

**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 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. Then you will have two minutes to check your answers.

Record the sentences (three seconds between each sentence).

1. Hello! I haven't seen you in ages. How's it going?
2. I really miss living at home. Do you get on well with your family?
3. How do you feel about that? I really value your opinion.
4. Can you speak up, please? I cannot hear well without my hearing aids.
5. On a usual week day I work from 9AM until 5PM.
6. We are just about to go to the bowling alley. Would you like to join us?
7. She's just arrived – there was a lot of the traffic on the motorway which delayed her by an hour.
8. Have you finished that report yet? I need it for tomorrow's board meeting.
9. I wouldn't do that if I were you, it might not be safe.
10. We are very excited to announce that we are expecting a baby!

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.

Susan: Hey Lyndsey, have you been to that new bistro in town that opened last week? I was thinking about trying it for lunch tomorrow with my mother and sister.

Lyndsey: Yes Susan I have. I went with some friends the day after it opened. We were very excited to try it out and had heard good things about the food. It looked lovely from the outside with all of the sparkling lights and the beautiful hand-painted sign above the door.

Susan: Oh yes, I know what you mean, it does look inviting. What did you think of it?

Lyndsey: Susan, you would not believe the evening we had. To say it was disappointing is an understatement. I won't be going back in a hurry!

Susan: Oh really? Why's that?

Lyndsey: Well first of all, the service was pretty poor, we had to wait over forty minutes for our table. The waitress didn't seem to know what she was doing and she even tried to serve us the wrong meals at one point. I felt sorry for the waiters and waitresses as it was chaos in there with people being pushed and shoved onto tables. There didn't seem to be a booking system at all.

Susan: That must have been embarrassing to watch.

Lyndsey: Everything was so slow. We were waiting for almost an hour for our first course to arrive, if it hadn't been for the company I was with I would have left.

Susan: That doesn't sound very good for a new restaurant.

Lyndsey: And that's not all. I'd ordered a steak medium cooked. When it finally arrived it was just raw and cold in the middle. There was no way I could eat it like that, so I asked them to take it back to the kitchen. The waitress returned with the same steak and the chef had just burnt it to a crisp! Needless to say, we didn't leave a tip.

Susan: That's a shame. Well thanks for the heads up. I think I'll avoid going to the restaurant then!

Lyndsey: I think that's a good idea. Why don't you try the new Japanese restaurant on Main Street instead? The fish is always fresh and the service is far better than at the bistro.

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.

Sam: Hello Jo, I have joined the new gym and have put my name down for the running classes, as I am a new member I can invite a friend to come with me for a trial, so I thought about you.

Jo: What! You have joined the gym, really?

Sam: Yes, I was reading an article about how running is really good for you. There are apparently 11 science-based facts about running. What do you say, are you up for the challenge?

Jo: I don't know. You know I don't really enjoy exercise. I always hated Physical Education at school.

Sam: Well I've read that you experience an exhilarated sensation after a long run or a jog. That rush of feel-good hormones from just 30 minutes of walking can instantly lift your mood, imagine how much better you would feel if you ran!

Jo: Yeah, I see your point, but I am still not sure about it, would I need special running shoes? I can't really afford new ones right now.

Sam: You must have a pair of trainers, if you come and running does make you happy, you can invest in a more scientific pair.

Jo: Hmm, I have heard that running has some benefits for your brain, in fact a recent study published in London's Journal of Physiology shows that running can help you develop massive cognitive gains. Running activates enhances the human brain.

Sam: You sound like you are coming around to the idea of coming with me. I have also read that running can improve your memory. As well as ensuring that you are having regular aerobic exercise.

Jo: Running certainly does have a lot of benefits. And I am sure we would have a lot of fun if we went to the classes together.

Sam: There is an abundance of studies that prove that running helps the heart function, you never know, we may even manage a marathon!

Jo: Okay Sam – you've convinced me. Lace up, let's hit the road.

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.

Host: The subject of our debate today is Should we eat meat? And in the studio with us: Australian chef and author Adrian Richardson and environmentalist Philippa Wollen. So why don't we start with you Adrian.

Adrian: Thank you, Jenny. Well funnily enough I was raised on a meat-free diet as half my family is vegetarian. But that all changed one Sunday afternoon at the age of two, when I was at my grandmother's (who is on the meat-eating side of my family). She gave me a piece of chicken – which I happily devoured.

Philippa: Eating too much meat is a common but dangerous dietary problem in modern society. A study led by leading scientists at Harvard found that even eating small portions of meat (particularly red meat) are likely to increase your chances of dying from a number of causes including cardiovascular disease and dramatically increases your chances of getting type 2 diabetes. There is also a link between eating red and processed meat and developing bowel cancer in later life. You can replace some of the meat in your diet with non-meat sources of protein. Beans, legumes, whole grains and dairy products all contain protein.

Adrian: Eating meat is natural! It's in our instincts. That's how we evolved and survived for thousands of years and helped us to prosper. Are you going to tell people in tribal villages who depend on hunting animals for survival that they have to vegetarian?

Philip: The issue with this is that we are reaching a situation where if we don't change the way we are living, we are all going to be in very serious trouble and we won't have the privilege of making many choices. The animal industry produces more greenhouse gases than all of transportation combined and is the number one contributor to deforestation. Each year we kill 50 billion land animals and wipe out 10,000 species. If any other organism did this, a biologist would call it a virus. All of our actions have consequences and it's time that we start taking responsibility for them.

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.

Host: Good evening everybody. Does the Internet do more harm than good? Our discussion today is on the power of the Internet and what it can be used for. The Internet has spread across the world at a tremendous rate and has radically changed the way we live our lives. Let's hear from our first caller.

Caller 1: I think the Internet is a fantastic tool that we can use to bring people together. With social networks, such as Facebook, catching up with friends overseas has never been easier. We used to have to send letters in the post and wait for the arrival and again for a response. Now we can instantaneously chat, no matter where we are in the world.

Caller 2: This belief that the Internet is bringing people together is simply an illusion. You see people out in cafés and restaurants apparently there in order to socialise together, but they are all glued to their smart phones and ignoring each other. Surely we were better off at a time when there was less technology and we were forced to engage with one another face-to-face? I think this has potential to damage families and friendships and tear them apart.

Caller 1: The Internet has enabled everyone to express themselves about topics which relate to them on a personal level. People can share in open discussions, debates and share opinions in ways that weren't really available before.

Caller 2: People may be able to spread positive messages of equality and peace but it can just as easily be used to spread hate and violence. Bullying on social media is becoming more of a serious problem every year. In my opinion, the Internet has just provided an anonymous platform for people to be mean to one another.

Caller 1: Well, I think that the benefits will outweigh the negative. Every individual now has the ability to create their own business and work from home.

Caller 2: One important thing people are forgetting is the threat to privacy. People share a great amount of their personal information on the web. With the expanse of the Internet comes the increase of cyber criminals and information theft. Also hackers can hide their identities making it very difficult to prosecute them.

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