

Developing the Listening Skills

EXERCISE 1

Listening for the gist of the texts

Listen to three people; Farhan, Sean and Sheila, talking about their favorite types of sports.

For questions 1 to 3, choose the sport that each speaker is most likely to enjoy from the list A to E. Use the letters only once.

Sports List

- A Archery
- B Fencing
- C Bowling
- D Boxing
- E Tennis doubles

Sports most likely enjoyed by:

1. Speaker 1: _____
2. Speaker 2: _____
3. Speaker 3: _____

EXERCISE 2

Listening for ideas

Dialogue 1

Listen to an interview being conducted by Rashid, a journalist and Azhar, a zookeeper, regarding a missing zebra. As you listen, choose the correct answer for questions 1 and 2.

1. Was Azhar likely working when Zulu went missing?
 - A. Yes, he was likely working at the zoo when it happened.
 - B. Yes, but he was likely working at his other job.
 - C. No, but he was visiting the zoo at the time.

2. How did the culprit manage to avoid identification?
 - A. He probably worked at the zoo and knew when it would be empty.
 - B. He probably worked at the zoo and knew the security camera's blind spot.
 - C. He probably worked at the zoo and knew how to cut wires.

Dialogue 2

Listen to a conversation between Patrick and Kelvin discussing Kelvin's decision to buy a motorbike. As you listen, choose the correct answer for questions 3 and 4.

3. Why did Kevin want to buy a motorbike?
 - A. His sister's car was too small.
 - B. He could not afford to wait to take public transport to work.
 - C. He had just enough money to afford one at sale price.

4. What did Patrick suggest Kelvin do to not feel bad about his sister driving him to work?
 - A. He could pay her for part of the car.
 - B. He could pay her the fare he would have paid if he had taken public transport.
 - C. He could pay for her petrol.

EXERCISE 3

Listening for Purpose

Listen to a conversation between a grandmother and her grandson, Sarish, as they try to cook a dish based on a recipe that they have just learnt from a cooking show. As you listen, choose the correct answer for questions 1 to 7.

1. Why did Sarish's grandmother want to thaw the chicken first?
 - A. It is hard to cook frozen chicken first.
 - B. It takes a long time to thaw frozen chicken.
 - C. It is hard to thaw frozen vegetables and chicken at the same time.

2. Did they decide to include vegetables in the dish?
 - A. Yes, because the chef had definitely included broccoli in the recipe.
 - B. No, because they were not sure if broccoli was an ingredient for the dish.
 - C. Yes, because Sarish's siblings would eat them if cooked deliciously.

3. How did Sarish's grandmother suggest that he prevent the dish's flavor from being ruined?
 - A. By slowly increasing the amount of each ingredient and tasting the dish each time.
 - B. By following the exact measurements given in the recipe.
 - C. By not altering the recipe.

4. According to Sarish's grandmother, how were the best recipes taught?
 - A. They were taught through cookbooks.
 - B. They were taught verbally.
 - C. They were taught through cooking shows.

5. What are one reason people sometimes had to come up with their own measurements when adding ingredients?
 - A. They forgot the original measurements taught to them.
 - B. They wanted to make new dishes.
 - C. They did not think the original dish was good enough.

6. According to Sarish's grandmother, how could one become a good chef?
 - A. They had to be naturally born with the talent.
 - B. They had to practice cooking consistently.
 - C. If they followed recipes closely.

7. How often does Sarish wish to practice cooking?
 - A. Once a month
 - B. Once every fortnight.
 - C. Once every year.

EXERCISE 4

Listening for specific information

Listen to a conversation between a radio host, Joanne, and a listener, Khalis, who has been shortlisted for a competition and is now being interviewed on the show. As you listen, choose the correct answer for questions 1 to 7.

1. Why did Khalis choose to take part in this competition?
 - A. He hates his job and wants to see the world instead.
 - B. He loves his job but wants to take a break.
 - C. He wishes to pursue a career as an explorer.

2. How could contestants get shortlisted to be interviewed on the show?
 - A. They had to submit a picture of themselves and a write-up.
 - B. They had to submit a write-up about Magellan.
 - C. They had to pass a test about Magellan and submit a picture of themselves.

3. Why did Khalis not pursue a career as an explorer?
 - A. He had read many books about it and was a put off.
 - B. He preferred being an architect.
 - C. He did not have the money to do so.

4. What was a benefit that Khalis got out of maintaining his interest in travelling?
 - A. It made him realize that his job was not worth keeping.
 - B. It made him save money.
 - C. It made him motivated to exercise.

5. Why does Khalis want to bring his father on the trip?
 - A. His father laughed at him when he took part in the competition.
 - B. His father had always wanted to travel.
 - C. His father was a consistent pillar of support.

6. Where would Khalis be going if he won the top prize?

- A. Spain
- B. Europe
- C. Malaysia

7. Which of these best looks like a picture that would get a contestant shortlisted?

A.



B.



C.



EXERCISE 5

Listening for inference

Listen to a conversation between Ahmad, an insurance agent, and John, a potential customer.

As you listen, choose the correct answer for questions 1 to 3.

1. Why is John hesitant about getting a medical insurance plan?
 - A. He has savings that he can use should he fall sick.
 - B. He feels that all insurance plans are a waste of money.
 - C. He has never fallen sick before.

2. What happened to many of John's relatives?
 - A. Many of them faced small debts upon leaving the hospital.
 - B. Many of them fell sick after buying insurance plans.
 - C. Many of them were unable to afford adequate treatment.

3. What was John referring to when he said "...it would give them a bigger headache if they had to start again from scratch"? John was referring to
 - A. Illness
 - B. The family's savings
 - C. A new insurance policy

EXERCISE 6

Listening for tone to understand a speaker's attitude

Listen to a voice message being left by an unsatisfied customer, Mrs Devi, for the manager of Super Foods Supermarket. As you listen, choose the correct answer for questions 1 to 7.

1. What was the first problem that Mrs Devi had with the supermarket?
 - A. The staff were standing around waiting for customers to approach them.
 - B. The staff were chatting and being rude to customers when approached.
 - C. The staff were chatting and being ignored by customers.

2. What was Mrs Devi's complaint about the aisles?
 - A. They were wrongly labelled.
 - B. They were too cluttered.
 - C. The fruit aisle contained drinks.

3. Why was Mrs Devi upset upon reaching the cashier?
 - A. There were only two other people in the queue with her.
 - B. She had bought many things.
 - C. The supermarket did not provide any shopping bags.

4. Why did Mrs Devi go to the supermarket?
 - A. She had never been there before and wanted to see it.
 - B. She was hosting a dinner party.
 - C. She was going for a dinner party.

5. Whom is the voice message addressed to?
 - A. The owner of Super Foods Supermarket.
 - B. The staff of Super Foods Supermarket
 - C. The manager of Super Foods Supermarket

6. Why did Mrs Devi leave a voice message?
 - A. She had an appointment and could not meet with the manager.
 - B. She had tried to contact the manager many times, but the line was busy.
 - C. She was old and assumed that the manager was young.

7. Is Mrs Devi likely to return to the supermarket?
 - A. No, but she hopes that changes will be made.
 - B. No, and she hopes that other customers will do the same.
 - C. Yes, so she hopes that there will be improvements.

EXERCISE 7

Listening for stress on specifics

Listen to a telephone conversation between Fazri and his mother on how to make fried macaroni. As you listen, choose the correct answer for questions 1 to 7.

1. What was Fazri's concern about college life?
 - A. He was spending too much time and money at the cafeteria.
 - B. He was spending too much money staying at the campus.
 - C. He was sharing a small kitchen with the other students.
2. Why was there a kitchenette in the campus housing?
 - A. To allow students to cook light meals.
 - B. To stop students from overspending on food.
 - C. To encourage students to become good in cooking.
3. What did his mother mean by "Jumping in the deep end"?
 - A. She noticed Fazri was good at swimming and at cooking.
 - B. She noticed that Fazri would like to learn something difficult immediately.
 - C. She noticed that Fazri did not want to waste his time frying eggs.
4. How do you clean the prawns?
 - A. Firmly pull off the heads but leave the tail.
 - B. Rinse the prawns in boiling water with salt.
 - C. Peel off all the outer shell of the prawns.
5. Why is it important not to over fry the onions and garlic?
 - A. The prawns will taste bitter.
 - B. The fried chili will taste bitter.
 - C. The fried macaroni will taste bitter.

6. Why shouldn't you overcook the prawns?

- A. They will taste like rubber.
- B. They will become rubbery.
- C. They will cook and turn into rubber

7. Select the correct process of cooking the fried macaroni.

A.

Dice the onions and garlic → prepare the prawns → fry the ingredients → add in the prawns → boil the macaroni → add in the macaroni to the fried items in the pan → stir well

B.

Boil the macaroni → dice the onions and garlic prepare the prawns → fry the ingredients → add in the prawns → add in the macaroni to the fried items in the pan → stir well

C.

Prepare the prawns → boil the macaroni → dice the onions and garlic → fry the ingredients → add in the macaroni to the fried items in the pan → add in the prawns → stir well