

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.*

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

1. The _____ is studying the grammar of several ancient languages.
2. Children _____ begin speaking at between 12 to 24 months of age.
3. The Romans were able to _____ all the lands around the Mediterranean Sea.
4. Spoken language is generally more _____ than written language.
5. 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.