

**ESOL International
English Listening Examination**

Level C2 Proficient

Texts to be used with the examination

The texts are to be recorded and sent to the centre on a disk prior to the examination.

Instructions are written in underlined italics and should not be recorded.

The recording must be played to learners in full from start to finish.

This is the NOCN ESOL International Proficient Level C2 Listening examination.

Please check that your name and other details are on your mark sheet.

The invigilator will have explained how to fill in the mark sheet.

Do not write on your examination paper.

The Listening examination will now begin.

Part 1

You will hear ten sentences.

Read the replies on your examination paper. You have two minutes to read the replies on your examination paper.

Pause for two minutes.

Listen to the sentences. You will hear the sentences in full twice. Choose the best reply for the situation. Then you will have two minutes to check your answers.

Record the sentences (three seconds between each sentence).

1. It is really easy to put it together.
2. I lost my first job but the new one is much better.
3. You look very pale.
4. Do you know what his first language is?
5. I'm sure George is on holiday.
6. What did he get for his birthday?
7. This magic trick was mind boggling.
8. She looks like her mum.
9. I didn't enjoy the film.
10. He was distraught when he heard the news.

Pause for five seconds after the first reading.

Now listen to the sentences again.

Record the sentences again.

Now check your answers. You have two minutes to check your answers.

Pause for two minutes after the second reading.

Part 2 – Conversations

You will hear two conversations. Read the questions and answers on your examination paper for both conversations. You have two minutes to read them.

Pause for two minutes.

Listen to Conversation 1. You will hear the conversation twice. Answer the questions. Then you have two minutes to check the answers.

Record the conversation.

We are going to talk to Nina who began singing professionally at the age of 11, releasing her first album at the age of 14. She also won the Best Actress in Cannes in 2000. She has two children and currently lives in France.

When were you happiest, Nina?

Merging with nature or merging with people.

What is your earliest memory?

Being driven to kindergarten by my grandfather. Helping the caretakers there hand out slices of rye bread, thinking I was one of them.

What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?

I have a puritan/perfectionist streak.

What is your favourite smell?

Rhubarb and oxygen in rainforests.

Cat or dog?

I have a cat allergy.

What do you owe your parents?

Integrity and not worrying what other people think.

What's the worst job you've done?

The travel side to my job right now can be chaotic.

How do you relax?

I love films. We didn't really have television when I was a kid. Around 30 I discovered films and started systematically catching up. I collect interesting documentaries and films, and watch them a few nights a week. It has affected my subconscious: it used to be only music – now there is a mix.

Nina, thank you very much for your time.

Pause for five seconds after the first reading.

Now listen to the conversation again.

Record the conversation again.

Now check your answers. You have two minutes to check your answers.

Pause for two minutes after the second reading.

Part 2 – Conversations

Listen to Conversation 2. You will hear the conversation twice. Answer the questions. Then you have two minutes to check the answers.

Record the conversation.

- *In our programme today we are talking to Jenifer about her darkest day as she tries to raise money for Sports Relief, a charity which brings together the worlds of sport and entertainment to help vulnerable people in both the UK and the world's poorest countries. When the TV presenter, Jenifer Carter announced she was taking on the biggest physical challenge of her life in aid of Sport Relief - cycling, running and swimming 500 miles from Edinburgh to London - she admitted to being petrified.*
- Yes, I was terrified I couldn't do it, that I would get halfway and just physically go. Unfortunately, my worst nightmare became a horrifying reality when, three days in, I collapsed. I was helped out of the perilously cold Lake Windermere. Medics battled to bring up my temperature. But I'm OK now. That was hairy. Thanks to all my fans who supported me all the way.
- *But your collapse was just one of the terrifying ordeals you faced during the challenge?*
- That's right. Treacherous weather, including driving wind and snow made a hike up the mountain almost impossible. My husband Mark was so heartbroken. He drove down to the hotel I was staying in twice during the challenge. I thought to myself: 'All my life I have felt distinctly average. My main concern is letting people down. I cannot give up. I cannot quit'.
- *What you achieved is inspirational but the conditions you have battled would have challenged a top athlete. So it begs the question: should celebrities put themselves in such physical danger for charity?*
- That is a question many people ask but what we do is only a fraction of hardship people suffer every day. So it makes it worthwhile. And it made me feel better about myself.
- *Thank you, Jenifer.*

Pause for five seconds after the first reading.

Now listen to the conversation again.

Record the conversation again.

Now check your answers. You have two minutes to check your answers.

Pause for two minutes after the second reading.

Part 3 – Debate and Discussion

You will hear a debate and a discussion. Read the questions and answers on your examination paper for both the debate and discussion. You have two minutes to read them.

Pause for two minutes.

Listen to the Debate. You will hear it twice. Answer the questions. Then you have two minutes to check the answers.

Record the debate.

DEBATE: PETER (interviewer) AND JULIE ROBINSON, COUNCILLOR

I: Traffic congestion is a growing problem in modern cities throughout the world. Most cities were built when people used horses and carts. The result is that streets are too narrow to cope with traffic today. With me today is Julie Robinson, our local councillor. Julie Robinson, welcome to the programme.

JR: Hello, Peter, thank you for having me.

I: Julie, can you see a solution to traffic congestion?

JR: Well, now that traffic congestion has become a problem, governments together with local councils are desperately seeking solutions. The obvious solution is to build more roads but it poses some opposition from those living in the countryside. The other solution could be the introduction of a one-way system, which can be done at little cost.

I: This can be quite confusing to the people who don't know the town.

JR: Indeed, Peter. The traffic can be eased that way, though. Also, some cities have introduced a congestion charge where drivers have to pay to enter the city centre.

I: I don't think it is a very popular idea amongst motorists.

JR: That's right, Peter, but it may encourage the drivers to leave their vehicles at home and use public transport instead.

I: Well, what about tourists and visitors?

JR: Yes, good question. Tourists and visitors can use a "park and ride" scheme, where you leave your car outside the city and take a bus or another local transport to the centre. It does reduce the traffic congestion as well as off-street parking in the city.

I: That does sound like an excellent solution.

JR: Yes, we are aware that congestion leads to pollution and frustration. The solution must lie in public transport.

I: Councillor Robinson, thank you very much, indeed.

JR: You are very welcome.

Pause for five seconds after the first reading.

Now listen to the debate again.

Record the debate again.

Now check your answers. You have two minutes to check your answers.

Pause for two minutes after the second reading.

Part 3 – Discussion

Listen to the Discussion. You will hear it twice. Answer the questions. Then you have two minutes to check the answers.

Record the discussion.

We are talking to our celebrity guest Jo Browning. Jo, you are supporting the project, Crisis Party, can you tell us a bit about it?

It's about getting people to use their parties to raise money for the homeless charity Crisis. I hope people have a great time at their parties but more importantly, I hope they raise money by asking for donations and sending the money off to Crisis.

Have you met any homeless people?

Yes, a couple of years ago. I spent time in one of the shelters during the build up to Christmas. It was fascinating to see what Crisis offers - from Chiropody to hairdressing and health check-ups and so much more.

Why is it important to be involved?

Homelessness is on the up and more and more young people are ending up on the streets, so it's very important for us to think about someone else for a change.

Will you be throwing a party this year?

No, I've told everyone 'the party's at your house this year!' (laughs). I'm sure I will be, but I haven't decided whether to have a huge one or an intimate gathering.

You are in a children's play this year; are you looking forward to it?

It's my first year in a play and it's right on my doorstep in South London. I've got kids so it's something I've already been to see, so I'm looking forward to being part of it.

Are you nervous?

Not really. I get nervous about walking home on my own at night and someone chasing me with a knife, not this. The play is such good fun but if I get booted off, I'd probably say: 'I should have been nervous!'

Pause for five seconds after the first reading.

Now listen to the discussion again.

Record the discussion again.

Now check your answers. You have two minutes to check your answers.

Pause for two minutes after the second reading.

That is the end of the Listening examination. Please check your mark sheet is completed correctly. Put your pens down.

End of Examination