

EXERCISE 5

Read the information. Then read the extracts from the conversation and look at the underlined phrases, the correct answers and the distractors. Decide if the underlined phrases are essential information (that leads to the correct answer) or distracting information (that links to the distractors). Highlight the essential information in blue and the distracting information in red.

In the IELTS Listening test, you will often hear words or phrases that **distract** you from the correct option.

Example: John says:

Do you think we'll be allowed to film them? The engineers, I mean? I could record them on my phone and we could listen to it later.

- A** do an interview
- B** watch a short film
- C** do a quiz
- D** listen to a recording
- E** learn to use some equipment

The underlined phrases seem to match with option **B watch a short film** (*be allowed to film them*) or **D listen to a recording** (*I could record them... we could listen to it later*). However, in the next line of the conversation, Denise says:

That's a good idea, but I don't know if we can do that.

Therefore, **B watch a short film** and **D listen to a recording** are incorrect answers or **distractors**.

It's important to listen to the whole conversation to identify words or phrases that lead you to the correct answer (essential information) or to an incorrect answer (distracting information).

1	Correct answer	A do an interview
	Distractors	B watch a short film
		D listen to the recording

Denise: Well, I think that on a Tuesday – that’s the day we’re going – some people who used to work as engineers for the railway line come and spend a few hours at the museum talking to people. So I think the idea is that we prepare a list of questions for them and talk to them and find out about their lives and the job they used to do.

John: That’s great. Do you think we’ll be allowed to film them? The engineers I mean? I could record them on my phone and we could listen to it later – maybe even play it back to the class!

Denise: That's a good idea, but I don't know if we can do that. I'll email the museum later and try to find out.

2	Correct answer	C do a quiz
	Distractors	B watch a short film

Denise: OK, so what other activities do we have to complete?

John: Well, we have to visit the Space Travel building, right?

Denise: Yes, I’m looking forward to seeing some of the engine designs. I saw a great documentary on TV recently about how engine design has really progressed over the last 30 years and it really got me interested.

John: OK, that sounds cool. Anyway, I think that what we have to do is pick up a worksheet from the tour guide and answer a lot of questions about the different engines and the space missions they were used for.

2	Correct answer	A meet their tour guide
	Distractors	C collect their timetable

Denise: Great. That’ll be interesting, I expect. Now, what activity did our tutor say we had to complete when we arrived at the Information Centre at the museum?

John: Well, we’ve already got our timetables for the whole visit, so we don’t need to pick those up.

Denise: Oh, I remember – we’re supposed to introduce ourselves to someone from the museum – the person who’s going to show us around the museum later on and talk to us about some of the exhibits.

John: You’re right. That’s it. OK, well, we’d better do that first.