

**ESOL International**  
**English Listening Examination**  
**Level B2 Independent User**

**Instructions to learners**

Check that you have the correct paper.

Please complete the information on the mark sheet.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

Use black or blue ink. Do not use pencil.

Total marks available: 31

You have **35 minutes** to finish the examination.

## Part 1

You will hear ten sentences twice. Choose the best answer in each situation.

Now read the answers. You have two minutes to read the answers.

Now listen to the recording and select the best answer. Mark the answer on the mark sheet.

- |    |   |     |   |
|----|---|-----|---|
| 1. | a. Scotland.<br>b. I don't know.<br>c. Two sisters.   | 6.  | a. No, sorry, that's all we have.<br>b. No, it doesn't suit you.<br>c. Yes, here is a bigger one.                   |
| 2. | a. I think it is an interesting place.<br>b. I think it will be a cold, wet day.<br>c. I would go by car. | 7.  | a. Yes, I have passed my driving test.<br>b. No, but you can buy a new car.<br>c. No, but you can go to the garage. |
| 3. | a. She is behind me.<br>b. That's my boyfriend.<br>c. They are my brothers.                               | 8.  | a. Yes, I had a lovely time.<br>b. Yes, I am free at the weekend.<br>c. No, I am busy on Saturday.                  |
| 4. | a. We are closed tomorrow.<br>b. I live next to the shop.<br>c. There is a £5 delivery fee.               | 9.  | a. From the bookshop near here.<br>b. It cost a lot of money.<br>c. My sister gave it to me.                        |
| 5. | a. You can visit the castle.<br>b. You should go next week.<br>c. It is not too far from here.            | 10. | a. Yes, it's very nice.<br>b. Of course. Here you are.<br>c. That's £25, please.                                    |

## Part 2

You will now hear two conversations. You will hear them twice. You have two minutes to read the questions for both conversations.

Now listen to **Conversation 1**.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

- 1. When did Jack go on holiday?**
  - a. A few days ago.
  - b. In June.
  - c. In July.
- 2. What did he do in the first week?**
  - a. He swam in the pool.
  - b. He stayed in the hotel.
  - c. He went to the seaside.
- 3. Why did he decide to climb the mountain?**
  - a. He was a keen mountaineer.
  - b. He was feeling bored.
  - c. He had finished his book.
- 4. Why did Jack spend the night on the mountain?**
  - a. He fell and could not walk.
  - b. He wanted to enjoy the view.
  - c. He could not find the way back.
- 5. What did Jack learn from this experience?**
  - a. To go with someone.
  - b. To wear the right clothes.
  - c. To stay at the beach.

Now listen to the conversation again and check your answers.

Now listen to **Conversation 2**.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

- 1. What information does Mrs Fernandez want to know?**
  - a. If her son needs to go to school.
  - b. When her son can start school.
  - c. When her son can finish school.
- 2. When could her son go to nursery?**
  - a. He could go now.
  - b. He could go when he is five.
  - c. He could go in September.
- 3. What will Mr Martin send to Mrs Fernandez?**
  - a. A plan of the nursery.
  - b. An information pack.
  - c. A list of prices.
- 4. What is the correct postcode for Mrs Fernandez?**
  - a. BB7 6JR.
  - b. BB6 7JR.
  - c. BB7 7JR.
- 5. When is Mr Martin not available?**
  - a. On Tuesday.
  - b. On Thursday.
  - c. He is available every day.

Now listen to the conversation again and check your answers.

### Part 3

You will now hear **two** radio broadcasts. You will hear them twice.

You have two minutes to read the questions for **both** radio broadcasts.

Now listen to **Broadcast 1**.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

- Who is John Smith?**
  - An actor.
  - A racing driver.
  - A TV presenter.
- Where had John been with his dog?**
  - To the vet.
  - To the hospital.
  - To the garage.
- Where did the accident happen?**
  - Outside his home.
  - Outside a shop.
  - Outside a park.
- What happened to his car?**
  - It rolled back into a van.
  - It rolled to the bottom of a hill.
  - It crashed into another car.
- How did John Smith feel?**
  - He thought it was funny.
  - He was very angry.
  - He was shocked.
- How much will the repairs cost?**
  - £1 000.
  - £11 000.
  - £100 000.

Listen to the broadcast again and check your answers.

Now listen to **Broadcast 2**.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

- What kind of broadcast is this?**
  - A news item.
  - A weather forecast.
  - A travel programme.
- What does a yellow warning mean?**
  - We should not worry too much.
  - We should be prepared.
  - We should take a bath instead of a shower.
- Which parts of the UK will be worst affected?**
  - The North.
  - The Midlands.
  - The South-west.
- What kind of problems might there be?**
  - The stations will be closed.
  - Travel will be difficult.
  - There will be no gas or electricity.
- How should people help the elderly?**
  - They should check to see if they are all right.
  - They should make sure they stay at home.
  - They should invite them for a meal.

Listen to the broadcast again and check your answers.

**End of Examination B2 Independent User.**

**ESOL International**  
**English Reading Examination**  
**Level B2 Independent User**

**Instructions to learners**

Check that you have the correct paper.

Please complete the information on your mark sheet.

Use black or blue ink. Do not use a pencil.

You may NOT use a dictionary.

There are 31 questions in this examination.

Answer all the questions.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

Total marks available: **31**

You have **60 minutes** to finish the examination.

**Text 1**

**Read the text. Answer the questions on your mark sheet.**

<b>Royal baby names</b>	1
	2
Are there any rules that have to be followed when naming a British royal baby?	3
Yes, there are many rules and traditions involved when choosing a name for a royal baby. The past has to be considered and the long history of the British royal family. The Queen also has the right to veto any name that she does not approve of.	4
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	7
A prince or princess who is likely to succeed to the British throne needs to be called something traditional, dignified and British. When Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge, gave birth to a son in 2013, he was named George which was the first name of six previous British kings.	8
	9
Almost all ..... forenames are chosen from a list of names that have been used for family members in the past, such as Charles, Albert, William, Philip and Edward. Foreign names such as Louis are rarely used as a first name but might be used as a second, third or fourth name.	10
	11
Some of the traditions concerning the choice of royal baby names only date back to the First World War (1914 – 1918). Names that used to be popular before that time, because of the links to the British royal familys German relatives, are out of fashion nowadays.	12
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Some other names are also very unlikely to be chosen. For example, John is considered to be unlucky, and Oliver would never be used becuae this was the name of the man who executed King Charles I in 1642! In addition, some names which are popular in the UK for “ordinary” babies would never be used because they are not considered serious and sensible enough for a royal baby. These include names like Chardonnay, Tyson and Wayne.	18
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....., the choice of names for royal babies who are not in direct line of succession to the throne is more relaxed. Princess Eugenie of York was named after Victoria Eugenie of Battenberg who was one of Queen Victoria’s grand-daughters. Perhaps the most exotic name for a member of the present royal family is Zara. She is a grand-daughter of Queen Elizabeth II, the reigning British monarch.	24
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	26
	27
	28

1. **What has to be taken into account when choosing a name for a royal baby?**
  - a. The history of the royal family.
  - b. The nationality of the baby.
  - c. The popularity of the name.
  
2. **What does the Queen have the right to do?**
  - a. Choose the name herself.
  - b. Say no, if she doesn't like the name.
  - c. Name the baby after herself.
  
3. **Why is the name of the Duchess of Cambridge's son traditional?**
  - a. It was first used in 2013.
  - b. It was chosen from a long list.
  - c. It was the name of former British kings.
  
4. **When did German names lose their popularity with the royal family?**
  - a. Before the First World War.
  - b. During the First World War.
  - c. After the First World War.
  
5. **Why are names like John and Oliver not chosen?**
  - a. They sound too foreign.
  - b. They are thought to be unlucky.
  - c. They are too ordinary.
  
6. **A word has been omitted from line 26. The word should be:**
  - a. Male.
  - b. Female.
  - c. Baby.
  
7. **There is a spelling mistake on:**
  - a. Line 3.
  - b. Line 19.
  - c. Line 22.
  
8. **There is a grammar mistake on:**
  - a. Line 9.
  - b. Line 16.
  - c. Line 27.
  
9. **Which word best fills the gap on line 24?**
  - a. Although.
  - b. Therefore.
  - c. However.
  
10. **The best word to replace "exotic" on line 26 is:**
  - a. Unusual.
  - b. Sensible.
  - c. Historic.

**Text 2**

**Read the text. Answer the questions on your mark sheet.**

<b><u>Did you hear about....?</u></b>	1
	2
Research has shown that two-thirds of human conversation is taken up not with discussion of the political or cultural problems of the day, nor with lively discussions of the latest film we have just watched or books we have just finished reading, but plain and simple gossip.	3
	4
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	6
Language is one of our greatest treasures. What do we do with it? We love to gossip (to talk about other people). We love to gossip about who's doing what, with whom, and whether it is a good or a bad thing. We chatter about how to deal with difficult social situations involving our family, friends and colleagues.	7
	8
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	11
So why are we so interested in gossiping about one another? Are we just natural time-wasters? Do we prefer to talk about nothing in particular to avoid facing up to the really serious issues in our lives? In fact, according to Professor Robin Dunbar, gossiping is an important human activity.	12
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Dunbar does not believe in the traditional view that language was developed by men in primitive societies in order to co-ordinate their hunting activities more effectively or to make it easier to exchange stories about their ancestors and the supernatural. Instead he suggests that language evolved among women. He developed his theory by studying the behaviour of monkeys. By spending time together, monkeys form partnerships with other individuals who they can rely on for support in difficult times such as conflict within the group or an attack on them by another group.	17
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Humans are descended from primates such as monkeys and Dunbar thinks that long ago we did much the same as monkeys. Grouping together made sense because the bigger the group, the greater the protection it provided.	25
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....., the bigger the group, the greater the stress of living so close to other people. Spending time together provided a source of ..... and helped to ease tensions and calm everybody down.	29
	30
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Over time, language developed naturally from these groupings, according to Professor Dunbar. Through language, humans were able to connect with others and exchange information, which was important for survival.	33
	34
	35



11. **The text is about:**
- Monkeys' use of language.
  - The reasons we love to gossip.
  - Our habit of wasting time.
12. **According to Dunbar, human language was developed**
- By hunters.
  - By women.
  - By monkeys.
13. **Why do monkeys form partnerships?**
- To be able to attack other monkeys.
  - To be able to find food.
  - To be able to rely on each other.
14. **According to the text, what do we gossip about?**
- Other people.
  - Books we have read.
  - The political situation.
15. **What has Dunbar based his evidence on?**
- His study of monkeys.
  - His study of language.
  - His study of primitive societies.
16. **Which word means "staying alive"?**
- Supernatural.
  - Conflict.
  - Survival.
17. **The word that best fills the gap in line 30 is:**
- Relaxation.
  - Worry.
  - Food.
18. **Which line has a spelling error?**
- Line 8.
  - Line 20.
  - Line 30.
19. **In the text, which word means the same as "gossip"?**
- Language.
  - Exchange.
  - Chatter.
20. **Which word or words best fit the gap on line 29?**
- On the other hand.
  - In addition.
  - Although.

### Text 3

**Read the text. Answer the questions on your mark sheet.**

#### Interviews: top tips

Employment consultant Sara Patel has some advice to help you get ready for that all-important interview.

*Before the interview:* She says “A friend of mine gets offered every job she goes for. Why? Because she always knows everything there is to know about the company. She has done her research, and you must too.” Look at the company website and decide why you want to work for them.

*At the interview:* The golden rule is to **be on time**, even if it means getting up very early to be sure of getting there. Dress smartly. You’re not going to get that ideal job if you go to the interview in jeans and trainers even if they are your best.

It is important not to panic. If you don’t understand a question, be honest and ask for it to be repeated or explained, rather than giving a poor answer. If your mind goes blank, take some deep breaths to give yourself more time to compose your answer.

Body language is very important at interviews. Looking at the floor all the time makes you look untrustworthy and too shy. Don’t cross your arms or wag your finger as this will make you look arrogant. Keep your hands gently in your lap. This will help you to avoid twitching, picking and scratching – all instant job losers! Sit still in your chair, lean forward slightly so that you look interested and attentive. Practise in front of a mirror at home or, even better, video yourself.

**21. What should you do before the interview?**

- a. You should find out how to get there.
- b. You should find out about the company.
- c. You should decide if you want the job.

**22. Which expression below means the same as ‘be on time’?**

- a. Be polite.
- b. Be confident.
- c. Be punctual.

**23. What is Sara’s advice about clothes?**

- a. Wear your best jeans and trainers.
- b. Wear smart clothes.
- c. It doesn’t matter what you wear.

**24. What should you do if you can’t answer a question?**

- a. Take deep breaths.
- b. Repeat the question.
- c. Give an answer anyway.

**25. What should you not do, according to Sara?**

- a. Look at the floor.
- b. Sit still.
- c. Practice at home.

**Text 4**

**Read the text. Answer the questions on your mark sheet.**

Coffee can help you live longer

There is good news for coffee lovers. A new report claims that regular coffee drinkers may live longer than those who do not drink coffee. Researchers say that there is growing evidence that coffee benefits health, making you live longer, and reduces the risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, other life-threatening illnesses, and even suicide.

The study was published by the American Heart Association. It looked at the coffee-drinking habits of over 200 000 people who drank between one and five cups of coffee a day. Researcher Dr Frank Hu said "This study provides further evidence that moderate consumption of coffee may give health benefits in terms of reducing premature death, and may also protect against heart failure." Dr Hu defined moderate consumption as two European cups of coffee per day which is equivalent to two 8-ounce American servings.

Scientists have been working hard to analyse exactly what is in coffee that provides so many benefits to health. Dozens of reports in the past few decades have highlighted the positive effects it can have on the body. Dr Hu said it was still unclear precisely how elements within the coffee bean interact with the body. He said "Coffee is a complex beverage. It is difficult to pinpoint which component of coffee is responsible for which benefit."

Researchers did not include highly caffeinated drinks such as cola in the study. They also pointed out that while coffee seems to have health benefits, added ..... such as cream, sugar and certain types of sweeteners, did not.

**26. According to the text, drinking coffee can:**

- a. Make you stronger.
- b. Help you live longer.
- c. Help you recover from diseases.

**27. The research was based on:**

- a. People drinking coffee and cola.
- b. People drinking only coffee.
- c. People drinking coffee and other sweet drinks.

**28. What expression is used to mean drinking about two cups a day?**

- a. Health benefits.
- b. Further evidence.
- c. Moderate consumption.

**29. Dr Hu suggests that the exact way coffee helps the body is:**

- a. Difficult to say.
- b. Easy to understand.
- c. Not important.

**30. The word 'dozens' in paragraph 3 means the same as:**

- a. 2 or 3.
- b. About 10.
- c. 12 or more.

**31. Which word would best fill the gap in the last paragraph?**

- a. Drinks.
- b. Sweets.
- c. Ingredients.

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**ESOL International**  
**English Writing Examination**  
**Level B2 Independent User**

**Instructions to learners**

Check that you have the correct paper.

You must write a minimum of **100 – 150 words** for **Task 1**

**AND**

You must write a minimum of **150 - 200 words** for **Task 2**.

Use black or blue ink. Do not use a pencil.

You may **NOT** use a dictionary.

There are two tasks. You must attempt both tasks.

Formal writing Task 1, you must complete **either** Option 1  
**OR** Option 2.

Informal writing Task 2, you must complete the set task.

Total marks available: 24

Allow time to check your work before the end of the examination.

You can ask for more writing paper if required.

You have **60 minutes** to finish the examination.

**Option 1 Formal Writing Task 1** – Allow 30 minutes for this task

You have seen an advertisement for a weekend job in a supermarket. You are a student and the extra money would be good for you. Write a letter to the manager to apply for the job.

You could write about:

- Where you saw the advertisement
- Why you are applying for the job
- What sort of skills and qualities you have that would make you a good candidate for the job
- What hours or days you are available to work

**OR**

**Option 2 Formal Writing Task 1** – Allow 30 minutes for this task

Write an article to the council about the poor condition of the local outdoor play area, which you visited recently with family members.

You could write about:

- When you visited the play area and who you went with
- What problems you experienced in the play area
- What you did to address the problems while you were there
- How you felt about the situation
- What you would like the council to do

Write 100 – 150 words.

(12 Marks)

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**Informal Writing Task 2** – Allow 30 minutes for this task.

Write an email to your friend to tell them about a special family event that you attended recently.

You could write about:

- What the special family event was
- When and where this took place
- What sort of activities you all did together
- How you felt on this special occasion

Write 150 – 200 words.

(12 Marks)

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**You will be assessed on:**

- **content**
- **use of appropriate tenses**
- **word order**
- **use of conjunctions, adjectives and vocabulary**
- **legibility of writing**

**End of Examination for Writing – Level B2**

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