

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Listening Practice: Understanding numbers

Exercise 1: Listen to each conversation and write the missing information

1. Personal Information

Name: Suzanne Wilson

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Los Angeles, California

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (cell)

2. Price

jacket: \_\_\_\_\_

blouse: \_\_\_\_\_

skirt: \_\_\_\_\_

belt: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Temperatures

Paris: \_\_\_\_\_

London: \_\_\_\_\_

Berlin: \_\_\_\_\_

Copenhagen: \_\_\_\_\_

Milan: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Times

start work: \_\_\_\_\_

finish work: \_\_\_\_\_

see cousin: \_\_\_\_\_

doctor's appointment: \_\_\_\_\_

meet Jeff: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Phone Numbers

home: \_\_\_\_\_

cell: \_\_\_\_\_

work: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Large Numbers

1990: \_\_\_\_\_

2000: \_\_\_\_\_

2010: \_\_\_\_\_

Exercise 2: Listen to the information about Ashrita Furman. Write answers to the questions.

1. When was Ashrita Furman born? \_\_\_\_\_
2. In what year did he join the bike race in New York's Central Park?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How far did he ride? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In what place did he finish the race (first, second, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many jumping jacks did he do for his first record? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What two records did he set in 1986?
  - a. did forward rolls along a \_\_\_\_\_ route in Boston
  - b. jumped \_\_\_\_\_ miles on Mount Fuji in Japan

Exercise 3: Listen and complete the chart.

Date	Event	Record
1. August ____	underwater rope jumping	completed ____ rope jumps without stopping
2. November ____	grape catching	caught ____ grapes in ____ minutes
3. July ____	candles on a cake	____ candles
4. March ____	pushing a car	____ miles (____ kilometers) in ____ hours
5. February ____	basketball bouncing	____ bounces in one minute
6. April ____, 2009	world records	first person to hold ____ records simultaneously; has broken records in ____ different countries

Exercise 4:

**A. Vocabulary Preview** Study the words and their definitions. Then use the words to complete the sentences on the next page.

<b>conquer</b>	to take land by force; to occupy
<b>typically</b>	generally; usually
<b>linguist</b>	a person who studies language
<b>specialized</b>	suitable for one specific purpose
<b>informal</b>	suitable for ordinary language

- The \_\_\_\_\_ is studying the grammar of several ancient languages.
- Children \_\_\_\_\_ begin speaking at between 12 to 24 months of age.
- The Romans were able to \_\_\_\_\_ all the lands around the Mediterranean Sea.
- Spoken language is generally more \_\_\_\_\_ than written language.
- This is a highly \_\_\_\_\_ tool. It has only one use.

**B. 🎧 Listen to the talk about English vocabulary and write the missing numbers.**

A language called “Old English” was spoken in most parts of Britain from the \_\_\_\_\_ century to the \_\_\_\_\_ century. It is believed that Old English contained from about \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ words. In the year \_\_\_\_\_, Britain was conquered by the French, and many French words were added to the language. During the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ centuries, many words were added from other European languages, such as Spanish and Portuguese, and from far-away places in the Americas, Africa, and Asia. Even today, languages continue to borrow from one another.

Today, some linguists believe that the English language may contain \_\_\_\_\_ words, although no one person knows that many words. Probably more than \_\_\_\_\_ of these words are specialized words—words that would be used only in certain fields, such as medicine or engineering.

By the age of five or six, an English-speaking child knows from about \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ words. During the early years of elementary school, an average student learns from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ words a year, or from two to eight a day. Among adult speakers of English, the size of a person’s vocabulary varies greatly. A study done in \_\_\_\_\_ indicated that a high-school graduate has an average of about \_\_\_\_\_ words and that a person with a university degree typically has a vocabulary of around \_\_\_\_\_ words.

A \_\_\_\_\_ study found that it is not necessary for nonnative speakers to have a large vocabulary in order to understand a lot of spoken or written English. According to the study, a person with a vocabulary of just \_\_\_\_\_ of the most common words can understand about \_\_\_\_\_ percent of an informal conversation. A person with a vocabulary of \_\_\_\_\_ words can understand \_\_\_\_\_ percent of a written text.