

**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. It has been a lovely day today.
2. I have lost my passport.
3. Would you like to try the new restaurant tonight?
4. What size do you take?
5. What time does the film start?
6. I really enjoyed my holiday this summer.
7. I'm not feeling very well.
8. Would you like to go to Italy?
9. I wonder how much that jumper costs.
10. What are you planning to do tomorrow?

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.

Ben: Hey Lisa, wait a minute! I've wanted to have a chance to talk to you. I've not seen you for a few days.

Lisa: Hi Ben! I know, I've been so busy. I've been at the swimming baths a lot this week to prepare for the swimming competition. How are things? What are you up to?

Ben: This weekend I'm having a birthday party for my cousin Daniel. I'd like you to come.

Lisa: I'd love to. When is it and what time? Is the party at your house?

Ben: We're having it this Saturday evening at 8pm at my house. We're going to order a few pizzas and play some games. Then whoever wants to stay longer can hang out and watch a film. I have lots to choose from and I have the new Dr Who DVD box set too! My parents have said that my friends can stay until midnight and that they will drive them home afterwards.

Lisa: It sounds fun. I really like parties. But now I think about it, I promised I would do something with my sister Bethany on Saturday night. We wanted to go to the cinema to see the new Sherlock film.

Ben: Well why don't you bring her along? It would be fun. Daniel would really like that, I'm sure. I think he likes your sister. He met her when we were at the park last week and they got on very well.

Lisa: Really? That would be great. Okay, I'll ask Bethany to come along to the party too. Maybe we can go to the cinema the weekend after. Maybe you would like to come with us? The films usually start at 7 o'clock in the evening, so we can meet you at 5.30pm and have something to eat and drink first.

Ben: Yes, I'd love to. The last time I went to the cinema was about a year ago. I like to watch films but always watch them on DVD or download them at home. It would be fun to go to the cinema. I can get a big box of popcorn for us to share.

Lisa: Ok, great. I look forward to that. So, what shall I bring to the party on Saturday? What would Daniel like as a present?

Ben: Nothing. Just bring yourselves. No presents are necessary and everything else has been planned.

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.

Jonathan: Hello Helen. Have you had a good day? As it's your first day at work, I'm going to tell you what tasks you need to do at the end of the day when the office closes.

Helen: Hello Jonathan. I've had a great day, thank you. I have really enjoyed working in the office. It has been busy and people are very friendly. I have learnt a lot already. Ok, what do I have to do at the end of the day?

Jonathan: When you finish, put the money in the safe and lock it. You will find the key in the desk drawer. Then close all the doors and windows and don't forget to check the bathroom window. Other people in the office often leave that one open.

Helen: Right, so I need to lock the money away and shut the doors and windows. I will check the bathroom window is closed. Do I put the key back in the desk drawer?

Jonathan: Yes. That's right. Don't bother switching the computers off. They sometimes need to update overnight. And don't worry about the answer phone – it comes on automatically after seven rings.

Helen: Ok. I understand. That seems easy.

Jonathan: Switch off the lights and set the burglar alarm. The code is 1973.

Helen: I'd better write that code down. I don't want to forget it. I never remember numbers.

Jonathan: Yes, that's a good idea. That's what I did when I started working here. But do not show anyone else the code!

Helen: I've got it now. Anything else I need to know?

Jonathan: Make sure you lock the front door when you leave. This is your copy of the key, which you will need to bring with you to work every day. Do not forget it!

Helen: So let me check – I don't switch the computers off and I don't need to turn the answer phone on.

Jonathan: That's right. Good luck! Ring me on my mobile if you have any problems. I am sure that you will be ok though. Do you have my mobile number?

Helen: Yes I do Jonathan. I put your number in my phone this morning. Thank you.

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.

Laughter is the best medicine

If someone smiles at you, more often than not you will smile back. If someone starts laughing, you will soon feel the desire to start laughing yourself. When you laugh you feel happy and friendly towards other people. Your life feels wonderful and you are without a care in the world.

On top of that, research shows that laughing has health benefits. It has been found that laughing reduces stress levels, protects your heart by increasing your blood flow and releases chemicals in your body which help to protect you from illness.

As laughter is so good for us, how can we make sure that we find ways of laughing a lot more in our everyday lives? Some suggestions include reading a joke book, watching a comedy film, going out with friends who laugh a lot and watching a stand-up comedian.

Making people laugh is now big business. For example, one British hotel is now offering *Weekend Laughter Breaks*. Popular comedians entertain people every Friday and Saturday evening and there are also fun competitions such as the funniest joke contest or the funniest laugh award as well as fun quizzes. And if you don't have time to spend a whole weekend away, many colleges are starting to offer short courses in laughing.

Laughing can make you happier, healthier and improve your relationships. So don't take things too seriously and try to see the funny side of life!

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 – Broadcast

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.

British democracy

The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy: this means the king or queen is the head of state. That is why we have a Prime Minister, rather than a President. However, the monarch has limited powers and the role is largely ceremonial.

The British Parliament consists of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The House of Lords has more limited powers and it is the House of Commons that decides national policy. The House of Commons is made up of MPs, who represent a constituency or region.

Ministers, who are selected by the Prime Minister, are the most important members of the Government. They run government departments such as Education, Health or Transport. Senior ministers form the Cabinet, which decides on government policy.

There has to be an election every five years but elections are often held after shorter periods of time. People vote for a candidate to represent their constituency. The person with the most votes becomes the MP for that constituency even if they have only one vote more than another candidate. This is called the 'first past the post' system. This system means that only two or three parties have significant representation in the House of Commons, because, although parties may get a lot of votes nationally, they need to have MPs to be represented in Parliament.

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