

Practice Test

This is the First Certificate in English for Schools Listening Test.

I'm going to give you instructions for this test. At the start of each piece you'll hear this sound.

You'll hear each piece twice. Now look at Part One.

PART ONE

You'll hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1 – 8, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

One You hear two friends talking about a match they've just watched.

- M:** Wow! That was quite a match! The goalkeeper was fantastic!
- F:** Yes, but I think the referee needs to get his eyes checked. Some of his decisions were a bit off, don't you think?
- M:** Well, I thought Ferango's red card was a bit silly, but, to be fair, he did push Odega.
- F:** It was a football match. You should expect a bit of pushing – it's all part of the game, isn't it?
- M:** I suppose. But what about that deciding goal? That came out of nowhere! 6–5 for us; I still can't believe it!
- F:** Me neither. Like I said, the refereeing was terrible; that last goal should never have counted!

Two You hear an announcement on a local radio station.

Listen up, shopaholics . . . I've got news for you! It's time for shopping therapy because *Tiffany's* is coming to the high street! You heard me . . . the shop with the designer labels is coming! It all gets started on Friday at noon when *Tiffany's* opens with a bang! Pop diva, Dyna Myte, will be on hand to present her latest line in evening wear. Then bright and early the next day, you're invited for coffee and croissants in *Tiffany's Café*. And what's the best thing about that? There's no charge! In the afternoon . . . sales, sales, sales; everything from jeans to jackets – all at rock bottom prices!

Three You hear a youth club leader talking to some teens about an excursion.

Hey, everyone. Quieten down! Can I have your attention for a moment? Cheers. Now, as you all know, the club is having its yearly excursion to Lake Wilmot again next month and anyone who wants to go has to sign up by this Saturday. Don't look so surprised, you lot; the sign-up sheet's been up on the notice board for weeks! Now, I know I've already told you, but for those of you with really short memories, or short attention spans,

you must have a signed permission note from one of your parents, or you are not getting on the bus. Got it? Great!

Four You hear a girl talking about a book she's just read.

I'm not what you'd call a bookworm. Reading takes up too much time. And some authors write these huge big novels and they don't really have anything to say. Or if they do, they could do it in a lot fewer words! You read and read and when you get to the last page you think, 'Well, that was a waste of time!' I've just read *Pulse* for my literature course. It's about disappointments in life. That writer can write! It was good . . . and short! I guess my only complaint is that I felt the book was somehow 'unfinished'. The last bit kind of left me hanging. I still can't figure out what happened to the main character.

Five You overhear a girl talking on her mobile phone.

Hey, Liddy, it's Joanna. You're going to have a fit, but I've got to tell you something: I'm really sorry but I can't drive us to the dance tonight. It's not my fault! My car's at the local garage . . . it broke down! You know how Dad's always going on and on about how I don't check the water level in the radiator often enough? Well, he was right. It was actually good sound advice, and now the car radiator has cracked. But I do have an idea! We could get a lift with Ollie. I'm sure he won't mind. What do you think? Should I give him a call? Let me know. Bye.

Six You hear two friends talking about a concert they have just been to.

- F:** That was fantastic! *Billy and the Liars* rocked! Absolutely amazing!
- M:** Calm down . . . they weren't all that great. And I think Billy had a head cold or something; his voice was kind of . . . off. Can you believe we paid £40 each to get in there?
- F:** Hmm, the concert did cost us an arm and a leg, didn't it? But our seats? Right up there by the stage!
- M:** Seats, what seats? I never got to sit down once. And I had a million people in front of me; I couldn't see a thing!
- F:** Stop exaggerating! The arena wasn't even half full. It could easily have held another thousand people!

Seven You hear a boy leaving a voicemail message.

Hey, Pete. Kyle here. Excited about your party tonight? I am; I can't wait! My sister says thanks

for the invitation, but she won't be able to make it. She has to help her friend, Janine, with a history project or something. Anyway, the good thing is that she said she'd drive me to your place before she goes to Janine's. That'll be around eight. As your party doesn't start till ten, I can give you a hand setting up the sound system. If you need me to pick up anything on my way, just ask! See you!

Eight You hear part of an interview with a young actress.

- M:** The film's a box-office sensation! Jessica, you must be over the moon!
- F:** Yes! All our hard work really paid off. We travelled to five locations, and it was exhausting! But everything was fantastic; the sets, the costumes, even the make-up. Oh, the make-up! I didn't mind once it was on, but it took three hours to apply every morning! You know, the whole time I was playing the lead role of Princess Angelina, I thought about my dad, and the princesses in the fairy tales he used to tell me as a kid. Who'd have ever thought back then that one day I'd be a famous actress!

That is the end of Part One. Now turn to Part Two.

PART TWO

You'll hear a teenager named Jules talking about a charity called the Good Shepherd Centre. For questions 9 – 18, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase. You now have forty-five seconds to look at Part Two.

- F:** Hello, everyone. I'm Jules and I'd like to talk to you about an excellent local charity called the Good Shepherd Centre, which is located on Elm Street. There's so much I could tell you about the centre, but in a nutshell, it's a charity that helps young people, especially homeless young people who've lost their way for one reason or another. The charity's been around since 1969, and I read somewhere they've helped more than 72,000 young people over the years. Homeless people can end up on the streets for lots of reasons. And, you know, they aren't just those people you see sleeping on the streets or curled up in doorways. Homeless people are those who haven't got a permanent roof over their head; people who've made a temporary home in a hostel or in bed and breakfast accommodation. There are also people who spend a couple of nights on the sofa at one person's house and then move on and spend a few more nights at someone else's place. They're called sofa surfers. Imagine that! Sounds awful, doesn't it? And that's where the Good Shepherd Centre comes in. It tries to give young people a place to live. But homelessness affects more than

80,000 young people in the UK every year, so you can imagine what a challenge the Centre is facing. They've got different kinds of facilities for different kinds of young people.

Let me explain. The Centre has got night shelters where kids can get a bed for up to two nights, hostels for short stays, and then they've got flats for young people who need more permanent accommodation. Even that sounds pretty impressive, but that's not all they do! They also help young people with any health needs they might have. As you can imagine, sleeping rough can take its toll on someone's mental and physical health. The Centre has a programme where a health team teaches them about fitness, diet and exercise.

They also help homeless kids who don't go to school because, sadly, a lot of them are too busy trying to survive to get any kind of education. A lot of them have no qualifications at all. One of the Centre's goals is to help kids get the necessary skills to compete in the job market. Vocational training is a good way to do that. The Centre does some really good work and I do volunteer work for them. If they didn't have volunteers and donations, they wouldn't be able to keep the charity up and running. This week, I'm working in the Elm Street garden. It's an amazing project! Last April, a group of volunteers got together and planted this big garden to grow vegetables and herbs. The produce from the garden is used in the centre's kitchen, where meals are prepared for the homeless teenagers. Everybody can do something, and I've got a great idea to get you all started! On Thursday, 11th December, the centre is having what they call a *Night Out* to raise money. On that night, 650 people will find out exactly what it's like trying to sleep outside when all you've got is a cardboard box to keep you warm. To take part, there are a few things you have to do. First, you have to promise to raise at least £350 through getting people to sponsor you – that's the amount if you register as an individual. If you register as part of a group of four, you only have to raise £250. Actually, if any of you are interested, you can join my group – we need another person. All you need to do is go online to the charity's website and complete the form. You don't have to call or write to anyone to get involved. That's how easy it is, so why not do your part?

Now you'll hear Part Two again.

That is the end of Part Two. Now turn to Part Three.

PART THREE

You'll hear five people talking about their eating habits. For questions 19 – 23, choose from the list

(A – H) what each speaker says about their eating habits. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use. You now have thirty seconds to look at Part Three.

Speaker 1

My mother's one of those people that insists that the family sit down at least once a day and have a healthy home-cooked meal together. For me, that can be pretty tricky! I mean, what with being in the swimming team, in the drama club and on the school newspaper, I'm always on the move. My mum's always advising me that I should eat better. It's not like I snack, I don't; but on Tuesdays and Thursdays I can't eat lunch because of swimming practice, and on Wednesdays and Fridays I eat dinner late because of my acting and editing activities. I always have a huge breakfast though . . . well . . . almost always!

Speaker 2

I used to be terrible for skipping meals; I was a travelling salesman, so you can imagine the kind of eating habits I had – I practically lived on packets of crisps and other healthy stuff like that! I recently retired and now I go along with what my parents' and grandparents' generations used to say: 'In the morning, eat like a king; in the evening, eat like a poor man.' Very wise words, don't you think? It makes total sense. Most of my friends have their main meal in the evening, say, around eight. But then they're in bed by half past ten or so. That doesn't allow time for digestion – it can't be good for them.

Speaker 3

I've never been a meat-eater. My mum says she gave up trying to get me to eat burgers and things like that when I was about five! I can't see that being a vegetarian has ever done me any harm. For lunch and dinner, mum usually makes me a nice veggie soup or stew, and then I snack on things like carrots, broccoli or fruit if I get peckish during the day. I used to absolutely adore peanuts . . . fantastic source of protein. But, unfortunately, a few months ago I developed this horrible allergy to anything that even smells like a peanut! I get really ill! So, no more peanut butter and banana sandwiches for me!

Speaker 4

I grew up on a farm; Dad raised pigs and cows. We were a family that ate bacon, ham and beef regularly! I never thought anything of it. I guess I never thought too much about the fact that the animals in the barn and the meat on my plate were one and the same thing! Then one day, I came home from school early. Dad had just butchered a pig – it was hanging in the barn. I'm telling you, the look of it nearly made me sick. That's when it really hit me – where meat comes from. So now I'm a strict vegetarian, but I don't criticise others for their eating habits. To each their own and, as they say, 'One man's meat is another man's poison.'

Speaker 5

I'm what you might call a 'grazer'. Yes, I have breakfast, lunch and dinner every day, but it's usually something very light like soup or a sandwich. I ate three square meals a day when the children were home, but now it's just me and, to tell the truth, I can't be bothered to cook a big meal. So, because I eat so little 'real food', I tend to nibble all the time! And it's beginning to show! My doctor advised me to cut down on the snacks, but it isn't easy, you know! Here, have one of these lovely biscuits!

Now you'll hear Part Three again.

That's the end of Part Three. Now turn to Part Four.

PART FOUR

You'll hear a conversation between two friends about a project they are doing on advertising. For questions 24 – 30, choose the best answer (A, B or C). You now have one minute to look at Part Four.

- M:** You know, Tanya, I'm a bit worried about this project. I mean, I don't know anything about advertising!
- F:** Don't panic, Joe. I've been working all weekend; I've found loads of stuff. There's lots of information online. I couldn't believe how many sites there were on the topic. Have you done anything . . . been to the library, talked to anyone who works in the industry, or anything like that? Or, let me guess – you've been too busy playing computer games!
- M:** Well, I was going to go to the, umm, go to the . . . so, what have you found?
- F:** Oh, honestly, Joe! Anyway! What I thought we'd do is focus on how advertising has worked over the years. Like, how have companies marketed their products? How have they got their products to sell? Back in the 50s, for example, there was lots of research being done on something called 'subliminal advertising'. That's advertising that works on a subconscious level. You see something, you want to buy it, but you're unaware of what it was that set off the desire for that specific product.
- M:** I'm afraid I'm not following you, Tanya. Give me an example.
- F:** OK – this is really cool! Back in 1957, there was this guy called James Vicary who was testing various marketing techniques and how effective they were. So, he goes into a cinema in Fort Lee, New Jersey with a tachistoscope – that's a device that can flash images onto a screen really quickly – and he flashes the messages 'Drink Coca-Cola' and 'Hungry? Eat popcorn' onto the film screen every five seconds while a bunch of cinema-goers are watching the film Picnic.

- M:** Didn't all those flashing messages bother the people watching the film?
- F:** No! Because they were subliminal messages! The messages were flashed so fast and were on the screen for so short a time – something like 1/3000th of a second – that no one watching the film saw them. Well, they saw them, but they didn't know they were seeing them! And this is the really brilliant part – Vicary claimed that during the film, soft drink sales went up by over 18% and popcorn sales jumped by a huge 57.8%!
- M:** What? That's kind of scary! I mean, it's kind of like brainwashing, or . . . hypnotism!
- F:** Well, yes, it would've been, except Vicary was lying! See, Vicary had planned to use those numbers to persuade big companies to give him money to increase sales of their products. But when Henry Link, the president of the Psychological Corporation, asked Vicary to do the test again, with expert witnesses this time, nobody in the cinema was jumping up and running to the canteen every five minutes to get a soft drink or some popcorn. Vicary had faked the results of his first experiment! Some people now say that he didn't even conduct the first experiment, and that he simply pulled the statistics out of his hat!
- M:** No! What a crook! Anyway, I never believed for a minute that . . .
- F:** Sure, Joe, whatever you say. But the crazy thing is that despite the fact that Vicary actually confessed the whole thing was a scam, a trick, to make

money, the media didn't cover it! They just wrote story after story about how we, the consumers, were being made to buy products against our will. It got so bad that in 1958 and 1959, after people discovered that radio and TV stations were using subliminal advertisements, two bills were introduced in the American Congress to ban this kind of marketing! They never actually became laws, but it just goes to show how concerned people were.

- M:** But it had been proved that subliminal advertisements were not effective!
- F:** I know! But listen to this. In 1973, a man named Dr Wilson Key wrote a book that stirred up the whole mess yet again. In his book, he made this claim that subliminal adverts weren't only being used in films, and on radio and TV; he insisted they were being placed in newspaper and magazine advert photos too! For example, let's say in the magazine photo you had a glass of lemonade with ice in it. Key claimed that words were written on the ice cubes and that even though you weren't aware they were there, they caused you to immediately rush out and buy everything in sight! I mean, really? How silly!
- M:** Wow! This is really interesting stuff! In the end this was a great choice of topic for our . . .

Now you'll hear Part Four again.

That's the end of Part Four. That's the end of the test. Please stop now.