

**ESOL International  
English Listening Examination**

**Level B2 Independent User**

**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 Independent User Level B2 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 10 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. You will then have two minutes to check your answers.

**Record the sentences (three seconds between each sentence).**

1. Are you too cold?
2. I bought that coat I wanted in the sales.
3. The train fares are really expensive.
4. I really enjoyed my meal out with you.
5. Can I borrow your text book please?
6. I need to take two pairs of shoes.
7. Does she have two cats?
8. I have another driving lesson next Thursday.
9. We were thinking of going to see a film.
10. That was the worst meal I have ever had!

**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.**

Delivery driver: Hello, is there anyone in? Hello?

Customer: Erm ... hello! What are you doing in here?! How did you get in?

Delivery driver: I rang the bell four times, but got no answer. I then tried the door and it was open. I am sorry to just walk in.

Customer: You gave me such a fright. Please do not let yourself into my home again. I have been waiting for this order for some time. It was due on Tuesday. I have been here all day.

Delivery driver: My delivery sheet says it is today. That is why I kept trying the bell and then tried the door.

Customer: This is not good service. I am sure the bell works and it is loud so I should have heard it. I have three orders I am waiting for. I was waiting for five last week all Wednesday and only two arrived, but on Friday. I was very irritated.

Delivery driver: I apologise for that. Please sign here as I am in a rush. I have forty more deliveries to do before 5. I am always rushing to get things delivered on time.

Customer: But that's not my problem, I am only interested in my orders being delivered on time. My business depends on this. Let me just check this order – it should be two boxes, not one. Where is the rest of my order?

Delivery driver: This is all I was given from the depot.

Customer: No, this is not all the order. It was all ordered at the same time too. I don't believe it. I will have to speak to the company I ordered from, this is not acceptable. I am very disappointed. I would like to make a complaint to the company.

Delivery driver: I am sorry but yes, do speak to the company, I just delivered what I am given. Try contacting the company on 0114 212 7777 or go online and request a call back.

Customer: I know, I am not blaming you but this is not a good service at all. Thank you for the information, I will call them this evening. I hope that the company can refund me or give me a discount to use in the future.

**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.**

**Interviewer: We are going to talk to John Bird about the Big Issue and how it all started. The Big Issue is a magazine written by professional journalists and distributed by people affected by homelessness. John, what gave you the idea of the Big Issue? Why did you start it?**

John: In 1991 Gordon Roddick and I were concerned about the increasing number of homeless people. We believed the way to solving this problem was by helping people to help themselves. So we started the Big Issue. Sellers, or vendors, buy their magazines with their own money and sell them at their own profit or loss. Vendors buy copies for £1.25 and sell for £2.50. They are working, not begging. We currently work with around 2000 vendors across the UK offering them the opportunity to earn a legitimate income; to 'help them to help themselves'.

**Interviewer: Tell us more about the Big Issue.**

John: The Big Issue magazine offers people affected by homelessness the chance to earn a legitimate income and is published in four continents and in multiple languages. Working alongside the Big Issue is the Big Issue Foundation. The Big Issue Foundation was set up in 1995 to give vendors support and services to help them overcome the issues that led to them becoming homeless. Since 1995 the Big Issue Foundation has provided support to help with issues including housing, health, finances, education and employment. Since the Foundation started we have achieved over 40,000 positive outcomes with our vendors.

**Interviewer: And does the Foundation give funding to sellers?**

John: Yes, it certainly does. In 2014 nearly £11000 was awarded to over 200 vendors through our support fund grants. Vendors also help with raising funds in return for the support and help they have had.

**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 – Broadcasts**

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

**Pause for two minutes.**

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

**Record the broadcast.**

**Experts warn that watching too much TV could cause blood clots**

Blood clots form when there is damage to the lining of a blood vessel and they can block veins and slow or stop the flow of blood. Sitting watching TV for five or more hours on average per day increases the risk of fatal blood clots by 100 per cent compared with watching fewer than two and a half hours a day. The 18-year study of more than 86,000 people found a level of risk normally associated with long-haul flying.

Toru Shirakawa, from the Department of Social Medicine at Osaka University in Japan, who led the research, said viewers should stand up occasionally and drink water during the time they are watching television programmes.

In addition, a separate study found that a daily sleep lowers blood pressure and the chance of suffering a heart attack or stroke, while also cutting the need for blood pressure-reducing drugs.

The Japanese research tracked 86,000 men and women, aged between 40 and 79, for almost twenty years. Overall, those who watched an average of five or more hours of television a day had twice the risk of fatal clots than those who viewed less than two and a half hours a day.

**Pause for five seconds after the first reading.**

Now listen to the broadcast again.

**Record the broadcast again.**

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

**Pause for two minutes after the second reading.**

**Part 3 – Broadcasts**

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

**Record the broadcast.**

One billion Facebook users

Facebook saw one billion people access the site in August 2015, which is the most it has ever seen. Facebook started in the United States as a way for college students to stay in touch when they had left campus and has evolved since then to become one of the largest social networks in the world. Initially the founders had limited the website's membership to Harvard University students, but later expanded it to other colleges. Since 2006, anyone who is at least 13 years old can become a registered user of the website, though the age requirement may be higher depending on relevant local laws.

1 in 7 people on Earth use Facebook to connect with their friends and family. In October 2012 the firm stated that one billion people had Facebook accounts and earlier this year it claimed that over half of the world's online users visited the site at least once a month.

Facebook is launching new products and services and recently announced its new Facebook M, a virtual assistant. This new service sits within the Messenger application and puts together artificial intelligence technology with human 'trainers' to complete tasks for users, for example sending messages or finding restaurants in the area.

**Pause for five seconds after the first reading.**

Now listen to the broadcast again.

**Record the broadcast 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**