

THE LISTENING PACK

Hear it *once*. Catch it all.

You hear each recording one time, and in Parts 1 to 3 you hear the questions too. Your notes are your memory. Learn what to write down and what the wrong answers will try.

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PART 1 · 8 QUESTIONS · 3 SECTIONS

Listening to Problem Solving

A conversation in three sections about solving a problem. Questions are heard after each section.

- 01 Note who has the problem, every solution suggested, and which one they choose.
- 02 Mark rejected ideas with a cross. “What will he do?” questions have an idea dropped two minutes earlier.
- 03 “How does she feel?” questions are answered by tone as much as words. Note it: annoyed, relieved, unsure.

TRAP The first solution suggested, not the one they finally agree on.

THE METHOD

- Use the situation screen. Before the audio starts, guess who these people are and what the problem will be.
- Take notes on the paper you are given: names, numbers, decisions, changes of mind. Keywords only.
- The last version wins. “Let’s meet Tuesday. Actually, make it Thursday.” The answer is Thursday.
- Listen hardest after but, actually and however. That is where the answer usually is.
- In Parts 1 to 3 you get 30 seconds per question and cannot go back. Answer, then let it go.
- A wrong answer costs nothing. Never leave one blank.

PART 2 · 5 QUESTIONS

Listening to a Daily Life Conversation

An everyday conversation between two people.

- 01 The first 15 seconds give the relationship and the purpose. Write both down.
- 02 Times, dates and places change during the conversation. Keep only the final one.
- 03 Understand polite refusals: “I’d love to, but I’ve got that thing” means no.

TRAP An indirect “no” taken as a yes.

THE METHOD

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- Take notes on the paper you are given: names, numbers, decisions, changes of mind. Keywords only.
- The last version wins. “Let’s meet Tuesday. Actually, make it Thursday.” The answer is Thursday.
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PART 3 · 6 QUESTIONS

Listening for Information

One person explains something to another: steps, rules or options.

- 01 Notes as a numbered list: step 1, step 2, or option A, option B.
- 02 Note conditions next to each item: only on weekends, costs extra, needs ID.
- 03 Questions ask for specific details and for what the speaker recommends.

TRAP A detail that applies to a different option or step.

THE METHOD

- Use the situation screen. Before the audio starts, guess who these people are and what the problem will be.
- Take notes on the paper you are given: names, numbers, decisions, changes of mind. Keywords only.
- The last version wins. “Let’s meet Tuesday. Actually, make it Thursday.” The answer is Thursday.
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PART 4 · 5 QUESTIONS

Listening to a News Item

A news report. Complete five sentences afterwards.

- 01 Note who, what, where, when and why, plus every number.
- 02 Reports follow a shape: the event, the details, people's reactions, what happens next.
- 03 The sentences paraphrase the report. "Rose by a third" becomes "increased significantly."

TRAP A number from the report attached to the wrong thing: 15 instead of 50, or last year's figure.

THE METHOD

- Use the situation screen. Before the audio starts, guess who these people are and what the problem will be.
- Take notes on the paper you are given: names, numbers, decisions, changes of mind. Keywords only.
- The last version wins. "Let's meet Tuesday. Actually, make it Thursday." The answer is Thursday.
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PART 5 · 8 QUESTIONS · VIDEO

Listening to a Discussion

A video of three people discussing a topic.

- 01 Match voices to names in the first minute and note one feature for each.
- 02 Track each person's position, who agrees with whom, and who changes their mind.
- 03 Questions ask "Who suggests...?" and "What does she think about...?", so notes by person beat notes by topic.

TRAP The right opinion attributed to the wrong speaker.

THE METHOD

- Use the situation screen. Before the audio starts, guess who these people are and what the problem will be.
- Take notes on the paper you are given: names, numbers, decisions, changes of mind. Keywords only.
- The last version wins. "Let's meet Tuesday. Actually, make it Thursday." The answer is Thursday.
- Listen hardest after but, actually and however. That is where the answer usually is.
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PART 6 · 6 QUESTIONS

Listening to Viewpoints

One speaker presents an issue and the opinions on it.

- 01 Separate the speaker's own view from views they report: "some people believe...".
- 02 Note the structure: the issue, side A, side B, the speaker's conclusion.
- 03 The speaker's own view usually comes in the last third. Stay focused to the end.

TRAP A reported opinion chosen as the speaker's own.

THE METHOD

- Use the situation screen. Before the audio starts, guess who these people are and what the problem will be.
- Take notes on the paper you are given: names, numbers, decisions, changes of mind. Keywords only.
- The last version wins. "Let's meet Tuesday. Actually, make it Thursday." The answer is Thursday.
- Listen hardest after but, actually and however. That is where the answer usually is.
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The six trap answers

Heard-it

You hear: I thought about the gym, but the pool is closer.

Trap: ~~She will join the gym.~~

You heard “gym”, but it was rejected.

First idea, not final

You hear: Let's say six. Actually, seven works better.

Trap: ~~They will meet at six.~~

Plans change. The last version wins.

Number shuffle

You hear: Tickets are fifty dollars, but students pay fifteen.

Trap: ~~Student tickets cost \$50.~~

Both numbers were said. Only one goes with students.

Polite no

You hear: That sounds fun, but I'm swamped this week.

Trap: ~~He agrees to go.~~

An indirect refusal is still a refusal.

Wrong speaker

You hear: Mia: “We need more parking.” Raj: “I'd rather fix the buses.”

Trap: ~~Raj wants more parking.~~

Right idea, wrong person.

Reported view

You hear: Critics say the plan is too costly. I disagree.

Trap: ~~The speaker thinks the plan is too costly.~~

The speaker reported that view, then rejected it.

Listening cheat sheet

TRAP ANSWERS

Heard-it. You heard “gym”, but it was rejected.

First idea, not final. Plans change. The last version wins.

Number shuffle. Both numbers were said. Only one goes with students.

Polite no. An indirect refusal is still a refusal.

Wrong speaker. Right idea, wrong person.

Reported view. The speaker reported that view, then rejected it.

A NOTE-TAKING SYSTEM

M / W or initials — One column per speaker, so every note has an owner

→ — Decision or result: “bus → too slow”

✗ — Rejected idea. The trap answers come from these

? — Undecided, or a question still open

↑↓ — More / less, rising / falling (prices, numbers)

★ — Emphasised point: “the main thing is...”

SIGNAL WORDS

Correction: actually, wait, sorry, I mean, on second thought

Throw away what came before. The new version is the answer.

Contrast: but, however, although, the thing is
The real point is coming.

Decision: so let’s, I’ll go with, okay, we’ll, that settles it
The final choice. Write it down.

Emphasis: the main thing is, what really matters, above all
Likely to be asked about.

Sequence: first, then, after that, finally
Steps or order. Number your notes.

Opinion: personally, if you ask me, I’d argue, some people think
Whose view it is. Speaker’s own or reported?

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Every question answered, even with a guess.
- ☐ Notes show the final decision, not just the first idea.
- ☐ Every number noted with what it belongs to.
- ☐ In Part 5, every note has a speaker’s name on it.
- ☐ In Part 6, the speaker’s own view kept separate from the views they report.