

Unit 1: Exercise 1

In this unit, you will learn about IELTS Listening Section 3 and practise the skills you need to answer three-option multiple choice questions.

The conversation in this unit is about the natural world. Complete the definitions. Use the words in the box.

In IELTS Listening Section 3, you will hear a conversation between at least two people. The conversation will always involve people in education or training.

Behavior

coast

dangerous

marine

rare

sociable

wild

1. Animals that live in forests, the jungle and mountains, and do not live at home as pets are _____ animals. (adj.)
2. We say that an animal is _____ when there are only a few still alive in the world. (adj.)
3. A _____ animal lives only in the sea, for example, a dolphin or a shark. (adj.)
4. A _____ person or animal likes being with others, rather than being alone. (adj.)
5. Lions, tigers or sharks can harm you, so these animals are _____, not safe. (adj.)
6. The _____ is the area of land next to the sea. (noun)
7. When scientists study the _____ of animals, they find out what they eat, when they sleep and how they communicate. (noun)

Unit 1: Exercise 2

Complete the sentences with vocabulary related to the natural world. Use the words in the box.

Behavior

coast

dangerous

marine

rare

sociable

wild

1. I really want to go on safari so I can see some _____ animals.
2. My dog is incredibly _____ – she has to say ‘hello’ to every dog we meet on our walk!
3. In summer, dolphins arrive here and swim all along the west _____.
4. Because of the rubbish polluting our seas, _____ animals are dying in large numbers.
5. In the past, there were lots of bears in our country but now sadly, they are very _____.
6. The _____ of my last cat was quite strange. She only wanted to sleep on my computer.
7. Some of the most _____ snakes in the world live in Australia.

Unit 1: Exercise 3

Listen to a conversation about a project someone is working on.

Choose the correct answers.

In the IELTS Listening test, you will only hear each recording **once**. For three-option multiple choice questions, you may see:

- a question with three possible answers, or
- the beginning of a sentence with three possible endings.

To answer this type of question, you may need to choose:

- the correct reason for something
- an opinion a speaker expresses
- a specific number, quantity or measurement
- a specific place or location
- a name
- the correct description of someone or something
- whether the speakers agree or disagree about something.

1. How many speakers are there?
 - ☐ Two
 - ☐ Three
 - ☐ Four
2. What is the relationship between the two people?
 - ☐ They are a student and her teacher.
 - ☐ They are both teachers.
 - ☐ They are both students.
3. Which animals does the woman decide to do her project on?
 - ☐ Pandas
 - ☐ Sharks
 - ☐ dolphins
4. What does the woman have to do for her project?
 - ☐ write a report on an animal
 - ☐ give a presentation about New Zealand
 - ☐ take some photographs of wild animals

Unit 1: Exercise 4

Read the information. Then read the IELTS Listening three-option multiple choice questions.

Match the questions with the types of information you would expect to need in the answer.

By reading the questions before you listen, you can get an idea of what information to listen for. For example:

Why has Anne asked Tom to help her? (*Why* tells you to listen for a reason, possibly starting with the word *because*.)

In this exercise, the key words which give you this information are shown in **bold**.

adjective of character and behavior

number and measurement of distance

number and measurement of length

number showing quantity

place or location

1. How **long** is an adult male Maui dolphin?

2. **Where** are Maui dolphins found in New Zealand?

3. The **population** of Maui dolphins is now likely to be...

4. What do Anne and Tom agree is **typical behaviour** for Maui dolphins?

5. **How far** along the coastline do Maui dolphins swim?

Unit 1: Exercise 5

In IELTS Listening multiple choice activities, it is often important to recognise different forms of the same word, which are used in *paraphrasing*.

Match the adjectives on the left with the nouns on the right.

When we paraphrase something, we use different words to express the same or a similar meaning. Sometimes a paraphrase will include a different form of the same word. For example, you hear a noun (e.g. *danger*) but the question or answer needs an adjective (e.g. *dangerous*):

You read: When is a tiger **most dangerous**?

You hear: 'If you see a tiger trying to catch fish in a river, you may be **in great danger**.'

Other times, we use an adjective that relates to a noun but is a completely different word, for example *large* (adjective) and *size* (noun).

Height width length distance weight speed

Far	
Wide	
Long	
Heavy	
High	
fast	

Unit 1: Exercise 6

Complete the questions. Use the words in the box.

Fast heavy high length speed width

1. How _____ can a dolphin swim?
2. How _____ do you think that dolphin is?
3. What _____ can a dolphin travel at?
4. What is the _____ of time that young dolphins stay with their mother?
5. How _____ can an adult dolphin jump?
6. What is the _____ of the pool that the dolphin lives in?

Unit 1: Exercise 7

Look at the five questions from different IELTS Listening tests with the extracts from the conversations that answer them.

Listen to the recording. Choose the correct answers.

It is also possible to paraphrase the meaning of parts of a conversation.

You read: Which animals are **the most difficult** to **photograph**?

A bears ×

B lions ×

C tigers ✓

You hear: 'Taking pictures of wild animals is never easy – bears are really dangerous, for instance, and so are lions of course! But **the hardest? I'd say tigers**. They aren't very sociable so they can be hard to find!'

In the example above, *the most difficult* matches *the hardest* and the verb *photograph* matches *Taking pictures*. The correct option is therefore **C tigers**.

Notice that the speaker mentions all three options – *bears*, *lions* and *tigers*. This is common in multiple choice questions so listen carefully and do not choose an option just because you hear the word in the conversation.

1. How does the man describe female elephants?

- ☐ Rare
- ☐ Dangerous
- ☐ sociable

2. People should not keep wolves as pets because they are

- ☐ wild animals.
- ☐ dangerous.
- ☐ very expensive to feed.

3. How fast does a great white shark usually swim?

- ☐ 56 kph
- ☐ 2.5 kph
- ☐ 74 kph

4. In what unexpected place do sea lions sometimes sleep?

- ☐ on the beach
- ☐ along the coast
- ☐ in the sea

5. How long is a giraffe's neck?

- ☐ 3.5 m
- ☐ 1.45 m
- ☐ 1.8 m

Unit 1: Exercise 8

Listen to two students talking about an ecology project on Maui dolphins.

Decide which two of the five topics they talked about. Choose the correct answers.

Remember that in the real IELTS Listening test you will **only** hear the conversation **once**.

1. the appearance of the dolphins

- ☐ Yes, they discuss this.
- ☐ No, they don't discuss this.

2. the size of the dolphins

- ☐ Yes, they discuss this.
- ☐ No, they don't discuss this.

3. how dolphins hunt for their food

- ☐ Yes, they discuss this.
- ☐ No, they don't discuss this.

4. how many dolphins are still alive

- ☐ Yes, they discuss this.
- ☐ No, they don't discuss this.

5. how the government is trying to help the dolphins

- ☐ Yes, they discuss this.
- ☐ No, they don't discuss thi

Unit 1: Exercise 9

Listen to the recording. Choose the correct answers.

1. Anne has asked Tom to help her with her dolphin project because
 - ☐ he is in the same class as Anne.
 - ☐ he is an expert on dolphins.
 - ☐ he once did a similar project to Anne.
2. How long is an adult male Maui dolphin?
 - ☐ 1.5 metres
 - ☐ 1 metre
 - ☐ 1.7 metres
3. Where are Maui dolphins found in New Zealand?
 - ☐ around most of the coast of the North Island
 - ☐ around the west coast of the North Island
 - ☐ around the whole coast of the South Island
4. The population of Maui dolphins is now likely to be
 - ☐ around 100
 - ☐ well over 500
 - ☐ less than 50
5. What do Anne and Tom agree is typical behaviour for Maui dolphins?
 - ☐ They prefer to live with many other Maui dolphins.
 - ☐ They often choose to follow boats to catch fish more easily.
 - ☐ They are friendly towards people who swim near them.
6. How far along the coastline do Maui dolphins swim?
 - ☐ 40 kilometres
 - ☐ 50 kilometres
 - ☐ 30 kilometres

Unit 1: Exercise 10

Think about what you've learnt from doing this unit.

Choose the correct answers.

1. Use the time before the recording starts to read the questions carefully and
 - think about the type of information you might hear.
 - use your own knowledge to answer some of the questions.
2. When you listen to the recording, you may hear the speakers mention
 - some details or information from *all* of the A, B, C options.
 - only the details and information from the correct option.
3. You can find the answer to a three-option multiple choice question by
 - matching an option to exactly the same sentence in the recording.
 - listening for paraphrases of the A, B, C options.
4. It's best to choose a number or measurement from a set of options
 - only after the speakers have mentioned and discussed *all* of them.
 - which the speakers mention first or more than once in their discussion.