

Exercise 2

Read the information about pronouncing telephone numbers in British English. Then say the numbers in **bold** and choose the correct pronunciations.

It is likely that you will hear *telephone numbers* in the IELTS Listening test. It is a good idea to learn natural ways of saying telephone numbers, as this will help you to notice and write the numbers correctly. Let's look at how telephone numbers are typically pronounced in British English. For example:

4241 660124

- The number *0* is usually pronounced *oh*. You are less likely to hear *zero* in British English.
- Each number is said separately. In the example above, 4241 would be pronounced *four, two, four, one* – not *forty-two, forty-one*.
- When the same two numbers appear together, they are typically pronounced using the word *double*. In the example above, 660 would be pronounced *double six, oh*.
- When the same three numbers appear together, we typically say the first number separately, and the second and third numbers with *double*. For example, the number 888 would typically be pronounced *eight, double eight*.
- There is usually a pause after groups of three or four numbers. The telephone number 4241 660124 would typically be pronounced *four, two, four, one / double six, oh / one, two, four*. We sometimes group the first five numbers of a mobile phone number together. For example, the mobile phone number 06922 214 876 would typically be pronounced *oh six nine double two / two one four / eight seven six*.

1. 566
 - five, double six
 - five hundred and sixty-six
 - five, six, six
2. 0207
 - oh, two, oh, seven
 - zero, two hundred and seven
 - zero, two, zero, seven

3. 3888

- three, eight, double eight
- three, triple eight
- thirty-eight, eighty-eight

4. 413428

- forty-one / thirty-four / twenty-eight
- four, one, three / four, two, eight
- four, one, three, four, two / eight