

LanguageCert
Mastery C2
Level 3
International ESOL (Listening, Reading, Writing)
Practice Paper 7

NB Read out the text which is not in italics. Read at normal speed making it sound as much like spoken English (rather than English which is read aloud) as possible.

Listening part one.

You will hear some sentences. You will hear each sentence twice. Choose the best reply to each sentence. *(15 seconds.)*

Number one. Number one. *(6 seconds)*
Does the name Fiona Kirton ring a bell?
Does the name Fiona Kirton ring a bell?

(10 seconds)

Number two. Number two. *(6 seconds)*
Mr Webster, we do appreciate your taking the time to help our cause.
Mr Webster, we do appreciate your taking the time to help our cause.

(10 seconds)

Number three. Number three. *(6 seconds)*
I asked her about her condition and she snapped. How weird is that?
I asked her about her condition and she snapped. How weird is that?

(10 seconds)

Number four. Number four. *(6 seconds)*
How you expect to be taken seriously in that outfit is beyond me.
How you expect to be taken seriously in that outfit is beyond me.

(10 seconds)

Number five. Number five. *(6 seconds)*
Let's catch up one of these days, shall we?
Let's catch up one of these days, shall we?

(10 seconds)

Number six. Number six. *(6 seconds)*
I'm quite unsure how she'll react. I'll just have to play it by ear.
I'm quite unsure how she'll react. I'll just have to play it by ear.

(10 seconds)

That is the end of Part One.

Listening part two.

You will hear some conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answers for each conversation. (10 seconds)

Conversation One

- M: Hey, Samantha, fancy doing anything tonight? I hear there's a great costume drama on. What's its name? *[trying to remember]* The New... Ummm... "The New World"! What'd you say?
- F: "The New World" d'you say? ...haven't heard anything about it to be honest. What's the plot?
- M: Well, I haven't actually read about it; Jake went to see it on Saturday and said it was stunning. You know he's an avid cinemagoer... I trust his judgment on these things.
- F: I take it that you haven't read any of the reviews either, huh? Well... you know what? Why not watch something at home? They say that in the forthcoming episode of "Detective Stories" tonight, Ryan Morrison, the famous singer, is making his debut on the small screen. I'm a huge fan!
- M: Oh, is that tonight? I was thinking of watching it too; I love "Detective Stories"! Did you catch the one last week?
- F: I hardly ever watch it, as I usually haven't finished studying by the time it starts. But it's a bank holiday tomorrow and we don't have classes, so there's no problem.
- M: Does that mean that you're all prepared for Thursday's test? I haven't even started revising yet!
- F: *[proudly]* My friend, it will be a walk in the park...

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(Wait 10 seconds before going onto the next conversation.)

Conversation Two

- M: So, this is going to be the last one on these premises. Next Monday is the official opening of the new ones downtown! Are you as excited as I am?
- F: Absolutely. I think we all needed a change to a more urban environment. I really didn't enjoy having to commute to such a secluded area.
- M: Oh, yes, the location will be much more convenient now. And the whole workplace is state-of-the-art, new computers and everything.
- F: Yes, let's just hope all our files and documents will be safely transported and re-organised, otherwise we'll have to spend the first weeks learning the ropes all over again.
- M: Well, after having worked here for so many years, I'm sure it'll take a little time for both of us to adjust to the new environment.
- F: Oh well, that can't be avoided I guess. You'll also need to show me how to operate that new audio-conferencing equipment in the meeting room.
- M: Oh, sure, don't worry; it's very straightforward. I myself figured it out really quickly; it's not rocket science.
- F: Hope you're right, 'cause I'll be popping into your office all the time otherwise.

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(Wait 10 seconds before going onto the next conversation.)

Conversation Three

- | | |
|----|---|
| F: | Peter, we're in quite a situation here. I'm afraid that the vehicle we've booked for ten this morning hasn't arrived yet and I'm at the arrivals hall waiting with the clients. |
| M: | That doesn't sound too good, Betty. Have you collected your luggage yet? |
| F: | Yes, Peter, that was five minutes ago. Could you call the company and make sure they resolve this? |
| M: | I just need a minute and I'll get back to you. Let me just confirm this with you, you are at the arrivals hall, gate thirty-six, right? |
| F: | Yes, Peter, that's exactly where we are. The driver was supposed to be waiting just outside this gate. |
| M: | Right, uuumm, I suspect the driver is delayed due to the congestion in Bridge Avenue. I heard on the radio it's pretty bad up there right now. Give me a couple of minutes to get hold of the company's representative... |
| F: | Thank you, Peter, I'll wait to hear from you. |
| M: | I'll call you right back Betty! |

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(10 seconds)

That is the end of Part Two.

Listening part three.

You will hear someone talking. You will hear the person twice. Complete the information. Write short answers of one to five words. (1 minute)

Hello everyone - welcome back to "Audiomentary", your radio documentary. Last week, we looked at "Mission 31", the project in which Fabien Cousteau, grandson of Jacques Cousteau, spent thirty-one days living in the last existing undersea habitat research lab in the world - *Aquarius*. For those of you who missed it, the aquanauts - that is the people living inside *Aquarius*- weren't the regular staff but marine biologists and underwater engineers. Specialised photographers paid some sporadic visits, too. The inhabitants experienced the unique challenge of living underwater for over a month. This week, we're looking at the humans behind the project.

So, what happened to their bodies? Well, saturated diving is a type of diving that allows the body to gradually soak up inert gases by staying at depth for a long time. These gases would harm a standard diver by expanding like... eerr - the bubbles in a shaken bottle of soda, when the diver returns to the surface, causing pain or injury to the lungs. With the team sleeping in the base, at depth, and never surfacing, the divers were free to dive for two to eight hours daily - as opposed to about an hour maximum per day that a regular scuba diver can achieve - without suffering from decompression sickness, which can last for three hours or more. At the end of the mission, the entire base was slowly brought back to normal pressure so that the gases escape the divers' bodies safely.

Ear infections were a common ailment, however antiseptic solutions were used to take care of them quickly before they worsened. In fact, some aquanauts swore that healing times increased and that cuts could heal overnight, thanks to the high-pressure environment, which was three times the normal pressure at sea-level.

Other side-effects of living underwater were related to the lack of natural elements like, for example, the sun, or, eeerr, the wind. The former didn't lead to poor vision, yet it caused reduced vitamin D production. Also, when the aquanauts returned to the surface, they were distinctly aware of the sensation of wind, which they had not even realized they were missing.

Last week, a listener was curious to learn what the aquanauts actually ate! Well, they surely ate a lot! You see, the extended dive time and thicker in-habitat air pulled heat from their bodies much more rapidly than a normal sea-level atmosphere would and the metabolism in their body needed extra energy to maintain body temperatures. As for the actual menu, hmm, in the beginning, the habitat was positioned near land and aquanauts were catered fresh local food like beans, rice, and lobster. Later, their choices diminished as the base was relocated, and they ate rehydrated freeze-dried camping food, which was high-calorie and varied.

Another issue that came up was sleep. In the habitat, because of the exhausting nature of being in the water several hours a day, and because even time inside the habitat was busy, the aquanauts slept well at night. Still, some complained of difficulty in sleeping due to outside habitat lights, when reflected back into the bunk room by fish. The habitat does, however, have plenty of white noise from carbon dioxide scrubbers and the reef creatures... (fade)

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)
(10 seconds)

You now have thirty seconds to read through and check your answers.
(30 seconds)

That is the end of Part Three.

Listening part four.

You will hear a conversation. You will hear the conversation twice. Choose the correct answers.
(20 seconds)

You have two minutes to look at the task below. (2 minutes)

- F1: Hi, Mary, we were expecting you, please come in. This is my brother, George - I believe you've met before.
- F2: Yes, we have. Hi, George, how are you? Nice to see you again. Are you going to help us with the presentation?
- M: Hi, Mary. Yes, Sophie told me you'd be meeting to work on your high school project on sleep and I thought that, since I did that two years ago, I could prove to be helpful. I did quite a lot of research on the topic then.
- F2: Great! I mean, I've done some research myself, looking into the aspect of teenage sleep more specifically, as I agreed with Sophie, but it's reassuring to have a more experienced set of eyes on the team.
- F1: OK, why don't we review the points we'd like to include. George?
- M: Yes. So, in my essay, I began by stating how many hours of sleep adolescents need – that would be about ummm... nine hours, if I remember correctly. However, statistics showed that only about 3% of high school students met that amount, and that the average student gets less than seven hours a night.
- F2: Uhm, yes, that's an interesting fact. But it would be unwise to just give approximate figures without a specific reference or a link to the survey, and I don't suppose you can find it, can you?
- M: Well, to be honest, I can't remember the source right now, but I could do a quick search of my files later and I might still have the references for my essay.
- F2: OK, see what you can find... Sophie, what have you found out about the effects of lack of sleep on teenagers?
- F1: Well, it seems that sleep deprivation is dangerous both for the mind and the body. Not only is it connected to a poorer memory, but it also increases the risk of many health issues, such as high blood pressure, obesity, as well as depression. Unfortunately, excessive sleeping at the weekends doesn't make up for sleep deprivation during the week.
- M: Are you going to mention the role of melatonin, the brain chemical which triggers sleep? It's a crucial factor, don't you think?
- F2: Absolutely. I think that we should mention that the amount of melatonin increases at the end of the day, signalling the brain to seek sleep. In children and adults, its levels peak at around ten pm. I find it very interesting, however, that our biological clock in adolescence follows a very different pattern. At about age twelve, melatonin release peaks at around midnight, a full two hours after children and adults get sleepy.

(continued)

In fact, the adolescent brain actually receives cues to stay awake and energetic at about nine pm, making it nearly impossible for many teenagers to fall asleep at an earlier bedtime.

M: Mmm, that explains a lot, I guess. It's not that we're hooked on our computers; it's a biological urge!

F1: Tell me about it! Our parents should read our project too! My next point describes how melatonin production doesn't end until around ten in the morning, and until then, the teenage body craves sleep.

F2: No wonder we feel so sleepy during our morning lessons - high school is scheduled to accommodate an adult sleep programme, not a teenage one.

M: Yes, because most high schools start at eight am, before we've had sufficient rest. But, I know of schools that have tried to implement changes in their schedule to better suit our biological preferences and now start at nine am.

F1: Yes, I think we should mention this experiment, as the results have been very encouraging. The performance of the top students in tests rose, and even the number of fighting incidents fell significantly. That extra hour of sleep is critical to teenage performance and more schools are beginning to realize it.

F2: If only our own school implemented it too!

M: Are you going to include anything else? Any suggestions?

F2: Yes, we're thinking of a Do's versus Don'ts list. Umm...things like refraining from drinking coffee after midday, and reading books rather than looking at a computer screen if you need to study late.

M: Sounds like you're going to pass this project with flying colours!

*(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)
(10 seconds)*

That is the end of Part Four.

You now have two hours and forty minutes to complete the rest of the paper.