

Listening Practice: A Fresh Start

1. Warm-Up: A Fresh Start?

Discuss the following questions with a partner before listening:

- What can help someone change their life after making serious mistakes?
- How can a person discover what they are genuinely good at?
- Do you think learning a practical skill can create new opportunities? Why or why not?



2. Useful Vocabulary: Get Ready to Listen

Match each expression (1–5) with its correct definition (A–E). Write the correct letter in the middle column.

Expression	Answer	Definition
1. Turn over a new leaf		A. A period of work experience in a real workplace
2. Commit a crime		B. To find out what you can do well
3. Work placement		C. To do something illegal
4. Discover your talents		D. To change your behaviour and start doing better
5. Equine Management		E. The care and management of horses

3. Task 1: Main Ideas

Listen to a radio interview with Mark talking about his journey. Tick ([✓]) the **five** points that he mentions. There are **three** points that you will not use.

- [] **1.** He did not mind going to prison.
- [] **2.** The worst crime he committed was burglary.
- [] **3.** He did not do well at school.
- [] **4.** He decided to turn over a new leaf.
- [] **5.** He did not know which subject to study.
- [] **6.** He was a fast learner.
- [] **7.** He loves riding horses.
- [] **8.** The work placement was a turning point.

4. Task 2: Detailed Listening

Listen to the interview again. Decide whether each statement is **True (T)**, **False (F)**, or **Not Stated (NS)**. **THINK BEFORE YOU LISTEN:** What is the difference between False and Not Stated?

Statement	T / F / NS
1. The second time he went to prison, it was for eight months.	
2. He was friends with people who had also been to prison.	
3. He went to prison a third time for selling drugs to his friends.	
4. He left school aged 15 without any qualifications.	
5. The prison offered quite a number of different courses.	
6. Mark was keen to discover where his talents lay.	
7. Cooking and car mechanics were more popular than Equine Management.	
8. At level 1, Mark learned some basic elements of veterinary medicine.	
9. He set up his own business as soon as he left prison.	
10. Mark cannot explain why his business has been a success.	

5. Listening Self-Assessment

Reflect honestly on your listening comprehension and strategy during today's tasks.

Strengths & Successes

Which parts of the audio were easiest to understand, and what strategies helped you?

Challenges & Obstacles

What caused difficulty (e.g. speech rate, accents, unfamiliar words, distinguishing T vs NS)?

Action Plan: What specific step will you take before the next listening task to improve your comprehension?
