

The Listening module

When you go to university or move to an English-speaking country, you will have to interact with many different people in a number of situations. The IELTS Listening test is designed to reflect some of these real-world listening situations. The level of difficulty increases through the paper and there is a range of topics and tasks which test your comprehension skills, such as listening for specific information, listening for detail, understanding gist and understanding speaker opinion. As you work your way through the Listening units of this book, you will be introduced to a wide range of IELTS question types and additional exercises to help improve your overall listening strategies.



Listening for IELTS

Listening test format

- Section 1** A conversation between two speakers in a social or semi-official context
- Section 2** A talk by a single speaker based on a non-academic situation
- Section 3** A conversation with up to four speakers based on academic topics or course-related situations
- Section 4** A university-style lecture or talk



The Listening test is the first part of the IELTS examination and takes place at the beginning of the day. It consists of four recorded sections, each covering a different type of language and context. There are ten questions in each section and each question carries one mark.

As you hear each recording *once only* it is very important to understand exactly what you are being asked to do in each question. You are given time to read the questions in each part, before you listen. The question types vary; for example, some questions involve completing a form, chart or diagram, others may require you to complete some notes or match some things in a list to what you hear about them. In addition there may be note-taking exercises and multiple choice questions.

You write all your answers on the question paper as you listen. The Listening part of the test takes about 30 minutes. After the recording has finished, you have ten minutes to transfer your answers onto the answer sheet (see page 190).

All aspects of the Listening test, as well as additional skills, are covered in this book.

Listening

1 Orientating yourself to the text

- Who are the speakers?
- Where are they?
- Why are they speaking?

In order to understand what people are saying, it helps to know what their relationship is to each other and why they are speaking. The language they use will depend on this relationship and the situation. Knowing these helps us to anticipate what the speakers are going to talk about.

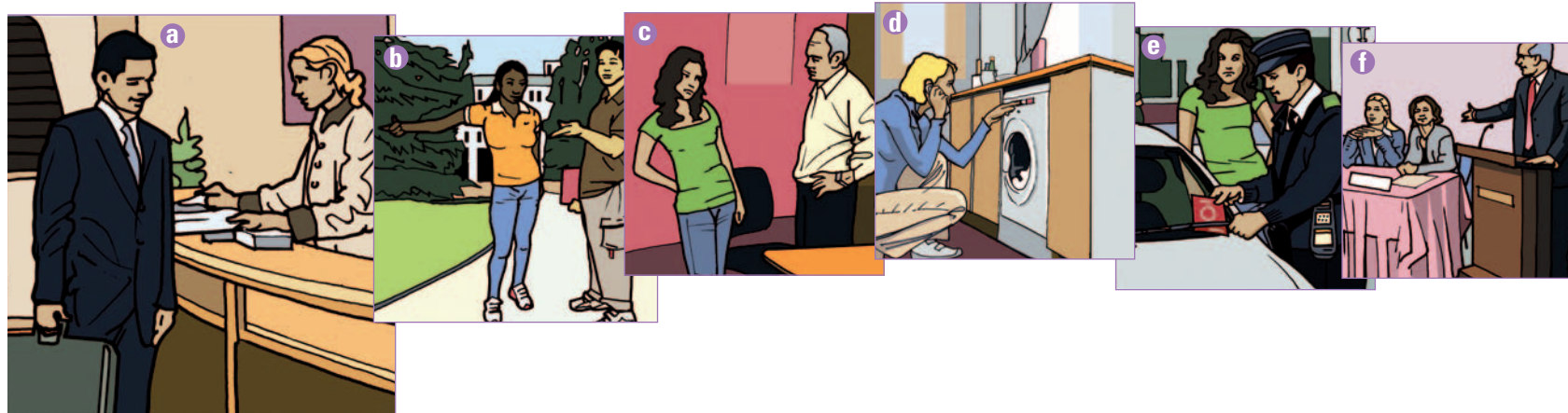
Predicting the situation

- 1 Look at pictures **a–d**. Try to work out who the people are, where they are and what they are doing.
- 2 Look at pictures **a–d** again. Try to imagine what the people are saying. Work with a partner and use some of the words and phrases in the vocabulary box to help you.



Vocabulary	
where?	live
when?	afford
how much?	wait
how long?	arrive
which?	watch
accommodation	time
flights	news
TV channel	suburb
programme	area
problem	bus

- 3 How did you decide what the people were saying? Compare your ideas with the rest of the class.
- 4 Look at pictures **a–f**, which show people in different situations. Try to imagine what they are saying.



Listening 1

- 5 02 You will hear six short conversations. As you listen, complete the first part of the table by matching each conversation to a picture (a-f). Then say what the situation is and how many speakers there are.
- 6 Listen to the conversations again and write the key words that help you understand the situation. If there are two speakers, say whether they know each other or not. Write your answers in the final two columns of the table below.

	Picture	Situation	Number of speakers	Key words	Do the speakers know each other?
1	f	Talk on first day at a college	1	Welcome you ... Introducing the teaching staff	No
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

- 7 Look at the set of notes below and say what the topic is.
- 8 On the right, write what type of words you need to complete the notes.
- 9 03 Listen and answer questions 1-4.

Drive from Melbourne to Phillip Island:

- approx 1 km
- takes about 2

People go there to:

- observe the 3 returning home
- watch seals from 4 or through telescopes.

Type of words

1 a number

2

3

4



Listening 1

IELTS Listening test practice

Form-filling

Test tip

All questions like form/notes/summary/diagram/flowchart and sentence completion must be answered using three words or less. The instructions tell you the MAXIMUM NUMBER OF WORDS to use.

Form-filling is a common IELTS Listening task, particularly in **Section 1**. You often have to provide factual information, including numbers. Use the words on the form as a guide to the information you need to listen for.

- 10 Work with a partner. Together look at the form below and discuss the situation and the relationship of the speakers. Then discuss what type of answers you need to listen for.
- 11 04 Listen and answer questions 1–4.

Complete the form below.
 Write **NO MORE THAN ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

Hotel Novena	
Guest Registration Form	
Example	Answer
Name of guest:	Matthews
Room:	1
Wake-up call at:	2
Type of breakfast:	3
Payment by:	4

IELTS Listening test practice

Note completion

You often have to complete some notes in the IELTS Listening test. You should read the notes carefully before you listen, to work out what type of words are missing. The vocabulary in the notes can also help you predict the situation.

Test tip

Notes are not complete sentences and may not always contain articles or full verb forms.

- 12 Look at the set of notes below and say what the topic is.
- 13 On the right, write what type of words you need to complete the notes.
- 14 05 Listen and answer questions 1–3.

Complete the notes below.
 Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

Train now arriving at
 1

Meet boys outside station
 2

Bring leather jacket.
 Bring 3 to repay Charlie.

Type of words

1 a time

2

3

Listening

2 Listening for specific information

- What are the missing words?
- How can we prepare before we listen?

Sometimes when we listen, we are only interested in finding out very specific information such as a date, a time, a name or other details.

We can try to work out what type of words we are listening for. This will help us find the answer.

Predicting what type of words you need

- Find out information from two other students to complete this questionnaire. Use your own words to form questions (e.g. for *Date of birth* ask, *When were you born?*).

?	Questionnaire	Student 1	Student 2
How	Name		
	When		
What	Nationality		
	Date of birth		
Where	Telephone number		
	Usual wake-up time		
Which	Means of travel to college		

- You are going to hear five voicemail messages. Say what type of word(s) you need to listen for in each message and write it (them) in the table below.
- Listen and complete gaps 1–10.
- Listen to the recording again and make a note of the words each speaker said which helped you to answer the questions. The first one has been done for you.

	Voicemail messages	Type of word	What the speaker said
A	Julia confirming dinner on 1 at 2	day/date time/place	I'm coming for dinner on Friday night
B	3 ready. Cost of repairs 4 \$		
C	5 called. Can't get textbook because it is 6		
D	Dr. Boyd is ill with 7 New appointment on 8		
E	Sam rang. 9 for Prof. Hall on Saturday. Please ring this number: 10		

Test tip
 You need to be able to recognise paraphrases, i.e. words which have a similar meaning to those used in the question.