Listening skills practice: My favourite things – exercises

Listen to the speakers describing their favourite things and do the exercises to practise and improve your listening skills.

1. Preparation: matching

Do this exercise before you listen. Match the verb with the correct noun and write a – g next to the numbers 1 – 7.

1……..	take	a.	a designer
2……..	listen to	b.	your scooter
3……..	watch	c.	a business
4……..	stroke (= move your hand gently over something)	d.	films
5……..	park	e.	photos
6……..	make it as (= be successful as)	f.	the cat
7……..	set up (= start)	g.	music

2. Check your understanding: matching

Match the speakers with their favourite things. Write a – e next to the numbers 1 – 5.

1……..	Speaker A	a.	a tablet
2……..	Speaker B	b.	a sewing machine
3……..	Speaker C	c.	a scooter
4……..	Speaker D	d.	a set of knives
5……..	Speaker E	e.	a cat

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3. Check your understanding: gap fill

Do this exercise while you listen. Write the word to fill the gaps.

1. My favourite thing has to be my new tablet. It's really light and quite _____, so I take it with me everywhere. I'm always writing to friends and it's big enough to do college work on it too. It takes really good _____, and I play games and listen to _____ on it as well, of course. I often download _____ onto it, and watch them in _____. My mum says I'm _____, because I'm always on it. I even read things on it at breakfast time. I'm not allowed to at _____ time, though. I have to be _____ and talk to people then. "Welcome back to real life," my mum says.

2. My favourite thing? Does my _____ count as a thing? She's not really a thing, but anyway. She's a really _____ little cat. I've had her since she was _____ months old. You know how some cats are really _____ and hardly talk to you? I know cats don't really talk, but you know what I mean. Well, she's not like that at all. She's really _____ and comes up to me as soon as I get home, purring away like mad. She makes a lot of _____ for a tiny thing. She loves being stroked and comes and curls up next to me when I'm on the _____. She's great _____.

3. My new scooter! It's quite small, but _____, and just what I needed for getting around the _____. I used to have quite a long walk to the _____, then a longish walk at the other end to get to _____. But now I can just whiz there on my _____. And there's no problem parking, there's always _____ for it. You have to be _____ with the cars and _____ – they don't always see you – and when it rains the surface of the road is _____, it gets really slippery. But in general it's perfect for me, and I can fit a _____ on the back too – I've got an extra _____ for a friend. It's great. Riding along makes me feel so free.

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4. This might sound a bit old-fashioned, but my sewing _____ is my favourite thing. I'm studying _____ and love making things, as well as designing them. I also love _____ myself and often buy second-hand clothes – everyone loves the "vintage" _____ at the moment – and then I adapt them to my _____. It's much easier using a machine to do that than doing it by _____. I do alterations for my mum and my sister too. If I don't make it as a _____, I suppose I can always set up my own alterations and customising _____. Customising clothes, by taking things off and adding things on, is actually very _____, so I wouldn't mind that.

5. My set of Japanese knives. That sounds a bit sinister, doesn't it, but I'm not a _____ or anything. They're chef's knives and the best ones come from _____. Cooking is my new hobby. I got into it when I started watching Masterchef on TV. Then I went to an evening _____ for beginners, and I haven't looked back since. I try and have a _____ for between four and eight _____ every two or three _____. That gives me something to work towards and I always do new _____ so they can try them out and give me feedback. It's quite an _____ hobby if you use good _____, but now my friends help towards the _____. They still get a good _____ for a very low price.

What's your favourite thing?
Why is it important to you?

Vocabulary Box Write any new words you have learnt in this lesson.

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