy: Choose three answers and underline the danger or advice words that make each answer clear.
3. Writing: Write a short safety poster for students visiting a lake.
4. Vocabulary: Circle words and phrases connected to safety, rules and public behaviour.

# Safety and Rules

Note-taking: water safety lessons

## 2. Read for overall understanding

Suggested answer: they teach students to recognise risks and respond safely near water.

## 4. Practice note-taking task

### Places covered in lessons

- beaches
- rivers
- swimming pools

### Common water dangers

- slippery banks
- hidden rocks
- strong currents

### Safe responses

- stay with friends
- read warning signs
- enter the water only in supervised areas

### Helping someone in trouble

- call for help
- throw a floating object
- use a long branch

## Notes for checking

This is an extended practice version of the IGCSE ESL note-taking task. The live exam normally has fewer marks, but this version includes extra notes to build confidence and selection skills.

Accept short phrases that keep the same meaning.

Learners should avoid copying a whole sentence if a shorter note answers the heading.

Some answers need more than one or two words, especially when the key detail is a phrase.