

Empower B2 Listening test

Time 20 minutes

Part 1

Questions 1 – 8

You will hear eight short recordings. For each question, choose the correct answer (A, B, or C). You will hear each recording twice.

1 You will hear two people talking about living in the city. What does the woman say about the part of the city she lives in?

- A There's too much traffic congestion.
- B The public transportation could be better.
- C There are not enough parking spaces.

2 You will hear two friends talking about money. What do the two speakers have in common?

- A They are saving up for something.
- B They make a living the same way.
- C They regularly donate to charity.

3 You will hear a successful actor talking to an interviewer on a radio program. What regret does the actor have?

- A that he didn't get married when he was younger
- B that he only became an actor later in life
- C that he had initially refused to work abroad

4 You will hear a woman talking about her friend, Max. When does Max sometimes annoy the woman?

- A when he's unreliable
- B when he's unsympathetic
- C when he's unrealistic

5 You will hear a woman leaving a phone message. What does the woman say to her sister about their father's illness?

- A The doctors aren't sure what's wrong with him.
- B She's uncertain when he will leave the hospital.
- C She thinks his illness started last week.

6 You will hear a woman calling her friend about their planned meeting. Why is the woman calling her friend?

- A to arrange another date for their meeting
- B to explain why she might not go shopping
- C to add more details to their plan for Saturday

7 You will hear part of a program about people and their hobbies. Why did the man give up on his painting class?

- A He was impatient.
- B He was irresponsible.
- C He was inexperienced.

8 You will hear a man and a woman talking about a room in the man's house. What job did the man hire somebody else to do?

- A building the furniture
- B painting the room
- C making the window

Part 2

Questions 9 – 15

You will hear a woman, Stella, and a man, Ben, talking together on a radio program about the speed and stress of modern life. For each question, choose the correct answer. You will hear the interview twice.

- | | | | | |
|----|--|---|---|--------------------------|
| 9 | What has Stella recently written? | A | a review | ☐ |
| | | B | an article | ☐ |
| | | C | a book | ☐ |
| 10 | What surprised Stella most during her research? | A | People have less free time now than before. | ☐ |
| | | B | Technology helps people to slow down. | ☐ |
| | | C | People seem to enjoy being very busy. | ☐ |
| 11 | Why does Stella mention Einstein? | A | to show a disadvantage | ☐ |
| | | B | to support her argument | ☐ |
| | | C | to explain people's ideas | ☐ |
| 12 | Which positive examples of speed does Ben give? | A | different means of transportation | ☐ |
| | | B | different types of sports | ☐ |
| | | C | different ways of communicating | ☐ |
| 13 | Stella thinks people can improve their lives by | A | taking up a new hobby. | ☐ |
| | | B | becoming more optimistic. | ☐ |
| | | C | enjoying the present. | ☐ |
| 14 | What effect have Ben's new eating habits had? | A | He feels satisfied more quickly. | ☐ |
| | | B | He finds he requires less food. | ☐ |
| | | C | He appreciates a wider range of tastes. | ☐ |
| 15 | What conclusions has Stella come to regarding sleep? | A | Too much is not good for you. | ☐ |
| | | B | Most people do not get enough. | ☐ |
| | | C | It is not recommended during the day. | ☐ |

Empower B2 Grammar test

Time 10 minutes

1. Why do you look so tired? _____ the house?
a) Did you clean b) Have you cleaned c) Have you been cleaning
2. Sam hopes an astronaut one day.
a) becoming b) become c) to become
3. The man sitting next to me on the plane was very nervous. He before.
a) didn't fly b) hadn't flown c) hasn't flown

4. Where's the book I gave you? What..... with it?
a) have you been doing b) are you doing c) have you done
5. "Paul lost his watch." "Well, if he had looked after it, he it."
a) won't lose b) wouldn't lose c) wouldn't have lost
6. My father ... to be a teacher, but now he has retired.
a) used b) got used c) is used
7. In recent years there has been a large increase the number of people who take no regular exercise.
a) of b) in c) for
8. By noon, Joe for three hours.
a) is going to fish b) will be fishing c) will have been fishing
9. It rained so hard the whole village
a) scalded b) burnt c) flooded
10. "I haven't seen Mark for weeks." "Well, I.... him this afternoon. Why don't you come along?"
a) am meeting b) have met c) meet
11. I can't believe you're going on a cruise this summer; it must be costing the!
a) earth b) fortune c) nickel
12. Try with olive oil. It'll taste better.
a) to cook b) cooking c) cook
13. "Where is my bank book?" "If you in the drawer, you'll find it."
a) had looked b) looked c) look
14. "This cake tastes very sweet." "I think I put ... sugar in it."
a) a lot b) too much c) too many
15. When it was time to go home, we decided to take a taxi because we _____ too many beers.
a) were drinking b) had been drinking c) had drunk
16. Jenny seems very happy these days.
a) to be b) be c) being
17. "I to reach Jane on the phone all day. " "Don't you know? She's gone on holiday."
a) tried b) have been trying c) have tried
18. By the time Eric at the airport, his flight had already departed.
a) has arrived b) arrived c) was arriving
19. She was grateful to all the volunteers their help.
a) for b) about c) of
20. Lisa the house when her husband came home.
a) paints b) has painted c) was painting
21. If you start repairing the car now, do you think you _____ by the end of the day.
a) will be finishing b) are going to finish c) will have finished

Empower B2 Reading test

Time 20 minutes

Part 1

Questions 1 – 10

Read the text below and choose the correct answer for each space.

A Month Without the Internet

As a professional writer, I'm always looking for new experiences to write about, so I decided to try a lifestyle experiment: no Internet for a month. I knew it would be (1) because the Internet's so important for how I (2) a living and for 21st century life in general. But I also (3) that I often went online out of boredom, and that a good deal of what I looked up was actually (4) to my life. Some friends said I was naïve to think I could actually give up the Internet, but that just made me even more (5) to try.

I will admit that it wasn't easy! I was quite impatient with how long it took to do "simple" things, like finding the best (6) rate for a new savings account, or checking a fact for work, like which athlete held the world (7) for the long jump in 1950. The Internet is (8) for this sort of thing – fast and (mainly!) reliable.

Somehow, I managed to get (9) the month without cheating. And I enjoyed it! I've come to the conclusion that it wasn't necessary to have been so strict. (10) the amount my time online to an hour a day would also have been beneficial.

Perhaps there's no escape from the Internet. For instance, tomorrow I'm being interviewed by the host of a radio show for an episode on lifestyles, and this will, of course, be broadcast online!

- | | | | | |
|----|--------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 | A rigorous | B challenging | C critical | D backbreaking |
| 2 | A take | B keep | C make | D have |
| 3 | A accused | B suggested | C assumed | D suspected |
| 4 | A irrelevant | B unreliable | C irresponsible | D unfortunate |
| 5 | A stubborn | B respected | C determined | D arrogant |
| 6 | A income | B interest | C charge | D budget |
| 7 | A award | B success | C victory | D record |
| 8 | A memorable | B superb | C dramatic | D stunning |
| 9 | A over | B across | C through | D around |
| 10 | A Declining | B Decreasing | C Deteriorating | D Disappearing |

Part 2

Questions 11 – 15

Read the text and questions below. For each question, circle the correct letter A, B, C, or D.

Money, Money, Money!

Trade goes back as far as recorded history and probably even further. The farmer exchanged corn for fish from the fisherman. All very fine, but it meant the farmer and the fisherman had to stay where they were. That's where money had the advantage. Once it was decided what a currency (whether it was seashells or gold coins) was worth, you could travel out of your area and its value stayed the same.

For many centuries, the actual value of the metals used in the coins showed the value which they represented in terms of trade. A gold coin has almost always represented a higher value than a silver one for example, because gold itself is more precious. **This** changed with the introduction of notes, made of paper, and now plastic credit cards are being used for the majority of our buying and shopping needs.

Using a credit card has become the normal way of paying for items by most people today, but it is a relatively recent invention and a very important one in the history of money. And it isn't difficult to see why! Having a lot

of cash on you has always had its disadvantages – you might lose it or be robbed. Some people have blamed the spread of diseases on dirty coins and notes being passed around in society. A pocketful of loose change can become heavy and uncomfortable to carry around.

Research indicates that people feel it's less dishonest to cheat others when using a credit card than cash. Psychologists believe that credit cards put a greater distance between the buyer and the seller and so cheating someone by using a card seems less dishonest than when using cash, because it makes the victim less connected to the criminal. Dishonesty wouldn't have been a problem with the face-to-face exchange between our fisherman and farmer.

So would a bright, cashless society really make us happier or better people? It would certainly be more efficient. But I have to tell you that I lost my credit card three months ago and do you know what? I haven't replaced it yet and I haven't really missed it at all!

11 In the first paragraph what point is the writer making about the introduction of money?

- A It made a wider range of products available.
- B It allowed people a lot more freedom.
- C It brought different kinds of people together.
- D It made certain products less expensive.

12 In the second paragraph, what does the writer mean by 'this' (in bold)?

- A the need for both notes and coins
- B the development of different currencies
- C the metal used being equal to the coin's value
- D using plastic and paper to show a currency's value

13 In the third paragraph, what is the writer's purpose?

- A to explain the rise in popularity of the credit card
- B to show surprise at some reasons for not using cash
- C to introduce a new view of the history of money
- D to contrast people's attitudes to money now and in the past

14 In the fourth paragraph, the writer says that credit cards tend to

- A encourage some victims to distrust the people around them more.
- B make victims of crime become more dishonest themselves.
- C allow people to leave the scene of their crime more quickly.
- D make people feel less guilty when cheating others.

15 Which statement best sums up the writer's thoughts?

- A The history of money is always changing, but not necessarily for the better.
- B Money has always caused problems between people and continues to do so.
- C It is likely that attitudes toward money will change noticeably in the future.
- D History has shown that money does not always make people happier.