Developing the Listening Skills

EXERCISE 1

Listening for the gist of the texts

Listen to three people; Farhan, Sean and Sheila, talking about their favorite types of sports. For questions 1 to 3, choose the sport that each speaker is most likely to enjoy from the list A to E. Use the letters only once.

Sports List
A Archery
B Fencing
C Bowling
D Boxing
E Tennis doubles

Sports most likely enjoyed by:

1. Speaker 1: _____
2. Speaker 2: _____
3. Speaker 3: _____

EXERCISE 2

Listening for ideas

Dialogue 1

Listen to an interview being conducted by Rashid, a journalist and Azhar, a zookeeper, regarding a missing zebra. As you listen, choose the correct answer for questions 1 and 2.

1. Was Azhar likely working when Zulu went missing?
   A. Yes, he was likely working at the zoo when it happened.
   B. Yes, but he was likely working at his other job.
   C. No, but he was visiting the zoo at the time.

2. How did the culprit manage to avoid identification?
   A. He probably worked at the zoo and knew when it would be empty.
   B. He probably worked at the zoo and knew the security camera's blind spot.
   C. He probably worked at the zoo and knew how to cut wires.

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Dialogue 2

Listen to a conversation between Patrick and Kelvin discussing Kelvin's decision to buy a motorbike. As you listen, choose the correct answer for questions 3 and 4.

3. Why did Kevin want to buy a motorbike?
   A. His sister's car was too small.
   B. He could not afford to wait to take public transport to work.
   C. He had just enough money to afford one at sale price.

4. What did Patrick suggest Kelvin do to not feel bad about his sister driving him to work?
   A. He could pay her for part of the car.
   B. He could pay her the fare he would have paid if he had taken public transport.
   C. He could pay for her petrol.

EXERCISE 3

Listening for Purpose

Listen to a conversation between a grandmother and her grandson, Sarish, as they try to cook a dish based on a recipe that they have just learnt from a cooking show. As you listen, choose the correct answer for questions 1 to 7.

1. Why did Sarish's grandmother want to thaw the chicken first?
   A. It is hard to cook frozen chicken first.
   B. It takes a long time to thaw frozen chicken.
   C. It is hard to thaw frozen vegetables and chicken at the same time.

2. Did they decide to include vegetables in the dish?
   A. Yes, because the chef had definitely included broccoli in the recipe.
   B. No, because they were not sure if broccoli was an ingredient for the dish.
   C. Yes, because Sarish's siblings would eat them if cooked deliciously.

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3. How did Sarish's grandmother suggest that he prevent the dish's flavor from being ruined?
   A. By slowly increasing the amount of each ingredient and tasting the dish each time.
   B. By following the exact measurements given in the recipe.
   C. By not altering the recipe.

4. According to Sarish's grandmother, how were the best recipes taught?
   A. They were taught through cookbooks.
   B. They were taught verbally.
   C. They were taught through cooking shows.

5. What are one reason people sometimes had to come up with their own measurements when adding ingredients?
   A. They forgot the original measurements taught to them.
   B. They wanted to make new dishes.
   C. They did not think the original dish was good enough.

6. According to Sarish's grandmother, how could one become a good chef?
   A. They had to be naturally born with the talent.
   B. They had to practice cooking consistently.
   C. If they followed recipes closely.

7. How often does Sarish wish to practice cooking?
   A. Once a month
   B. Once every fortnight.
   C. Once every year.

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EXERCISE 4

Listening for specific information

Listen to a conversation between a radio host, Joanne, and a listener, Khalis, who has been shortlisted for a competition and is now being interviewed on the show. As you listen, choose the correct answer for questions 1 to 7.

1. Why did Khalis choose to take part in this competition?
   A. He hates his job and wants to see the world instead.
   B. He loves his job but wants to take a break.
   C. He wishes to pursue a career as an explorer.

2. How could contestants gets shortlisted to be interviewed on the show?
   A. They had to submit a picture of themselves and a write-up.
   B. They had to submit a write-up about Magellan.
   C. They had to pass a test about Magellan and submit a picture of themselves.

3. Why did Khalis not pursue a career as an explorer?
   A. He had read many books about it and was a put off.
   B. He preferred being an architect.
   C. He did not have the money to do so.

4. What was a benefit that Khalis got out of maintaining his interest in travelling?
   A. It made him realize that his job was not worth keeping.
   B. It made him save money.
   C. It made him motivated to exercise.

5. Why does Khalis want to bring his father on the trip?
   A. His father laughed at him when he took part in the competition.
   B. His father had always wanted to travel.
   C. His father was a consistent pillar of support.

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6. Where would Khalis be going if he won the top prize?
   A. Spain
   B. Europe
   C. Malaysia

7. Which of these best looks like a picture that would get a contestant shortlisted?

A.

B.

C.

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EXERCISE 5

Listening for inference

Listen to a conversation between Ahmad, an insurance agent, and John, a potential customer. As you listen, choose the correct answer for questions 1 to 3.

1. Why is John hesitant about getting a medical insurance plan?
   A. He has savings that he can use should he fall sick.
   B. He feels that all insurance plans are a waste of money.
   C. He has never fallen sick before.

2. What happened to many of John's relatives?
   A. Many of them faced small debts upon leaving the hospital.
   B. Many of them fell sick after buying insurance plans.
   C. Many of them were unable to afford adequate treatment.

3. What was John referring to when he said "..it would give them a bigger headache if they had to start again from scratch"? John was referring to
   A. Illness
   B. The family's savings
   C. A new insurance policy

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EXERCISE 6

Listening for tone to understand a speaker's attitude

Listen to a voice message being lest by an unsatisfied customer, Mrs Devi, for the manager of Super Foods Supermarket. As you listen, choose the correct answer for questions 1 to 7.

1. What was the first problem that Mrs Devi had with the supermarket?
   A. The staff were standing around waiting for customers to approach them.
   B. The staff were chatting and being rude to customers when approached.
   C. The staff were chatting and being ignored by customers.

2. What was Mrs Devi's complaint about the aisles?
   A. They were wrongly labelled.
   B. They were too cluttered.
   C. The fruit aisle contained drinks.

3. Why was Mrs Devi upset upon reaching the cashier?
   A. There were only two other people in the queue with her.
   B. She had bought many things.
   C. The supermarket did not provide any shopping bags.

4. Why did Mrs Devi go to the supermarket?
   A. She had never been there before and wanted to see it.
   B. She was hosting a dinner party.
   C. She was going for a dinner party.

5. Whom is the voice message addressed to?
   A. The owner of Super Foods Supermarket.
   B. The staff of Super Foods Supermarket
   C. The manager of Super Foods Supermarket

6. Why did Mrs Devi leave a voice message?
   A. She had an appointment and could not meet with the manager.
   B. She had tried to contact the manager many times, but the line was busy.
   C. She was old and assumed that the manager was young.

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7. Is Mrs Devi likely to return to the supermarket?
   A. No, but she hopes that changes will be made.
   B. No, and she hopes that other customers will do the same.
   C. Yes, so she hopes that there will be improvements.

EXERCISE 7

Listening for stress on specifics

Listen to a telephone conversation between Fazri and his mother on how to make fried macaroni. As you listen, choose the correct answer for questions 1 to 7.

1. What was Fazri's concern about college life?
   A. He was spreading too much time and money at the cafetaria.
   B. He was spending too much money staying at the campus.
   C. He was sharing a small kitchen with the other students.

2. Why was there a kitchenette in the campus housing?
   A. To allow students to cook light meals.
   B. To stop students from overspending on food.
   C. To encourage students to become good in cooking.

3. What did his mother mean by "Jumping in the deep end"?
   A. She noticed Fazri was good at swimming and at cooking.
   B. She noticed that Fazri would like to learn something difficult immediately.
   C. She noticed that Fazri did not want to waste his time frying eggs.

4. How do you clean the prawns?
   A. Firmly pull off the heads but leave the tail.
   B. Rinse the prawns in boiling water with salt.
   C. Peel off all the outer shell of the prawns.

5. Why is it important not to over fry the onions and garlic?
   A. The prawns will taste bitter.
   B. The fried chili will taste bitter.
   C. The fried macaroni will taste bitter.

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6. Why shouldn't you overcook the prawns?
   A. They will taste like rubber.
   B. They will become rubbery.
   C. They will cook and turn into rubber

7. Select the correct process of cooking the fried macaroni.

A.

Dice the onions and garlic → prepare the prawns →fry the ingredients → add in the prawns → boil the macaroni → add in the macaroni to the fried items in the pan → stir well

B.

Boil the macaroni → dice the onions and garlic prepare the prawns → fry the ingredients → add in the prawns → add in the macaroni to the fried items in the pan → stir well

C.

Prepare the prawns → boil the macaroni → dice the onions and garlic → fry the ingredients → add in the macaroni to the fried items in the pan → add in the prawns → stir well

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