

ESOL International
English Listening Examination
Level B2 Independent User

Texts to be used with the examination.

These will 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.

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. How old will he be on Friday?
2. When does the library close?
3. When do you go on holiday?
4. Do you prefer pizza or pasta?
5. I passed my final exam.
6. There is no orange juice left. What would you like instead?
7. Should we go to the cinema on Friday?
8. How could we get to the shopping centre?
9. I will be late for college. What shall I say?
10. Would you like to watch the fireworks with me?

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

Adele:	Today, we have a very courageous man in our studio, who has experienced some very extreme sports, in order to raise money for charities. Welcome Robert.
Robert:	Hello Adele. It is lovely to be here on your show, thank you for having me.
Adele:	Ok Robert, can you start by telling us why you started raising money for charity in such ways.
Robert:	(Laughs) Well, I don't think they're too scary, as I have always loved sports and the outdoors, and pushing the boundaries. But a friend of mine suggested that I should incorporate raising money for charity, whilst doing these mad activities.
Adele:	How did you decide which charities to raise money for?
Robert:	I advertised on a local radio station for suggestions for local charities who needed extra funding for their causes and that's where it all started from really.
Adele:	Fantastic! How do you choose the charities?
Robert:	I choose 5 new ones every year, one for each activity I do.
Adele:	Which ones are you raising money for this year?
Robert:	The Samaritans, Children's Society, Northumbria Homeless, Home-Start and St Oswald's Hospice.
Adele:	Truly wonderful causes. So what activities have you got planned for this year?
Robert:	I'm going canoeing up the Amazon River, bungee jumping off the Clifton Suspension Bridge, white water rafting in New Zealand, walking along the Camino Del Rey in Andalucia and rodeo riding in Texas.
Adele:	Wow! A great variety of challenges and some wonderful places too. How much money did you raise last year with these mad challenges?
Robert:	I managed to raise about £55,000, which was divided between the charities.
Adele:	Well Robert, thank you very much for coming in and sharing your story.

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

Insurer:	Good afternoon, Instant Insurance Company, Nigela speaking, how can I help you?
Customer:	Hello. I'd like to insure my new car please.
Insurer:	Certainly, do you have insurance with us already?
Customer:	No. I have just passed my driving test and would like a quote on how much it will cost to insure my car for a year.
Insurer:	Ok, I can help you with that. I just need to ask you a few questions before I can give you a quote and hopefully, I can offer you a very competitive rate.
Customer:	Thank you. That would be great.
Insurer:	Ok, let's start. What is your full name and your age please?
Customer:	It is Louise Sophie Trueman and I am 18 years old.
Insurer:	Lovely, thank you. What is the make and model of your car and the year of registration?
Customer:	It is a Ford Focus and it was registered in 2010.
Insurer:	Ok. Now, can you tell me if it has an alarm and where will it be parked at night?
Customer:	Yes, it has an alarm and it will be kept in a garage at my home address.
Insurer:	Which is?
Customer:	19, Wansbeck Drive, Morpeth, NE67 5TH.
Insurer:	Excellent, that should keep the insurance reasonable.
Customer:	Oh, that's good to hear.
Insurer:	Last question. How long have you been driving on a full licence?
Customer:	It's only been 3 months since I passed my test I'm afraid.
Insurer:	Ok, not a problem. The best price I can offer you is £1700 a year, which works out at £141.66 a month. After the first year, we can offer you a 10% discount.
Customer:	Oh ok, that's the best price I have been quoted...I'll take it.
Insurer:	Excellent Louise. I will complete the relevant forms and email them to you to sign. I'm glad we could be of help to you.
Customer:	Thank you. I look forward to having you as my insurer, goodbye.

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 – 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. You will then have two minutes to check your answers.

Play the broadcast

The freelance office economy is booming, thanks to technology and creative co-working spaces that are springing up across the globe. With the right tech and mind set, the world can be your 'office'. The latest 2-in-1 devices give you the versatility to work wherever your adventures take you – whether that's a rooftop in Tokyo or live-aboard boat in the Bahamas. So, if you're looking for a change from the usual coffee shops, here's a couple of the world's most inspiring places to work:

Few co-working spaces are more glamorous than Canada's Crew Collective. Located in a stunning historical building in Montreal, it boasts 50-foot-high vaulted ceilings, dazzling chandeliers and an abundance of shimmering marble and bronze. Even better, the building is also home to a public café serving up some of the city's finest food and coffee to keep you well fuelled.

Bored with grey office blocks? If you fancy a breath of fresh air, but want to stay in the heart of London, you could always re-locate to a boat on the Thames. With a large ballroom, as well as individual meeting rooms and relaxing areas on deck, the office space is sure to impress visiting clients. It comes with broadband and telecoms, and the Temple Tube station is just a five-minute walk away.

Pause for five seconds after the first reading

Now listen to the broadcast again.

Play 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 2

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

Play the broadcast

Scientists have made a discovery about Neanderthals, humans that became extinct about 40,000 years ago. Apparently research suggests that they may have been much cleverer than we thought.

Neanderthals are our closest living relatives that roamed around the planet about 300,000 years ago. It is thought that they had a diet of only meat, but scientists have been looking at the teeth of fossilised Neanderthals found in northern Spain and Belgium. As they didn't clean their teeth, scientists are able to examine food fossilised around the teeth and they found that the ones from Belgium ate a lot of rhinoceros, wild sheep and mushrooms. Whereas the Neanderthals from Spain had no meat in their teeth, instead they ate wild mushrooms, pine nuts and moss.

Astonishingly, the scientists found that one of the skeletons showed signs of toothache and had traces of a painkiller, called penicillin, in its teeth. They also found evidence of plants that contain natural painkillers. Certain moulds that grow on plants contain penicillin.

The scientists think, that the Neanderthals had been eating the plants to help them with the pain. This behaviour leads them to think that they were more advanced than people have previously thought.

Pause for five seconds after the first reading

Now listen to the broadcast again.

Play 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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