

UNIT 3

IELTS LISTENING Section 3

A. Overview

The IELTS Listening Section 3 consists of a conversation, typically between two people, and features a total of 10 questions. This section is often divided into two parts. Before the conversation begins, test-takers are given time to read the questions. It's important to note that no example is provided, and the conversation is played only once. The topics discussed usually revolve around student life.

1. Question Types

Common:

- multiple choice
- sentence completion
- matching (features).

Less common:

- flow chart
- table
- notes.
- sentence completion summary completion

2. Main Strategies: To maximize your score in Section 2, consider the following strategies:

To perform well in Section 3, consider the following strategies:

- Distinguish between different speakers' voices.
- Analyze the questions carefully.
- Understand each potential answer.
- Eliminate answers that are unlikely to be correct.
- Predict the possible format of the answers.
- Pay attention to any extra information provided between questions that may help determine the answers.

3. Language Focus: Familiarity with the following grammar points will aid in understanding Section 2:

Familiarity with certain grammar points can aid in understanding Section 3. Key areas to focus on include:

- Gerunds and infinitives (e.g., "reading" vs. "to read")
- Idioms (e.g., "a couch potato")
- Adverbs of frequency and certainty (e.g., "always," "never," "probably," "definitely")

- Perfect tenses (e.g., "I have been studying")
- Reported speech (e.g., "They said that they were going to the library")
- Second conditional (e.g., "If I had more time, I would do better")
- Third conditional (e.g., "If I had had money, I would have gone on holiday")

Tips

When answering questions in this section, keep in mind that the focus is usually on who is doing what. Additionally, answers are often repeated during the conversation, which can help confirm your choices.

Skill Activity 1

Degree of certainty

The purpose of this exercise is to give you practice in determining how positive speakers are about events by the information they give. For the following sentences, decide how positive each speaker is, then choose a modal from the list to complete the sentence. There is no listening for this exercise.

1. Today it is snowing. It _____ freezing.
A is C can be
B may be
2. There are clouds in the sky. I think it _____ rain.
A ought to C must
B will
3. It is very hot. I _____ wear sunscreen.
A might C must
B may
4. I feel sick. I _____ lie down.
A might B could
C have to
5. I see lightning. It _____ be a storm.
A shall B has got to
C can

Practice Listening Activity 5

Who is doing what?

Audio 8

The purpose of this exercise is to give you practice in relating the information given by each speaker to who it is actually referring to. Listen to the five short conversations and answer the following questions for each.

Conversation 1

Speaker 1 = Rick; Speaker 2 = Brad

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Who's going on a holiday? | 2. Who's staying at home?. |
| 3. Who's fixing the garden now? | 4. Who's fixing the garden later? |

Conversation 2

Speaker 1 = May; Speaker 2 = Anne

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Who's painting the living room? | 2. Who likes green? |
| 3. Who likes cream? | 4. Who is buying furnishings? |

Conversation 3

Speaker 1 = Melanie; Speaker 2 = Sandra

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Who works from home? | 2. Who teaches part-time? |
| 3. Who teaches full-time? | 4. Who might increase their hours? |

Conversation 4

Speaker 1 = Allan; Speaker 2 = Mike

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Who has seen the latest movie? | 2. Who hasn't seen it yet?. |
| 3. Who likes the main actor? | 4. Who likes action movies? |

Conversation 5

Speaker 1 = Chris; Speaker 2 = Sam; Speaker 3 = Nick

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Who knows Chris' sister? | 2. Who doesn't know Nick very well? |
| 3. Who held a party? | 4. Who went to the party along with Nick? |

To predict missing information before listening, look at the whole sentence to understand its meaning.

First, decide if you need to write words or numbers. Think about the grammar: What part of speech do you need? Is it a noun, verb, adjective, or adverb? Check if the answer is more than one word, like an adjective and a noun together. Also, see if there are articles or prepositions.

Next, look at how the ideas in the sentence are connected. Words like "but," "because," and "if" show how the ideas relate to each other.

You can also use your general knowledge about the topic to help you guess. Try to figure out what kind of information is missing. Even if you can't think of a specific answer, consider what might fit, and check your answers after listening.

Look at these examples

1. She took her car to. _____ to get it repaired.
2. Unlike her brother who is sociable, Marie is quite _____

3. Diesel engines are _____, and emit fewer poisonous gases than petrol-powered cars.
4. Diesel engines are _____ but emit fewer poisonous gases than petrol-powered cars.
5. Mark drove _____ so he hit another car at an intersection.
6. We want to start the event at precisely _____ so make sure you are all there on time.
7. Unless we hurry, we _____ able to have lunch before we see the movie.
8. Although solar energy is cheap and freely available, the cost of installing solar systems in homes is _____.
9. Despite the strong campaigns against cigarette smoking, the number of smokers in some countries _____.
10. Snakes and spiders are often feared because of their _____.

Possible answers

1. **the/a garage/mechanic:** a noun-person or place, which needs an article. Where would you take a car to be repaired?
2. **shy/unsociable/reserved:** 'unlike' signals a contrast between two subjects in the sentence. An adjective the opposite of sociable.
3. **more economical:** the joining word is 'and'. Because the second clause is positive, it must be a positive comparative adjective.
4. **noisier/more expensive:** the joining word is 'but'. Because the second clause is positive, it must be a negative adjective. Use your general knowledge to help you, too.
5. **carelessly/recklessly/too fast:** an adverb describing the driving that resulted in hitting another car.
6. **(a time):** at precisely.... It is about starting and being somewhere on time.
7. **won't be:** you need to complete the verb 'able to'. The future tense is necessary in the result clause. Also, 'unless' in the conditional clause means that the verb should be negative.
8. **expensive:** an adjective describing the cost'. Because the sentence begins with 'although', it has to contrast with the first clause idea of 'cheap'.
9. **increasing/rising/growing:** a verb is needed to complete the clause. 'despite' means that the ideas in the two clauses contrast with an unexpected result.
10. **(poisonous bites/ugly bodies):** a noun or noun phrase is required, and your general knowledge helps here. There are a few possible answers, so you would need to listen carefully to eliminate other possibilities.

Demonstration - Section 3

Audio 9

You will look at Questions 21-26. This section is split into two parts: Questions 21-26 and Questions 27-30. Use the 30 seconds provided at the beginning to focus only on Questions 21-26. You will have another 20 seconds later to look at Questions 27-30.

Section 3, Questions 21-30

QUESTIONS 21-23

Complete the sentences below.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** for each answer.

21. The project is about _____
22. It includes a group of fuels called _____
23. This type of fuel affects the weather by creating _____

QUESTIONS 24-26

What percentage of each fuel is used in the world? Write the correct letter, **A-D**, for questions **24-26**.

A-natural gas; **B**-nuclear; **C**-oil; **D**-other

8 percent **24** _____

20 percent **25** _____

45 percent **26** _____

QUESTIONS 27-30

Choose the correct letter, A, B or C.

27. Richard believes that the main problem with using fossil fuels is

- A they affect everybody through global warming.
- B their supply will eventually run out.
- C they create gases that pollute the air and damage all living things.

28. Shirley wants to research nuclear energy because

- A the fuels used in nuclear energy release radiation even after they've been used.
- B she wants to know how nuclear waste is disposed of.
- C of public concerns over nuclear power stations situated close to where they live.

29. Regarding other energy sources, Richard

- A is going to research renewable energy sources.
- B is not going to research renewable energy sources.
- C hasn't decided if he's going to research renewable energy sources.

30. For the next meeting, Shirley will find some information about

- A the benefits of coal and oil.

B alternative energy sources.

C nuclear power stations.