

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. What time will you leave on Friday?
2. Are you eating at home tonight?
3. Who are you going to the cinema with?
4. How much did it cost you?
5. How far away is the restaurant?
6. Do you still work at the supermarket?
7. Would you like to come to my party next week?
8. Which train will we get?
9. Do you think this top suits me?
10. Can I purchase three tickets for Thursday's concert?

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

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Speaker 1: | Hi mum. How are you this morning? |
| Speaker 2: | I am well thank you. I'm just calling round to ask how Felix is doing at school. |
| Speaker 1: | Ah, thanks mum. Felix is progressing well in his studies. His teachers are very pleased with the improvements he's made. |
| Speaker 2: | Good! How is he doing in science? I know he was finding the homework quite challenging. |
| Speaker 1: | I think he's actually surprised himself this term. I have his book here. Look at his last three tests; he got 95%, 98% and then 89% in the last test. |
| Speaker 2: | Oh. I wonder why he said he was finding it so difficult. |
| Speaker 1: | When I spoke with him last week, he said that although he enjoys the experiments, the theory is complicated and he struggles to remember the answers when he's asked in class. |
| Speaker 2: | Perhaps it's just a lack of confidence, as his tests clearly show he knows his stuff! |
| Speaker 1: | Maybe. |
| Speaker 2: | How's he doing in his other subjects? |
| Speaker 1: | At parent's evening, his history teacher was very pleased with him. His coursework is of a high standard. He's predicted a B, though his teacher says he could get an A if he continues to work hard. All of his teachers are impressed with his progress, His handwriting could be neater, though. The examiners do need to be able to read his answers in the exams! |
| Speaker 2: | You must be pleased. But I'll talk to him about the handwriting. A friendly word from his grandma can always help. |

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.

Store assistant:	Good afternoon, Arnold's Toy Store. How can I help?
Customer:	Good afternoon. Could you check whether you have some toys in stock please? It's my son's 5 th birthday and he's provided a list of toys that he would like. I just wanted to check what you have in stock and the prices, please.
Store assistant:	Of course. What is the first item on the list?
Customer:	The T-Rex dinosaur with moving jaw.
Store assistant:	Yes, I know the one you mean. There are actually two different versions. One is 28 cm long and I think the other is about 18 cm long. We have both in stock. There is a discount on the larger one. So, it's cheaper than the smaller one. It's £25 until next Friday.
Customer:	That's brilliant. I'd like the 28 cm one please. The next item is a superhero costume.
Store assistant:	Unfortunately, we no longer sell costumes. We found too many of them were faulty.
Customer:	Ok, do you have the Lego Batman set? It comes with the bat cave and car.
Store assistant:	Yes, we do have Batman sets. But actually, they're two separate sets, not one set. One of the supermarkets was doing a deal on the two sets together a couple of months ago and it has caused some confusion. I could do you the car for £15 and the bat cave for £23.
Customer:	Hmm, £38 was more than I wanted to pay, really. I'll see if I can get them cheaper elsewhere.
Store assistant:	Well, I could sell you both sets for £35?
Customer:	Wonderful. I will take those and the dinosaur then, please. Can you hold them in the name of Briggs and I'll collect them this afternoon?

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.

Student artists are showing their work in Colchester city centre, thanks to a new project. The Alcove Project was set up in 2023 by Colchester City Council and the sixth form college to encourage creativity among students in the community.

The council said a wide selection of work, from traditional paintings to digital pieces, was submitted. The winners of the project currently have their art on display at the Art Centre Café until the 29th of February. Next, the pieces will be displayed on Osborne Street from the 2nd of March to the 30th of March as part of the council's vision to make Colchester a city of culture.

Natalie Sommers, from Colchester City Council, said the exhibition was an opportunity for student artists to share their creative vision with a wider audience.

Generally, the art has been liked by local people, with many commenting that they hope to see more art displayed in public spaces.

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 – Broadcasts

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.

A competition to find the best kept village in the UK county of Lancashire took place on the 16th of October, last year. Separate competitions are held to find the best small, medium and large villages based on their appearance. The village of Sabden won the prize for best large village.

The village of Grindleton won the small village class, with Roughlee village coming second. Meanwhile, Elswick won the overall champion village plaque. There were also 15 'outstanding features awards', given out in the competition. The finals' judge was Sir Peter Openshaw and he joined the team on Monday to present the awards.

Councillor Richard Newmark said they are delighted that Sabden had won an award this year. This is a fantastic competition, which encourages all the village people to care for and maintain the villages to a high standard. Volunteers regularly take part in repairing fences, cleaning signs, weeding flowerbeds and litter-picking activities. Councillor Newmark went on to thank the Parish Council and, in particular, Sue Clarke and her team of volunteers for all their hard work to get Sabden ready for the competition this year.

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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