

**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.

Put your answers on the mark sheet.

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.

You will then have two minutes to check your answers.

### **Play the sentences**

1. I wonder when the next James Bond film will be released?
2. I'm really hot. I've never known it this hot, have you?
3. The grass needs cutting again.
4. Why don't you pick up your dirty clothes and put them in the washing machine!
5. Excuse me, how much longer will I have to wait?
6. Can you get the shopping out of the car for me please?
7. Would you mind if I open the window, only it's so hot in here!
8. How about going swimming tomorrow?
9. Could you help me prepare for my exam on Friday?
10. Are you listening to the radio, only you've left it switched on in the kitchen?

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

Now listen to the sentences again.

### **Play 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.

You will then have two minutes to check your answers.

### **Play the conversation**

- Rosie:** Hi Bella, it's Rosie. Are you free today? There's a new market that's just opened in town that I'd like to visit and I thought you might be interested as they have a lot of handcrafted stalls such as; jewellery, cakes and arts and crafts for the home.
- Bella:** Oh yes, I've heard about the new market; apparently it's really good. I'd love to go.
- Rosie:** Brilliant, we can have lunch there if you fancy it. I want to try and find a necklace for my sister who's coming home next week from England; she's been away so long, I've really missed her. I want to make her homecoming special. We are organising a party for her and I need to buy a lemon cake.
- Bella:** That's really kind of you. We'll do our best to find something nice for her. I'm actually looking for a birthday present for my brother. You know he's into woodwork and handcrafted bowls, well I thought I'd try and find him a carved box with his name on it. Where shall we go for lunch?
- Rosie:** I thought we could try the Japanese sushi bar or the Spanish olive bar. What do you think?
- Bella:** I like the idea of the Spanish olive bar. I haven't had anything Spanish for a while. Sushi is lovely food, but, I need something a bit more robust to eat. I haven't had breakfast yet and Sushi won't fill me up. Is that all right?
- Rosie:** I'm glad you said that Bella. I just fancy some cheese, olives and garlic bread. What time shall I pick you up?
- Bella:** Give me time to change and I'll be ready in half an hour. I'll probably need to pop to the bank first though.
- Rosie:** No problem. I need some cash too so we'll go on the way. See you at 10.30.
- Bella:** Okay, bye.

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

Now listen to the conversation again.

### **Play 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.

You will then have two minutes to check your answers.

### **Play the conversation**

**Pierre:** Good morning, I'm looking to buy a caravan and I'd like more information about your Deluxe and Supreme models. Can you help?

**Shop:** Yes, have you seen inside the caravans?

**Pierre:** Yes. I know the Supreme is more expensive, but I would like more information.

**Shop:** The main differences are storage and weight. The Supreme caravan has a lot more storage than the Deluxe model and it's heavier. They both have a kitchen area, living area, bathroom and two bedrooms but the kitchen is slightly larger in the Supreme caravan with more overhead storage. There is also additional storage in the bedrooms. Also it is slightly longer to include a back storage compartment for camping equipment, folding chairs or fishing gear.

**Pierre:** Oh, I see. I didn't realise it had a storage compartment at the back. Is it lockable?

**Shop:** Yes. It's quite a good design actually, considering the compartment only adds about an extra metre to the overall length of the caravan. The Deluxe model is 12.5 metres and the Supreme is 14 metres.

**Pierre:** If I were to buy a caravan is there a delivery charge? Only I'm looking to have it relocated to Devon.

**Shop:** It would cost 750 Euros including VAT, which is quite competitive and we would not only deliver it for you but we would connect up all the mains services too.

**Pierre:** What services would they be? Gas, electric and water?

**Shop:** Yes, the caravans also come with a 15 year guarantee. Should you wish to buy a caravan from us, this week we're offering a 5% discount on any additional fixtures or fittings such as caravan steps, cooling boxes, window blinds, fire safety equipment; things you probably might need, but haven't thought about yet.

**Pierre:** You've been very helpful, thank you.

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

Now listen to the conversation again.

### **Play 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 now hear a debate and a discussion. You will hear them twice. You have two minutes to look at the questions for both the debate and the discussion.

#### **Pause for two minutes**

Now listen to the **Debate**. You will hear it twice. Answer the questions.

You will then have two minutes to check your answers.

#### **Play the Debate**

- Host:** A lot of people nowadays avoid letter writing and prefer emailing or texting. However, is this to the detriment of good grammar and punctuation? Jenny, what do you think?
- Jenny:** I hate it when I see badly punctuated signs and poor spelling. There is no excuse for it.
- Host:** Mike, as an IT user, do you support the use of correct grammar and punctuation nowadays or do you think it's had its day?
- Mike:** I don't think we need to worry about it too much. So long as we are communicating information and making our meaning clear, why should we put so much effort into whether a comma or apostrophe is in the right place? I also think we should relax spelling rules; mixing American English with British English spellings shouldn't be frowned upon.
- Jenny:** I disagree. If we didn't have formal rules for grammar, spelling and punctuation, we would still be in the dark ages, spelling words phonetically and creating all sorts of misunderstandings. Language needs ordered structure. Once it is there, why would we deliberately deconstruct it?
- Host:** That's a good point Mike, why would we stand by and watch it being vandalised?
- Mike:** Everything changes with time. I see it as a simplification of complex rules. The computer age has created spell checks and grammar checks, so unless what we write is incredibly confusing, computers and mobile phones are programmed to self-correct the written word. We don't need to put pen to paper anymore. We need to move ahead in the modern world and embrace change.
- Jenny:** I think being reliant on a computer to correct our written language, is incredibly short-sighted and deprives us of pride in what we write. If technology is so advanced, why is it that sign-writers and manufacturers are still getting it wrong. There is nothing more grating than seeing a misplaced possessive apostrophe.
- Host:** Thank you Mike and Jenny.

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

Now listen to the debate again.

#### **Play 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**

Listen to the **Discussion**. You will hear it twice. Answer the questions.

You will then have two minutes to check your answers.

**Play the discussion**

- Kate:** Good morning listeners. Welcome to our daily discussion. Today we're talking about art and what it is. Alex, you recently reviewed a painting of a black circle in a yellow square as art. I don't understand, how is that art?
- Alex:** Art is not just about drawing accurately and painting realistically. There is a lot of passion and emotion in art. Art is about the feelings it taps into and how emotionally moved you are as an artist and a viewer. A blank piece of paper is art, depending on what you see in its blankness and how it makes you feel.
- Kate:** So, we have to look beyond what we see?
- Alex:** Yes. Do you remember the pile of bricks that the Tate Gallery bought in the 1970s? It caused a lot of controversy at the time. It was classed as low art, a brick sculpture of the modern world in decay and stripped to its bare minimum.
- Kate:** But who would buy a pile of bricks from the Tate Gallery for an extortionate amount of money when they could salvage some old bricks and have those in their home instead? I wouldn't want any old bricks in my living room, I would rather have the black circle in a yellow square; at least it would match my curtains.
- Alex:** The point is Kate, no-one would buy them, but seeing them on display compared to a Constable painting of the countryside, presents a stark contrast of the past and the present and that produces an emotion, and there lies the secret of art.
- Kate:** So what does the black circle in the yellow square mean to you?
- Alex:** It signifies entrapment within a free world; the black square denotes the unknown from which it is hard to escape, whereas the yellow circle signifies the bright light of knowledge.
- Kate:** It's been a pleasure talking to you Alex.

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

Now listen to the discussion again.

**Play 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**

**NOCN ESOL International Listening  
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Listening Recordings**



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