EMPIRE



LISTENING PRACTICE

MULTIPLE CHOICE

LEVEL B1/B2

This test booklet consists of 20 collections of multiple choice listening tests and each has 7 tests.

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LISTENING PRACTICE PART 1

You will hear an accident in a restaurant.
For questions 1-7, choose the best answer, A, B, or C.
You will hear the track twice

A difficult client

1. The narrator was …
A) a naturally talented cook.
B) just able to follow recipes.
C) a qualified chef.

2. The narrator worked in the kitchen with a man, who was from …
A) Panama City, Florida.
B) French Louisiana.
C) Los Angeles.

3. When the narrator was asked in the dining room he worried because he thought …
A) the problem might have been his fault.
B) the woman would make a complaint.
C) that Suzie would call the police.

4. The lady was unhappy because she …
A) expected better service.
B) didn' t like the taste of the food.
C) was afraid of the shrimp 'staring' at her.

5. In the end the unhappy customer …
A) ate the same dish.
B) ordered another dish.
C) refused to eat anything at the restaurant.

6. The narrator was asked to return to the dining room again because …
A) Suzie wanted to see him.
B) other customers insisted on it.
C) the unhappy customer came back.

7. The narrator was generously rewarded for …
A) being inventive as a cook.
B) his ability to compromise.
C) being calm and kind to a difficult client.

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LISTENING PRACTICE PART 2

You will hear a track about a festival in the open air.
For questions 1-7, choose the best answer, A, B, or C.
You will hear the track twice

The Glastonbury Festival

1. The Glastonbury festival is a …
A) music festival.
B) New Age festival.
C) performing arts festival.

2. Glastonbury Tor is a hill where …
A) ley lines cross.
B) there is mystical or psychic energy.
C) there is a connection to the legend of King Arthur.

3. To buy tickets for the festival you need to have …
A) good personal and computer connections.
B) a lot of money.
C) a mobile phone.

4. The narrator believes that the mud …
A) adds to the fun of the event.
B) is always a problem for everybody.
C) can be uncomfortable and dangerous.

5. On the first night the narrator noted that …
A) ABBA were the best band.
B) Lily Allen was disappointing.
C) Bjorn Again got the crowd dancing.

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6. On the first day the narrator's best moment was …
A) meeting Ray Davis.
B) the nursery rhyme version of "Days" .
C) the Neil Young concert.

7. The narrator believes he' ll be called the Glastonbury Granddad because …
A) he expects that one day he' ll have children.
B) he' ll bore everyone with this story for generations to come.
C) his children will probably have children of their own.

LISTENING PRACTICE PART 3

You will hear a track about photo-hunting in the landscape.
For questions 1-7, choose the best answer, A, B, or C.
You will hear the track twice

1. The best place to photograph a tiger in the wild is …
A) the Aravali hills.
B) Jaipur.
C) Ranthambhore Park.

2. A good guide was essential to …
A) get a jeep.
B) secure a giant truck.
C) provide technical support for the cameras.

3. The clothes chosen for the expedition were needed …
A) for cold mornings.
B) for extremes of hot and cold.
C) to meet technical requirements.

4. Until that day the girls managed to get really good shots of …
A) small animals like lizards, hares, gazelles.
B) leopards and boars.
C) all the target species.

5. The girls knew that …
A) huge patience guaranteed a tiger sighting.
B) there was no guarantee of seeing a tiger.
C) skill was more important than luck to find a tiger.

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6. The best photograph taken that day was that of …
A) the beautiful tigress.
B) a sustained sequence of three cubs and the tigress.
C) a single cub.

7. The fact that the girls left after 5 minutes demonstrated their …
A) gratitude to Farid.
B) politeness to the tigers.
C) acceptance of park laws.

LISTENING PRACTICE PART 4

You will hear a track about a talented child
For questions 1-7, choose the best answer, A, B, or C.
You will hear the track twice

Future Composer

1. The narrator thought that Mr Bridges was …
A) a naturally gifted engineer.
B) really friendly.
C) good at restoring vintage motor bikes.

2. The most memorable thing about the time living with the Bridges was …
A) being able to listen to lots of live music.
B) being welcomed in the family as an elder son.
C) watching the transformation of their son.

3. The surprising thing about Robert was that he …
A) didn't play any musical instruments.
B) was a naturally talented musician.
C) wanted to learn to play the piano.

4. The narrator played a part in Robert's transformation by …
A) playing Final Fantasy with him.
B) playing the sound track to Robert.
C) joking that Robert might teach himself how to play.

5. What was unusual when Robert could play ten pieces was that …
A) he learned the first piece in just three days.
B) he was unable to read music.
C) the Bridges decided to get him a teacher.

6. The most exciting thing was when Robert …
A) began writing music.
B) learned to read music.
C) got help from Luke's friends.

7. The narrator believes that in the future Robert …
A) might inspire future musicians.
B) would make computer games.
C) will be famous.

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LISTENING PRACTICE PART 5

You will hear a track about the holiday at sea.
For questions 1-7, choose the best answer, A, B, or C.
You will hear the track twice

Childhood Holidays

1. The three problems of driving on holiday in old times were …
A) the fact they lived in Lincoln, Eastern England and 200 kms north of London.
B) driving a Morris, having 3 children in two seats and car sickness.
C) long distances, slower roads and an uncomfortable car.

2. The parents improved the journey …
A) by encouraging singing.
B) by making short stops.
C) in no way.

3. The children knew their destination was really close when …
A) they first saw the sea.
B) the landscape began to change.
C) the roads became steep and narrow.

4. As soon as the family finally arrived the children …
A) had some tea.
B) pretended to be " red Indians" .
C) went to bed early.

5. The three children were most excited by …
A) the combination of sun, sea and sand.
B) the combination of running, swimming and digging.
C) digging really deep holes.

6. The castles were constructed based on …
A) the plan of King Arthur's castle.
B) wet sand possibilities.
C) filling the holes.

7. Castle was destroyed later in the day by …
A) parents to stimulate kids' activity and imagination.
B) children themselves to remove the memory of the car journey.
C) the sea as it was not too far away from the water.

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TRANSCRIPTIONS

PART 1

A difficult client

When I was nineteen I worked in the kitchen of a Creole restaurant in Panama City, Florida. The word "Creole" refers to people who are descended from settlers in the colonial French Louisiana (before it became part of the USA in 1803). And Creole food is great. It is a blend of French, Spanish and Caribbean styles. I used to knock up fantastic fresh salads, filet and fry grouper fresh from the harbour. I made vast vats of red beans and rice and tureens of gumbo. I boiled great pans of fresh shrimp and cracked open and then fried Oysters in white wine. The odd thing is that I am not a trained chef. Every single recipe was based on a mixture of measures in the recipe book. So many cups of this, shakes of that, tablespoons of Tabasco or citrus, jugs of cut celery, etc. But every meal turned out perfect so long as I followed "the book" to the letter.
I worked in the kitchen with a rather strange guy from Los Angeles called Scott. He had a strange haircut and was disconcertingly crossed eyed. But the waitresses were cute — especially Suzie with her long curly brown hair. One day we had a bit of an episode. A woman in the restaurant started screaming and demanding to see the chef. I could hear the commotion from deep within the kitchens and began to look for somewhere to hide. Scott was out that day and there was nobody else in the kitchen. Suzie caught me as I tried to hide behind the rice sacks in the larder. "You've got to come out John. She's gone absolutely mental. The other customers are gonna call the cops if we can't sort this" . Feeling terribly afraid and inadequate I was led out to the woman making the noise. She stopped screaming but continued to shake as she eyed me up and down. Because she'd asked for the "chef" I guessed I must have made a terrible mistake in the kitchen. I was alone down there that lunchtime so whatever was wrong it must have been my fault. What would she say if she discovered I wasn't a chef at all but doing a holiday job making recipes from a book? The truth eventually came out. I had served her a basket of whole boiled shrimp. According to the lady, the little devils had little " faces" and "eyes" , "stared at her" and had completely freaked her out. I spoke to her very softly and sat down next to her. I told her I 'd take them away and if she still wanted shrimp I 'd peel them myself and bring them to her. She thanked me very much. Seemed very happy and after a short while consumed the shelled shrimp and left. Afterward I was again called to the front by Suzie. But this time I got a round of applause from the other customers and $120 were the tips

PART 2

The Glastonbury Festival

My friends and I went to Glastonbury this year: That is to The Glastonbury Festival of Contemporary Performing Arts. It is apparently the largest festival of its kind in the world. It's most famous for the music of course but there is also dance, comedy, theatre, circus and cabaret. It is a huge camp site with stages and tents everywhere. And the location is legendry for various reasons. New Age people believed it was marked by the convergence of ley lines. I am not sure what these are supposed to be, but apparently when the lines converge you get locations of mystical or psychic energy! The site is also over looked by a strange conical hill called Glastonbury Tor which is somehow connected to the King Arthur legend. One thing for sure is there was lots of normal energy when we went there. There were no fewer than 137000 happy campers. All the tickets were sold the previous year within 90 minutes of being announced. You have to be well networked to even get a chance of a ticket. I was a little bit apprehensive this year. Glastonbury festival always seems to get a lot of rain and the site becomes a sea of mud. Some people reckon this adds to the fun but after three days I think it becomes a nightmare. You are never dry, easily lose your shoes in the quagmire and are always falling over. This year there was rain but on the first day only. After that it was warm and dry and the festival was simply incredible. The first night I heard so much music. There were big electric sets on the main stage and acoustic sets in a different pavilion. Lily Allen was amazing. Bjorn Again — a tribute band to ABBA — were such good fun. To see and watch such a huge crowd singing and dancing to the ABBA song "Dancing Queen" was unforgettable. On Saturday night we saw "The Boss" — Bruce Springsteen. And on Sunday the highlight was Blur — one of my favourite all time bands. But the overall highlight was on the first night. Neil Young was on the big stage but I wanted to hear a guy called Ray Davies. Davies was front man of a massive 1960s band called The Kinks. He sang all the old Kinks songs —

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including a breezy version of "Sunny Afternoon" and an a-cappella, nursery rhyme version of "Days" . And just everybody sang along to the final encore of "Waterloo Sunset". But here is the most amazing thing and my best Glastonbury memory. We actually met Ray Davies in person, earlier that day, and he is one of the nicest blokes you could ever hope to meet. We also got friendly with people from some of the fringe day time acts. They were so talented and such good fun to be with — but meeting Ray was something I 'll bore my grandchildren with. If I live that long, find a girl, get married and have children who in turn have children — they'll call me the Glastonbury Granddad!

PART 3

Now we are ready to start.

Long ago in Eastern Rajasthan, where the Aravali hills meet the Vindyan plateau, tigers were once hunted by the Maharajas of Jaipur. And for the last three days they have been hunted by me, Lucy and Gemmy: three girls out to shoot a tiger in Ranthambhore Park in India. As you might guess our hunting weapons of choice are not guns, but cameras. We had been told that nowadays this is the best place in the world for photographing a tiger in the wild, but until today we had no success. On the technical and logistical side all had been going really well. We got the best possible guide — Farid. He has been up early every morning to queue for a jeep and also to book the best routes. Without him we would be limited to the giant canters (big trucks) that haul round large numbers of regular tourists. Also the cameras have been operating well. We knew in advance that the dust would be a serious problem and we have been rotating cameras via fleece lined bags that keep out dust and protect them from the harsh sun. Ranthambhore is a mixture of dense forest and open bush. So far our best shots have been in low light and fast lenses with wide apertures have been the norm. We were also glad that at planning stage we took note of the advice to pack warm clothes. In the early morning it is really chilly sitting motionless in the open jeep. By mid morning it is T-shirt weather and the afternoons are simply baking — so we were glad to have prepared for all extremes. Until today we had only a few good shots of " lesser" target species and a few bad shots of more interesting ones. This means that our pictures of gazelles, hares and a monitor lizard are rather classy; and the shots of leopard and boar came out rather blurry — but not a glimpse of tiger. We knew that it would require a huge amount of patience. In fact we also knew that sometimes tourist groups come for a whole week and don't spot a single "stripey" . But today we got lucky. Very early this morning, just a few hundred metres from the ancient fort, Farid motioned excitedly to a small mess of Dhok and banyan trees. Lucy and Gemmy were already set up and adjusting settings and shooting simultaneously. I was much slower but in the end it didn't matter. We had a clear and sustained view of a beautiful tigress and three cubs. For five minutes we took literally hundreds of pictures: One is very special — of a cub just staring straight at my lens. And then Farid said we had to leave; that we were the intruders and politeness to the animals demanded our withdrawal. Afterwards we celebrated like mad, showed our photos to the group and received warm congratulations from everyone on shooting our first tiger.

PART 4

Future Composer

When I left home to go to university, I rented a room in the house of a local family — the Bridges. They had two kids: Robert, their fifteen year old son and Louise, their eleven year old daughter. Mr Bridges is a successful chemical engineer and a really friendly guy. His big hobby is restoring vintage motorbikes. Mrs Bridges works in the university library which was really useful for me as she often gave me a ride to campus. I lived with them for a year and still see them pretty often, even though I now have my own flat.

The Bridges are fantastic people and I was welcomed into their family almost as an elder son. But looking back on it, the most memorable thing was watching the incredible transformation of Robert — their talented son. I love listening to music and I often go to listen to live music, but Robert is possibly one of the most naturally gifted musicians I have ever come across. The amazing thing is that when I first met him he'd never even touched a musical instrument. However, not long after I moved into their spare room, an upright piano was installed in their lounge. It was actually an unwanted gift from Mrs Bridges' sister who secretly hoped that the children might want to learn how to play it. I had a small part to play in what happened next. I was chatting to Robert when he told me how much he loved the piano music sound track to Final Fantasy, one of his computer play station games. I then found him a piece of film on the internet of someone playing the same piece of music — but the film showed only the musicians hands on the keyboard. I joked to Robert that he could teach himself to play by copying the hands on their own new piano. That was two years ago. Robert has become an astonishingly good pianist in this time. He learned that first piece in just 3 days. After a month he could play 10 or more complex pieces although at that stage he couldn't even read music. The

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Bridges then got him a piano teacher, Luke, who turned out to be an inspiration. Luke liked the same kind of music as Robert and always gave him exciting new pieces to learn whilst teaching him to read music and the fundamentals of technique. The most exciting thing of all started about a year ago when, with only a little guidance from Luke, Robert began to compose music himself. Then, with help from some of Luke's friends, he was able to submit several pieces for publishing and for use as sound tracks for future computer games. I now really enjoy listening to Robert's music. Perhaps one day another youngster will see Robert's hands on the computer, filmed playing his own compositions — and the cycle might begin again.

PART 5

Childhood Holidays

When I was young we always used to go on family holidays by car to the West Country — Devon, Somerset or Cornwall. My sister, brother and I fought like crazy for a window seat and each of us suffered terribly when we had to sit in the middle, behind the gear box. There were three main problems driving long distances in those days of early childhood. Firstly we lived near Lincoln which is on the eastern side of England and about 200km north of London. Secondly there were fewer motorways then and the roads were smaller and slower. Finally my parent's Morris Estate car was a bone shaker! We always felt sick on long car journeys. Our parents tried to improve the journeys by encouraging travelling songs. This generally improved no ones mood! They tried to introduce plenty of stops for some small treat — like a fizzy drink and some sweets. But every short stop was followed by the agony of climbing back in to the car. After countless hours I suspect even my parents were worn down by our constant squabbling and the mind numbing, constant question "Are we nearly there yet?" However I still remember the excitement of the last few miles when truly, we could all sense the beginning of the end of our journey. The landscape changed, the roads became steeper and sometimes breathtakingly steep and narrow. All of us were leaning forward for the first glimpse of the sea: When we saw "the blue" we knew that we were really close. Generally we stayed in cottages on farms. The excitement on finally getting out of the car was at fever pitch. We immediately became "red Indians" running round madly, whooping dementedly, exploring and marking out our new world; giving names to trees and cattle. Then there was the cottage to explore and beds to lay claim to. More noise, arguments, charging around and pure, giddy excitement. We generally arrived very late having set off before dawn. After tea we were still excited but willing to go to bed because the biggest treat of all awaited us next morning: The beach! Warm sunshine, sand and sparkling blue-green sea — a joy for anyone but for three small children a heady combination that took our level of excitement to uncharted highs. We ran, we swam and we dug. At first we would dig holes just to see how deep we could go. My Dad warned us that if we dug too far we would reach Australia and of course we believed him. But after the holes — came the castles; built carefully and patiently with up turned bucket of damp sand. We made moats and towers and courtyards — castles worthy of King Arthur and the Round Table. Then of course at the end of the day we watched breathlessly as each wave of the incoming tide hit the walls, breached them and eventually completely removed all evidence that the castle ever existed. But my goodness — how exciting it was to witness and how far away the nightmare of the car journey had been exiled.

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ANSWERS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
PART 1	B	C	A	C	A	B	C
PART 2	C	C	A	C	A	A	B
PART 3	C	A	B	A	B	C	B
PART 4	B	C	A	C	B	A	A
PART 5	C	C	A	B	A	B	C

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Yes, I did it!
I WILL DO IT
I CAN DO IT
I'LL TRY TO DO IT
HOW DO I DO IT ?
I WANT TO DO IT
I CAN'T DO IT
I WON'T DO IT