

# English Ladder

## Student Workbook

### Allow vs Prohibit: Understanding Usage in Different Contexts

A polished self-study handout designed for print or tablet use. Read the concept, notice the pattern, and then complete the matching practice set on your own.



Grammar Concepts # 1. Prevent vs Enab 2. Ineligible vs Qualifi 3. Refuse vs Agree / Reject vs A 4. Forbid vs Allow/Permit


#### Visual anchor

Use the concept poster to spotlight the main language pattern in **Allow vs Prohibit: Understanding Usage in Different Contexts** and keep the explanation visible during practice and discussion.

**ENGLISH LADDER**

Concept #13 ► **Allow vs Prohibit**


There are many terms that refer to accepting or rejecting, but with slightly different meanings. Below are a few examples of common usage of these terms.



The distance to the girl's house **prevented** him from walking there.  
His new car **enabled** him to quickly drive to the girl's house.  
*These terms are used for physical ability or inability.*

They were **ineligible** for marriage since neither was 18 years old.  
They were both **qualified** for marriage one year later.  
*These terms are used in the context of legal or official qualifications.*

She **refused** | **agreed to** marry him.  
She **rejected** | **accepted** his proposal.  
*The 1st line is about actions (marrying). The 2nd line is about things (proposal).*



Her parents **forbid** | **allowed/permitted** them to marry.  
*These terms are use in contexts in which an authority makes a decision.*

They were **banned** from the restaurant due to their loud argument.  
*This term is used when specific people have been "black-listed".*

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## Core Idea

The image highlights the distinctions between various terms related to accepting or rejecting actions or conditions. Below is a detailed explanation of each pair of terms along with additional examples to help non-native English speakers grasp the nuances of these terms.

### 1. Prevent vs Enable

These terms are used for physical ability or inability.

- **Prevent:** To stop something from happening. Example: The rain prevented us from going for a hike. Example: The strict rules prevented students from cheating on the exam.
- **Enable:** To make something possible. Example: Her encouragement enabled him to pursue his dreams. Example: The new software enabled faster data processing.

### 2. Ineligible vs Qualified

These terms are used in the context of legal or official qualifications.

- **Ineligible:** Not having the right to do or obtain something; disqualified. Example: He was ineligible to vote because he was underage. Example: The candidate was ineligible for the position due to a lack of experience.
- **Qualified:** Having the necessary skills, knowledge, or credentials. Example: She is qualified to teach English as she has a degree in the subject. Example: After passing the exams, they were qualified to drive.

### 3. Refuse vs Agree / Reject vs Accept

The first line in the examples is about actions (marrying). The second line is about things (proposal).

- **Refuse:** To indicate unwillingness to do something. Example: He refused to eat his vegetables. Example: She refused to participate in the project.
- **Agree:** To consent to do something. Example: He agreed to help with the homework. Example: She agreed to meet her friend for lunch.
- **Reject:** To dismiss or refuse an idea or proposal. Example: The committee rejected the proposal for the new policy. Example: He rejected the job offer as it didn't meet his expectations.
- **Accept:** To receive or agree to something. Example: She accepted the invitation to the party. Example: He accepted the challenge with enthusiasm.



## 4. Forbid vs Allow/Permit

These terms are used in contexts where an authority makes a decision.

- **Forbid:** To prohibit or order someone not to do something. Example: The school forbids students from using mobile phones in class. Example: Her parents forbade her from going out late at night.
- **Allow/Permit:** To let someone do something. Allow Example: The teacher allowed the students to leave early. Example: They allowed their children to play outside. Permit Example: The city permits street vendors to operate during festivals. Example: The rules permit students to bring snacks to school.

## 5. Ban

This term is used when specific people have been "black-listed."

- **Ban:** To officially or legally prohibit something. Example: The government banned smoking in public places. Example: The player was banned from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct.

## Additional Examples to Illustrate the Concepts

- **Prevent vs Enable:** The heavy traffic prevented us from arriving on time. The new bridge enabled easier access to the island.
- **Ineligible vs Qualified:** She was ineligible for the scholarship because she missed the deadline. He is qualified to run the marathon as he completed the required training.
- **Refuse vs Agree:** He refused to sign the contract without reading it first. She agreed to volunteer at the community center.
- **Reject vs Accept:** They rejected the applicant due to insufficient qualifications. She accepted the award on behalf of her team.
- **Forbid vs Allow/Permit:** The law forbids driving without a license. The manager allowed the employees to work from home. The policy permits flexible working hours.
- **Ban:** The school banned the use of plastic bottles on campus. He was banned from the club for breaking the rules.

Understanding these subtle differences can help non-native speakers use these terms accurately and effectively in various contexts.



## Practice Check

Answer the quiz questions below with responses consistent with the grammar concepts taught on the left.

### ITEM 01

The teacher \_\_\_\_\_ (prevented/enabled) the students from cheating during the exam.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEM 02

Her encouragement \_\_\_\_\_ (prevented/enabled) him to pursue his dreams.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEM 03

They were \_\_\_\_\_ (ineligible/qualified) for the competition because they missed the registration deadline.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEM 04

After completing the training, he felt \_\_\_\_\_ (ineligible/qualified) to perform the task.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEM 05

She \_\_\_\_\_ (refused/agreed) to join the club because she had other commitments.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



## ITEM 06

He \_\_\_\_\_ (agreed/declined) to help his friend with the project.

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Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 07

The committee \_\_\_\_\_ (rejected/accepted) the proposal for the new policy.

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Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 08

She \_\_\_\_\_ (accepted/rejected) the invitation to the party.

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Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 09

The school \_\_\_\_\_ (forbids/allows) students to use mobile phones during class.

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Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 10

The company \_\_\_\_\_ (allows/forbids) employees to work from home.

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Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 11

The government \_\_\_\_\_ (forbids/permits) smoking in public places.

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Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



## ITEM 12

The city \_\_\_\_\_ (permits/bans) street vendors to operate during festivals.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 13

The rain \_\_\_\_\_ (prevented/enabled) us from going for a hike.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 14

Her new shoes \_\_\_\_\_ (enabled/prevented) her to run faster.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 15

He was \_\_\_\_\_ (ineligible/qualified) for the scholarship because of his grades.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 16

After years of experience, she felt \_\_\_\_\_ (qualified/ineligible) to lead the team.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 17

He \_\_\_\_\_ (refused/agreed) to attend the meeting because he was busy.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



## ITEM 18

She \_\_\_\_\_ (agreed/refused) to lend him some money.

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Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 19

The board \_\_\_\_\_ (rejected/accepted) the candidate for the job.

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Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 20

She \_\_\_\_\_ (accepted/rejected) the gift with a smile.

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Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 21

The teacher \_\_\_\_\_ (allowed/forbade) the students to leave early.

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Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 22

Her parents \_\_\_\_\_ (forbade/permitted) her from going to the party.

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Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 23

The school \_\_\_\_\_ (banned/permitted) the use of plastic bottles on campus.

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Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



**ITEM 24**

The city \_\_\_\_\_ (permits/bans) vendors from selling without a license.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



## Self-check Answer Key

Use the key after you have completed every item on your own.

**ITEM 01**

The teacher prevented the students from cheating during the exam.

**ITEM 02**

Her encouragement enabled him to pursue his dreams.

**ITEM 03**

They were ineligible for the competition because they missed the registration deadline.

**ITEM 04**

After completing the training, he felt qualified to perform the task.

**ITEM 05**

She refused to join the club because she had other commitments.

**ITEM 06**

He agreed to help his friend with the project.

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The committee rejected the proposal for the new policy.

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She accepted the invitation to the party.

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The school forbids students to use mobile phones during class.

**ITEM 10**

The company allows employees to work from home.

**ITEM 11**

The government forbids smoking in public places.

**ITEM 12**

The city permits street vendors to operate during festivals.

**ITEM 13**

The rain prevented us from going for a hike.

**ITEM 14**

Her new shoes enabled her to run faster.



ITEM 15

He was ineligible for the scholarship because of his grades.

ITEM 16

After years of experience, she felt qualified to lead the team.

ITEM 17

He refused to attend the meeting because he was busy.

ITEM 18

She agreed to lend him some money.

ITEM 19

The board rejected the candidate for the job.

ITEM 20

She accepted the gift with a smile.

ITEM 21

The teacher allowed the students to leave early.

ITEM 22

Her parents forbade her from going to the party.

ITEM 23

The school banned the use of plastic bottles on campus.

ITEM 24

The city bans vendors from selling without a license.