

2d Listening skills

Multiple choice – short extracts

Preparing for the task

STUDY SKILLS

Read each rubric to get an idea of what you are going to hear. Then, read the questions and answers, and think about what you will listen for e.g. *specific information, the speaker's purpose, feelings, attitudes & opinions, etc.* Remember, information may come from anywhere in the extract and be paraphrased. Listen carefully to the entire dialogue before choosing your answers.

- 1 a) Read the rubric and questions 1 and 2. Underline the key words. What is each question asking about?**

You hear two people talking about young children and technology.

- 1** Both speakers feel that young children
A cannot handle responsibility.
B are well situated to absorb information.
C should be exposed to technology.
- 2** What do the speakers disagree on?
A Children are too young to learn about technology.
B Children find it difficult to understand things.
C Children should not be given so much freedom.

b) Read questions 1 and 2 in Ex. 1a again. Then read the extract to find what the speakers agree/disagree on. Now answer the questions.

Woman: I find it quite disturbing that there are smartphones on the market aimed at primary school children. I don't think it's good for them to have access to that kind of smart technology at such a young age.

Man: Oh, I don't know about that. Technology is such a big part of our lives these days. I think it's important for them to learn about it when they're young, when they find it easier to take in what they're exposed to.

Woman: I'll go along with that. Young people are more adept at learning things, but I don't believe the freedom and responsibility that goes with having a mobile is something they should be entrusted with until they are old enough to understand it.

- 2** Look at the underlined phrases in the extract in Ex. 1b. Which expresses agreement/disagreement? Replace them with sentences from the Useful Language box.

Agreeing/Disagreeing with an opinion

Agreeing	Disagreeing
- You're absolutely right. - I think so too. - That's all too true. - I don't think so either.	- That's not entirely true/right. - I'm afraid I must take issue with you on that. - On the contrary, ... - I'm not so sure about that.

- 3** Listen and for questions 1-6, choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best.

Extract one

You hear two teachers talking about a learning resource.

- 1** What does the woman suggest is a drawback of interactive whiteboards?
A They can cause some students to feel isolated.
B They take a little more work to get right.
C They are a major distraction for students.
- 2** Why does the woman mention the use of calculators?
A to show that the situation is unlike anything else
B to emphasise the need for change
C to demonstrate her knowledge of the subject

Extract two

You overhear two friends talking about some new technology in their old school.

- 3** How does the woman feel about the introduction of the new technology?
A She never thought it would happen.
B She doesn't believe there's a budget for it.
C She thought it should have been done sooner.
- 4** What does the man think is the main advantage?
A making the school day easier
B increasing motivation
C improving essential skills

Extract three

You hear part of a radio discussion about young people and the study of science.

- 5** Both speakers feel that many young people lose interest in science because
A they don't find their lessons exciting enough.
B it seems irrelevant to their professional lives.
C they aren't receiving adequate careers advice.
- 6** What does the woman feel would best promote the further study of science?
A visits to schools from science experts
B work experience in science professions
C students working together in classes

- 4**  What could schools do to make science more interesting? Discuss in groups.