UNIT 3 : THE NEWS AND MEDIA

C. LISTENING

Exercise 1. In this unit, you will practise the skills you need to understand what type of information to listen for in a general conversation between two or three people. Read the information about Section 1 of the IELTS Listening test. Choose two answers for each question.

> In Section 1 of the IELTS Listening test, you will hear a conversation between two or three people, in a general situation. They will be attempting to do something specific in their conversation (for example, reach a decision, or get information). You will hear this only once, and you will have a short period of time to read the questions before listening.

1 In this part of the test, who might you hear?

- ☐ someone telephoning about a sports event
- ☐ a careers advisor, giving a short talk about what to do after university
- ☐ a tour operator advising someone on planning a trip

2 What kind of conversation might it be?

- ☐ a group of friends preparing a party
- ☐ a student discussing an essay with her tutor
- ☐ two people discussing arrangements for a charity cycle race

3 What might the people be trying to do?

- ☐ decide what to do next
- ☐ find out information about a product
- ☐ tell an interesting story

Exercise 2: Read the information. Then look at the table quickly and decide what type of information you need to listen for. Match the information with the questions. There are more types of information than you need.

> In Section 1 of the IELTS Listening test, look quickly at the questions before you listen. This will help you decide what type of conversation you are likely to hear, and what the people want to achieve or find out.
>
> In this type of task, you usually need to listen for nouns: things, people, objects or numbers (for example, dates, times or prices).

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Apartment 1

facilities	has a **(1)** ….. that guests can use for free
location	lots of shops nearby, but unfortunately, it's also near a **(2)** …..
cost	**(3)** €….. per person for one night.

For Question 1, you need to listen for ●

For Question 2, you need to listen for ●

For Question 3, you need to listen for ●

- an event
- a number
- something people do in a hotel
- something people normally pay for
- a number of people
- a place or building

Exercise 3: Read the information. Then listen to two people choosing the best apartment for a trip. Choose the correct words to complete the table. (Track 3.1)

The speakers may say more than one thing which could fit in a gap. You need to listen carefully and decide which is the information you need, and which you don't need.

Apartment 1

facilities	has a **(1)** ….. that guests can use for free
location	lots of shops nearby, but unfortunately, it's also near a **(2)** …..
cost	**(3)** €….. per person for one night.

1	◯ swimming pool	◯ gym	◯ car park
2	◯ road	◯ supermarket	◯ restaurant
3	◯ 35	◯ 42	◯ 70

Exercise 4: Listen to the conversation again. Choose the correct options to complete the explanations of why the answers are correct or incorrect. (Track 3.1)

Facilities: has a **(1)** ..... that guests can use for free.

The answer is swimming pool because using it is included in the price. The car park and gym *are/ aren't* free.

Location: lots of shops nearby, but unfortunately, it's also near a **(2)** ..... .

The answer is restaurant, because the woman mentions some disadvantages of staying near it (*it could be noisy at night*). She doesn't say that being near a *restaurant/ road/ supermarket* would be a disadvantage. There isn't a *restaurant/ road/ supermarket* near the apartment.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Cost: **(3)** €..... per person for one night

The answer is €35 because this is the price per person at the cheapest apartment. The price based on two people staying is *€35/ €42/ €70* and the price per person at another apartment is *€35/ €42/ €70* per person.

Exercise 5: Listen and complete the table. Write ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER for each answer. (Track 3.2)

Beachside Holiday Park			
	facilities	**location**	**cost**
Cabin 1 'Economy'	has bedroom for up to 4 people doesn't have its own **(1)**	near the **(2)**	£85 per night
Cabin 2 'Family'	bring a **(3)** ..... for each person	great view of the lake	**(4)** £..... per night
Cabin 3 'Superior'	can take up to 8 people has its own small **(5)** ..... outside	close to the office so there might be some **(6)** ..... at night	£175 per night

Exercise 6: Read the information. Then, complete the chart. Use the phrases in the box.

It will help if you can recognise when the speakers are making suggestions, or agreeing and disagreeing. It will also help if you can understand at what point the speakers arrive at a final decision. For example, if someone says '*Definitely*', then they are agreeing firmly with the other person, and ending the discussion.

I can ... | OK. Good. | I don't think ... | That's a brilliant idea. | Definitely.

I'm not sure ... | If you like, I'll ... | Alright. I see what you mean. | Maybe, but ...

I couldn't agree more. | OK, but ... | It would be good if ... | If we ..., we should ...

I'm afraid ... | How about ...?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Making a suggestion	Showing doubt	Showing agreement

Exercise 7: Listen and choose the correct answers, A, B or C (Track 3.3)

1 Tom and Annie agree that they should start their journey …

- ◯ A on Friday evening.
- ◯ B early on Saturday morning.
- ◯ C on Saturday afternoon.

2 What do Tom and Annie decide about food?

- ◯ A to eat soon after they arrive at the holiday park
- ◯ B to look for a café along the route to the holiday park
- ◯ C to bring snacks to eat during the trip to the holiday park

3 Annie doesn't want to book a horse ride until she is certain about …

- ◯ A the weather.
- ◯ B the times.
- ◯ C the prices.

4 Tom and Annie both think that during the holiday their children …

- ◯ A should learn a new skill.
- ◯ B must look after each other.
- ◯ C could have more independence than usual.

- Read through the questions so you know what kind of thing you need to listen for.
- Listen and pay attention to how the speakers ask for each other's opinions, make suggestions, and agree or disagree.
- Pay special attention to what the speakers finally agree on.
- Go back and choose the best answers, **A**, **B** or **C**.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 8: Listen and complete the sentences with the words the speakers use to introduce topics, and make and respond to suggestions. (Track 3.4)

1 _____ we go first thing Saturday morning? Then we won't have to drive in the dark.

2 OK, good. So _____ all come round to our house for about nine, we can set off together. And _____ food for the journey?

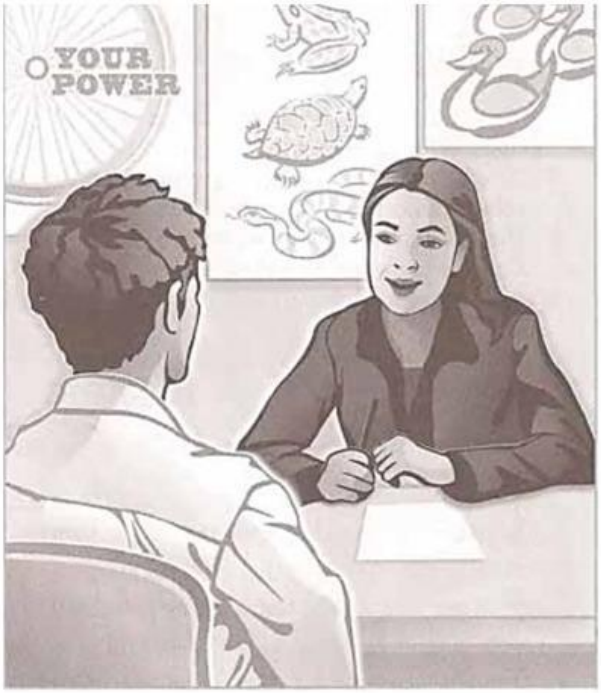
3 That's a _____. Then we can stop off somewhere on the way and eat.

4 I mean, it's fine right now, but _____ a possibility it might rain at the weekend. So _____ wait until we get there.

5 I'd feel better if you did. But it _____ we could teach them how to make a fire, like dad taught us.

6 Definitely. I _____ more.

Exercise 9. Listen and answer questions 1-10 (Track 3.5)



Questions 1–6

Complete the notes below.

Write ***NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER*** *for each answer.*

The Volunteer Agency

- has recruited 1 ..... people for environmental projects
- project abroad involves doing 2 ..... or going into the rain forest
- major project for dealing with 3 ..... in the countryside
- project for improving conditions for 4 .....
- 5 ..... projects in urban areas
- some projects do not have any 6 .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Questions 7–10

Complete the table below.

*Write **ONE WORD** for each answer.*

Name of organisation	Numbers	Example volunteer activity
Wildlife Link	24,000 volunteers	getting information about 7 ..... of wildlife
Wildlife Watch	300 8	doing administrative work
9 ..... Earth	908 projects	building 10 ..... and walls

Listen to the final part of the conversation and choose the correct answer, A, B or C.

1 Simon is going to base his main study on
- A why just over half of the participants stayed until the end of the project.
- B how to make sure that people can survive on a real trip to Mars.
- C how much the project was covered in the news media.

2 One surprising result of the project was that
- A it was reported as a major news item.
- B the participants were in danger of losing their lives.
- C information from the project will be used in a new design.

3 One thing that Dr Thornton is interested in finding out about the people in the Mars project is
- A why they had health problems.
- B how they coped physically with living close together.
- C how their physical well-being might develop in the future.

4 Maria intends to
- A make a contribution to an important scientific publication.
- B write about how well the participants performed while living in a small space.
- C focus only on the psychological issues affecting the participants.

5 In the end, the total spent on the Mars project was
- A just over the planned amount.
- B twice the planned amount.
- C just under the planned amount.

6 The person who would absolutely refuse to be a participant in a repeat project is
- A Simon.
- B Dr Thornton.
- C Maria.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

E. SPEAKING

Exercise 1. Match the words to make collocations you can use to talk about the news and media.

affairs | broadcasting | channel | headline | news | newspaper | release | story

1 current _____

2 radio _____

3 tabloid _____

4 24-hour news _____

5 breaking _____

6 newspaper _____

7 news _____

8 press _____

Exercise 2. Put the letters in the correct order to complete the words about the news and media.

1 I always watch the news. I'm interested in current f s f r a a i

2 Television and radio are kinds of r c t d o i a g a b n s

3 Did you see the headlines today? The main news r s y o t was about the elections.

4 The increase in 24-hour news c h n l a e n s has led to a greater understanding of world issues.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5

e g B k i a r n

news! We've just heard that all flights are cancelled due to bad weather.

6

I'm not sure what the official story is, but there will be a s s p

r e release soon.

7

d l o a i T b

newspapers are very popular in my country.

8

Have you seen the newspaper l e h n d

a i e ?

The Olympic team has had the most successful Olympics ever.

Exercise 3. Read the examiner's IELTS Speaking Part 3 questions and look at the words and phrases in bold. Match the paraphrases with the words or phrases from the questions. Use the phrases in the box

Examiner:

Tell me, what kind of **news stories interest young people** in your country?

Are young people interested very much in **news stories about politics**?

What **differences** are there between news reporting on television and in newspapers?

Are there any disadvantages of getting **news from the internet**?

(how does) ... differ from ... (?) | political issues | online news sources

reports about recent events | The youth ... take an interest in ...

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 news stories

2 interest young people

3 news stories about politics

4 differences

5 news from the internet

Exercise 4. Complete the examiner's IELTS Speaking Part 3 questions. Use the words in the box. Then watch the video and check your answers. (Video 3.1)

news | newspapers | politicians | reporting | sources | sportspeople | stories

Examiner:

1 We've been talking about the _____ and I'd like to discuss with you now one or two more general questions related to this.

2 Let's consider, first of all, _____ of news. Tell me, what kind of news _____ interest young people in your country?

3 What about news stories about _____ or _____?

4 What differences are there between news _____ on television and in newspapers?

5 Do many people buy _____ in your country?

Exercise 5. Choose the correct words to complete the IELTS Speaking Part 3 test. Then watch the video and check your answers. (Video 3.2)

Examiner: Let's move on now to talk about the media and *celebrities/ the famous* such as actors and musicians. Why do the media often talk/ report about bad things that celebrities do?

Student: I think, ... it's probably because ... it's easy to spread around, and it's interesting to read about ... .

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Examiner: Should they report about the good things that celebrities do?
Student: Of course, they should show *the public/ people* the positive side also, because not every person or celebrity is bad. They should show the good *side/ view* of celebrities, like the donations to charities they make ...

Examiner: Do you think it's all right that the media talk about the *secret/ private* lives of celebrities?
Student: I personally feel it's not right because we all have the *right/ need* to have privacy. It's a basic human right to have privacy in life and it shouldn't be shown in the media. ... But it's breaking news and people are more interested in it.

Examiner: But then do some celebrities *invite/ start* news about their private lives?
Student: Maybe they do because they want to get famous. It's the *clear/ obvious* way of getting famous because if … you're trending and you're in the news, it's a good way of being in people's *heads/ minds*.

Examiner: But what about most celebrities – do they really *need/ require* the media?
Student: Celebrities do need the media because it's the media that gets them the status/ popularity , the fans…who/will go and watch their movies, so celebrities, they do need the media, in my opinion.

Examiner: And film stars?
Student: Film stars, they also need it ... to promote/ advertise their movies because … the media represents you know ... and tells society what is happening around the world.

Examiner: Thank you very much. That is the end of the speaking test.

Exercise 6. In IELTS Speaking Part 3 it's important to express your opinions. Read the examiner's questions and the student's answers, looking in particular at the words in *italics. Then watch the video and decide if the student's opinions are positive, negative or if he's not sure.* (Video 3.3)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 **Examiner:** Let's consider, first of all, sources of news. Tell me, what kind of news stories interest young people in your country?

Student: *Erm ... it's hard because* every person has a different taste. ...

◯ positive ◯ negative ◯ not sure

2 **Examiner:** What about news stories about politicians or sportspeople?

Student: *Yeah, they like* to read about it, too ...

◯ positive ◯ negative ◯ not sure

3 **Examiner:** Do you think more people read about sport than about politics?

Student: In my country? I would say *fifty-fifty* ...

◯ positive ◯ negative ◯ not sure

4 **Examiner:** What differences are there between news reporting on television and in newspapers?

Student: Television is *more* exciting *than* newspapers, *actually* ...

◯ positive ◯ negative ◯ not sure

5 **Examiner:** Do many people buy newspapers in your country?

Student: *No, not any more*. They use their phones *actually* ...

◯ positive ◯ negative ◯ not sure

6 **Examiner:** Do you think they should also broadcast the good things that celebrities do?

Student: *Yes, yes, of course*. I mean every person has a good side and a bad side ...

◯ positive ◯ negative ◯ not sure

7 **Examiner:** Do you think it's all right that the media talk about the private lives of celebrities?

Student: *I don't think so*. That's why it's called private life, … but this is the price of fame ...

◯ positive ◯ negative ◯ not sure

8 **Examiner:** Can you stay low key if you're a celebrity?

Student: *Yes, … you can* stay low key in public places ...

◯ positive ◯ negative ◯ not sure

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 7. Complete the table with the phrases that express opinions

I'm not an expert, but ... | Absolutely! | I wouldn't say that. | That's right.

It's hard to say ... | There's no doubt about it. | It's fifty-fifty. | That's partly true.

Actually, I don't like ... | No way! | I don't believe that is the case.

I couldn't agree more.

agree	disagree	neutral / unsure

Exercise 8. Watch the video. Then look at the errors in bold that the student makes. Choose the correct words that the student should have used. Use the words in the box. Replace any words that were unnecessary with '–'. (Video 3.4)

a | in | on | or | try | – | –

Student:

1 … Many young people are interested **about** football …

… they are more inclined towards … entertainment because that's **the** common topic for young people.

2 … young people like to hang out and they **are trying** to stay away from political issues ...

3 … so I think more **of** less, … TV is better.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 ... **The** technology is growing ...

... so more **of** technology is coming in.

5 … if the sources are not reliable such as news **in** Facebook …

Exercise 9. Answer the following IELTS Speaking Part 3 questions.

1. *What kind of news stories interest young people in your country?*
2. *What differences are there between news reported on TV and the newspapers?*
3. *Do you think newspapers will die out in the future?*
4. *Why does the media often report about bad things that celebrities do?*
5. *Do you think it's alright that the media talks about the private life of celebrities?*
6. *Do celebrities need the media?*

LIVEWORKSHEETS