

**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. 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. Is the music too loud?
2. I passed my exams and have got a place at the university I wanted to go to.
3. Can we see if we can get to the station to catch the train?
4. You need to decide which one you want.
5. Would you like to see my new coat?
6. You need to put another shirt on to keep warm.
7. That was the best meal I've ever had!
8. Do you want to go shopping on Monday?
9. I have been to see that new film.
10. You look tired today.

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.

Dentist - Good morning Jane. Is this just a check-up?

Jane - Yes, it is but I also have some pain in one of my teeth.

D - Where does it hurt?

J - One of my teeth at the top, on the left

D - Tell me about the symptoms. Tell me when it hurts and what sort of pain it is.

J - It hurts mainly at night. For example, after my evening meal it will start to hurt. And that lasts all night; I can hardly sleep as the pain is so bad. It's then very tender early in the morning but feels better later on in the morning until just after lunch when it starts to hurt again.

D - And what sort of pain is it?

J - Yes, sorry, you did ask that. I was too busy thinking how much it hurts. It is a sharp, throbbing kind of pain. It gets easier during the night and just aches and is tender when I wake up. Oh and it bleeds around the gum sometimes.

D - It sounds like you have an infection and a rather nasty one too. It may be that you just need to take antibiotics and they will clear it up after a few days.

J - Oh no, I'm allergic to antibiotics! Last time I had them, I had to be rushed into hospital. I was in for 4 days, it was so frightening.

D - Oh dear! That's terrible. That counts out most antibiotics then. Aaah, it does say this on your records. Good. Right, open your mouth and let's have a look at what's going on.

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 Lisa Smith about what made her start Grow Cook Share and how she involved the local community in this project. Lisa, what gave you the idea of Grow Cook Share? Why did you start it?

Lisa - I love gardening. I worked in the community in a development role but there did not seem to be anywhere where local people could join together and plant and grow food. So, after a lot of thought and planning, I started Grow Cook Share.

I - Tell me more about Grow Cook Share.

L - We work to support people in the community to grow and cook their own food from scratch. Our key focus is to encourage and support people to start growing and cooking from scratch in their homes, schools and community spaces.

I - And how do you gain your funding, Lisa?

L - We have approached local businesses and also applied for grants through charitable organisations. We also arrange fund raising activities, such as a picnic with food prepared using what has been grown by members, talks from local food producers and suppliers and local produce competitions. We have even recruited volunteers from the activities we have organized, which is a great result for us.

I - And how is Grow Cook Share developing?

Our future aims include supporting local people to take a more active role in the local food economy through training and work experience in gardening and catering skills. We will offer catering training for the un- and under-employed, particularly for people under 25.

I - Thank you very much Lisa, we shall watch Grow Cook Share develop, with interest.

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.

Is breakfast the most important meal of the day?

Breakfast has long been seen as the most crucial meal of the day, important for getting the body going and stopping us from overeating later on.

Researchers from the University of Bath, now think the better health of people who eat a good breakfast may be due to their general diet habits.

They found that those who did not have breakfast consumed fewer calories over the whole day. This goes against the long-held theory that people who don't have breakfast simply make up for it by gorging on food later on.

Breakfast eaters also had more stable blood sugar readings, especially by the end of the trial. The research was published in the American Journal for Clinical Nutrition. In another study published this month, researchers at the University of Alabama at Birmingham divided volunteers into three groups. One skipped breakfast, others always ate it and a third continued with their current regime. Four months later, no-one in any group had lost much weight, only 1lb or so, if they had.

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.

The cost of a house in the future

Children born today, who will want to buy their first home in 2048, will be required to pay an astounding £3.4 million, according to new research. The amazing figure was revealed in a study showing how decades of property value rises will affect a baby born today, if the price increases continue on their current course. The study was based on average annual increases of 8.6 per cent a year since 1954. It then uses this to identify a cost for those buying their first home at the age of 35.

In the research blog by online real estate agent eMoov.co.uk, Chief Executive Russell Quirk said the results suggested that the 'Bank of Mum and Dad' would become even more important for future generations.

Soaring numbers of home buyers are taking out mortgages that will last 30 years or more, amid warnings that they are signing up for a lifetime of debt.

One in five of the 171,000 loans taken out in the second quarter of this year had a term of 30 years or longer, according to the Council of Mortgage Lenders. Traditionally, mortgages lasted for 25 years.

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

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