



TP 21: Listening for Literal and Figurative Meaning

**TIPS: “Listening for Literal and Figurative Meaning”**

We don’t always mean exactly what we say. The expression “time flies” means that time is passing quickly—not that it has actual wings! When you listen, if the literal meaning is confusing, ask yourself if there is a figurative meaning, like an expression or idiom.

**1 Listen and number the speakers in order. Track 67**



**2 Listen and mark (YES OR NOT). Track 68**

|                           | EMT | Lifeguard | Garbage Collector |
|---------------------------|-----|-----------|-------------------|
| 1 works as part of a team |     |           |                   |
| 2 knows first aid         |     |           |                   |
| 3 is physically fit       |     |           |                   |
| 4 has a dangerous job     |     |           |                   |

**3 Listen again. Who says these statements?**

- 1) “The ocean is a playground.”  
A-EMT B-Lifeguard C-Garbage collector
- 2) “Some people think it would be a nightmare.”  
A-EMT B-Lifeguard C-Garbage collector
- 3) “They wouldn’t do my job in a million years.”  
A-EMT B-Lifeguard C-Garbage collector
- 4) “You need to be as fit as a fiddle.”  
A-EMT B-Lifeguard C-Garbage collector
- 5) “Some days are a breeze.”  
A-EMT B-Lifeguard C-Garbage collector

6) **"Some bags weigh a ton."**

A-EMT B-Lifeguard C-Garbage collector

4. **Underline the correct meaning for the statements.**

1) **"The ocean is a playground."**

A- The ocean has a slide and swings.

B- The ocean is a place where people can play and act silly.

2) **"Some people think it would be a nightmare."**

A- Some people have bad dreams about the job.

B- Some people consider the job a difficult one.

3) **"They wouldn't do my job in a million years."**

A- A lot of people would never do that job.

B- People do the job now but they won't far in the future.

4) **"You need to be as fit as a fiddle."**

A- Fiddles are energetic instruments.

B- You need to be healthy and energetic.

5) **"Some days are a breeze."**

A- Some days are easy.

B- It's windy on some days.

6) **"Some bags weigh a ton."**

A- Some bags are very heavy.

B- Some bags way exactly one ton.

