

**ESOL International**

**English Listening Examination**

**Level B2 Independent User**

**Instructions to learners**

Check that you have the correct paper.

Do not open the paper until you are told to do so.

Please complete the information above.

Listen to the instructions.

Use black or blue ink. Do not use pencil.

You must not use a dictionary.

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.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. a. Pea soup.<br/>b. A large coffee.<br/>c. Cheese salad.</p> <p>2. a. I like going to the beach.<br/>b. Let's go to the swimming pool.<br/>c. It's cloudy this morning.</p> <p>3. a. I like the countryside.<br/>b. I have a big garden.<br/>c. I live in London.</p> <p>4. a. No, it's closed today.<br/>b. No, it's a long walk away.<br/>c. The cinema is fun.</p> <p>5. a. I study every week.<br/>b. For about three years.<br/>c. Because I enjoy studying.</p> | <p>6. a. Around 85 pence.<br/>b. Buy stamps at the shop.<br/>c. The post box is nearby.</p> <p>7. a. I enjoy fairgrounds a lot.<br/>b. The fairground is in town.<br/>c. I didn't have any money.</p> <p>8. a. I have stayed here before.<br/>b. It is a wonderful hotel.<br/>c. Next to the train station.</p> <p>9. a. It is sunny with some rain.<br/>b. I like windy days.<br/>c. I am wearing my jacket.</p> <p>10. a. We close at 11pm promptly.<br/>b. What time would you like it for?<br/>c. What books do you like?</p> |
|---|---|

## **Part 2**

You will now hear two conversations. You will hear them twice.

You have two minutes to read the questions and answers for both conversations.

Now listen to Conversation 1.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

### **Conversation 1**

1. **What was the highlight of the trip?**
  - a. The hot weather.
  - b. Swimming in the river.
  - c. Visiting the beach.
2. **Where was the village?**
  - a. On the side of a mountain.
  - b. At the top of a mountain.
  - c. In Germany.
3. **Who did Charlie meet?**
  - a. Lots of new friends.
  - b. Two people from the village.
  - c. Two girls from Germany.
4. **How was the return journey home?**
  - a. The flight was delayed by four hours.
  - b. It was an unforgettable adventure.
  - c. It went exactly as planned.
5. **What will Charlie do next with his mum?**
  - a. Go on a yoga weekend.
  - b. Speak on the phone later.
  - c. Look through the photos together.

Now listen to the conversation again and check your answers.

Now listen to Conversation 2.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

### **Conversation 2**

1. **Which job has Emma applied for?**
  - a. Catering assistant.
  - b. Catering manager.
  - c. Sales Assistant.
2. **What experience does Emma have?**
  - a. She does not have experience.
  - b. She worked in the college canteen.
  - c. She worked in a sandwich shop.
3. **When would Emma work?**
  - a. Every Saturday.
  - b. Monday to Friday.
  - c. All weekend.
4. **Which skill does Emma think is important for the job?**
  - a. Keeping everything clean.
  - b. Attention to detail.
  - c. Not talking to customers too much.
5. **Why does Emma ask if it's possible to pick up more hours?**
  - a. To save for a holiday.
  - b. To gain more experience.
  - c. To save for university.

Now listen to the conversation again and check your answers.

## **Part 3**

You will hear two broadcasts. You will hear them twice.

You have two minutes to read the questions and answers for both broadcasts.

Now listen to Broadcast 1.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

### **Broadcast 1**

1. **Where is Russ Cook from?**
  - a. Africa.
  - b. Algeria.
  - c. Worthing.
2. **When did Russ get a mystery illness?**
  - a. One year after he started.
  - b. During the early stages of the run.
  - c. On many occasions.
3. **How did he get a visa for Algeria?**
  - a. From MPs in Cameroon.
  - b. From some British friends.
  - c. Through social media.
4. **Why was he forced to shelter in Algeria?**
  - a. Because of the snowstorms.
  - b. Because he was ill.
  - c. Because he got lost.
5. **What does he claim he is the first person to do?**
  - a. Run across the deserts of Algeria.
  - b. Wear swimming goggles in the desert.
  - c. Run the length of Africa.
6. **How much did he raise for charity?**
  - a. Over half a million pounds.
  - b. Under a thousand pounds.
  - c. Over a million pounds.

Listen to the broadcast again and check your answers.

Now listen to Broadcast 2.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

### **Broadcast 2**

1. **Rosemary Coogan is the:**
  - a. First Briton in space.
  - b. UK's third astronaut.
  - c. UK's first international trainer.
2. **Rosemary follows in the footsteps of:**
  - a. Helen Sharman.
  - b. Dr Paul Bate.
  - c. Tim Briton.
3. **Where did she take part in winter survival training?**
  - a. In Ireland.
  - b. In Spain.
  - c. In the United States.
4. **Where did Rosemary carry out science experiments?**
  - a. On the rockets.
  - b. In northern Belfast.
  - c. On the International Space Station.
5. **When do they need further training?**
  - a. After starting at the UK Space Agency.
  - b. Once selected for a mission.
  - c. In the first month at NASA's laboratory.

Listen to the broadcast again and check your answers.

**End of Examination**

**ESOL International**

**English Reading Examination**

**Level B2 Independent User**

**Instructions to learners**

Check that you have the correct paper.

Please complete the information above.

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

You may NOT use a dictionary.

There are 31 questions in this examination.

You must attempt 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>Why scientists are listening to soil</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>2</b>
Earthworms make crunching sound's as they move through soil. In the first	<b>3</b>
study of its kind, scientists have listened to these sounds of earthworms and other things	<b>4</b>
living beneath the soil's surface. It is hoped the study will help develop a system to assist	<b>5</b>
farmers in growing their crops.	<b>6</b>
	<b>7</b>
Soil is home to fungi, plants and bacteria. Soil is made up of water, gases, minerals and	<b>8</b>
organic matter. It's where most of the planet's food is grown. One teaspoon of healthy	<b>9</b>
soil can contain up to a billion bacteria. It is the single habitat where the greatest number	<b>10</b>
of species live.	<b>11</b>
	<b>12</b>
The work has been done by the University of Warwick, UK. Noisy soil is healthy soil, as	<b>13</b>
there are more earthworms moving, bringing in oxygen, draining water and making	<b>14</b>
space for plant roots. Soil health is very important to make sure the world has food.	<b>15</b>
	<b>16</b>
Usually, farmers measure earthworm populations by digging and sorting the soil by hand,	<b>17</b>
_____ can take hours. Now farmers could place a probe in the soil and record the	<b>18</b>
sounds. This would take just minutes. These sounds would then be annalysed by	<b>19</b>
computers to see how healthy the soil is.	<b>20</b>
	<b>21</b>
Earthworms are also an important source of food for wildlife. So the next time you see a	<b>22</b>
worm that wiggles its way along, remembers it is helping to keep the soil healthy,	<b>23</b>
which makes it easier for plants to grow.	<b>24</b>

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1. <b>What are scientists listening to?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Farmers.</li><li>b. Minerals.</li><li>c. Earthworms.</li></ul> <p>2. <b>What is in a teaspoon of soil?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. A billion different species.</li><li>b. Up to a billion bacteria.</li><li>c. More than a billion bacteria.</li></ul> <p>3. <b>How do earthworms make soil healthy?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. By making space for plant roots.</li><li>b. By making noise in the soil.</li><li>c. By bringing in food.</li></ul> <p>4. <b>How do farmers usually measure worm populations?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. With a probe.</li><li>b. With computers.</li><li>c. By hand.</li></ul> <p>5. <b>What makes it easier for plants to grow?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Healthy soil.</li><li>b. Wildlife.</li><li>c. Fungi.</li></ul> | <p>6. <b>Which line has a spelling mistake?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Line 9.</li><li>b. Line 14.</li><li>c. Line 19.</li></ul> <p>7. <b>The word 'habitat' on line 10 means:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Environment.</li><li>b. Country.</li><li>c. Climate.</li></ul> <p>8. <b>Which line has a grammar mistake?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Line 8.</li><li>b. Line 17.</li><li>c. Line 23.</li></ul> <p>9. <b>The word missing from line 18 is:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Which.</li><li>b. Who.</li><li>c. What.</li></ul> <p>10. <b>Which line has a punctuation error?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Line 3.</li><li>b. Line 5.</li><li>c. Line 13.</li></ul> |
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## Text 2

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

<b><u>Yorkshire</u></b>	1
	2
Yorkshire, in northern England, is the largest county in the UK. So, what makes it special? Let's start with Yorkshire's accents. Imagine a friendly way of speaking that's easy to recognise. People say that it's the accents that make Yorkshire unique.	3
	4
	5
	6
Now, let's talk about food. Think about substantial, delicious dishes that warm you up. Take Yorkshire puddings, for example. They're crispy on the outside and soft on the inside, perfect for soaking up gravy. And of course, there's Yorkshire tea, a comforting drink that's just right for a rainy day.	7
	8
	9
	10
	11
Yorkshire isn't just about accents and food. It's also rich in history. There are ancient castles like York Castle, which stood tall above the city of York, and the beautiful ruins of Whitby Abbey, which are on a cliff, by the North Sea.	12
	13
	14
	15
Then there's the countryside. Yorkshire is home to some of the most stunning landscapes in England. From the wild beauty of the Yorkshire Dales, to the expanses of the North York Moors, there's no shortage of breathtaking scenery to explore.	16
	17
	18
	19
	20
But perhaps what really makes Yorkshire special is its people. Friendly, welcoming, and always ready for a chat, Yorkshire folk are the heart and soul of the county. So, _____ you're admiring historic ruins, enjoying a delicious meal, or simply taking in the views, you'll always feel right at home in Yorkshire.	21
	22
	23
	24



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|--|---|
| <p>11. <b>What makes Yorkshire unique?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. The friendly people.</li><li>b. The accents.</li><li>c. The food.</li></ul> <p>12. <b>What are Yorkshire puddings perfect for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. A rainy day.</li><li>b. Warming you up.</li><li>c. Soaking up gravy.</li></ul> <p>13. <b>Where is Whitby Abbey?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. In the countryside.</li><li>b. In the city of York.</li><li>c. By the North Sea.</li></ul> <p>14. <b>How are the Yorkshire Dales described?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Wild.</li><li>b. Ancient.</li><li>c. Soft.</li></ul> <p>15. <b>Yorkshire people are described as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Welcoming.</li><li>b. Delicious.</li><li>c. Simple.</li></ul> | <p>16. <b>'Stunning' on line 16 means:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Vast.</li><li>b. Breathtaking.</li><li>c. Ordinary.</li></ul> <p>17. <b>Which line has a spelling mistake?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Line 9.</li><li>b. Line 14.</li><li>c. Line 18.</li></ul> <p>18. <b>Which line has a punctuation error?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Line 8.</li><li>b. Line 12.</li><li>c. Line 24.</li></ul> <p>19. <b>Which line has a grammar mistake?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Line 4.</li><li>b. Line 10.</li><li>c. Line 13.</li></ul> <p>20. <b>Which word is missing from line 23?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Because.</li><li>b. Whether.</li><li>c. Fortunately.</li></ul> |
|--|---|

### Text 3

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

#### The Eiffel Tower

The Eiffel Tower in Paris is well-known around the world. It is named after its creator, Gustave Eiffel, and was built to mark a hundred years since the French Revolution. Because it was the work of architects and engineers, it was not considered a work of art at first, but now it's one of the most famous places to visit globally.

It stands over 1000 feet high and, for a long time, it was the tallest man-made thing in the world. It's made of metal beams all joined together and is a magnificent sight against the backdrop of the Parisian skyline.

The Eiffel Tower has served as the theatre for numerous events. There are even fireworks there for Bastille Day. It is open every day and you can climb the three levels or take an elevator to see the sights of Paris from the top.

Today, the Eiffel Tower's lights are turned off at night to honour the victims of dramatic events around the world. Even more than a symbol, it has become a means of expression for the city of Paris and all of France.

21. **The Eiffel Tower was named after:**

- a. An architect.
- b. A famous place.
- c. Its creator.

22. **It was not considered a work of art at first because:**

- a. It was over 1000 feet.
- b. It was the work of engineers.
- c. It was made of metal beams.

23. **What is held at the Eiffel Tower for Bastille Day?**

- a. Fireworks.
- b. An art show.
- c. A light show.

24. **Why might you climb the Tower?**

- a. To watch theatre.
- b. To see Paris from the top.
- c. To see dramatic events.

25. **What has the Eiffel Tower become for the people of France?**

- a. A honour for the city.
- b. A part of the skyline.
- c. A means of expression.

## Text 4

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

### Get involved

Begin a rewarding journey by volunteering at our respected community garden. Located in the heart of our area, this green space provides an opportunity to connect with nature, care for plant life, and play a part in your local neighbourhood.

As a volunteer, you'll work alongside our small, dedicated team to grow and maintain the garden. From planting seeds to tending growing plants, your involvement will play a crucial role in building a happy environment in our community space.

But our mission goes beyond gardening. Volunteering with us offers a chance to come together with new people, develop valuable skills, and promote wellbeing. Whether you're new to gardening or experienced, there's a place for you in our welcoming community. Training will be provided.

To learn more and get involved, visit our website at [www.getinvolved.com](http://www.getinvolved.com) or drop into the community garden shed at the end of Athinas Street, in the city centre. Join us in caring for our community garden and building a cheerful, inclusive space for all to enjoy!

26. **This text is about:**

- a. Leading a volunteer group.
- b. Volunteering in a community garden.
- c. Creating a space for volunteers.

27. **The garden provides an opportunity to:**

- a. Visit the neighbouring area.
- b. Drop in to local buildings.
- c. Play a part in the local neighbourhood.

28. **What is one job you could do as a volunteer?**

- a. Plant seeds.
- b. Build a website.
- c. Give training.

29. **Which gardeners are welcome to volunteer?**

- a. All gardeners.
- b. Only new gardeners.
- c. Only experienced gardeners.

30. **Where is the community garden shed?**

- a. Near the wellbeing centre.
- b. Away from the community space.
- c. At the end of Athinas Street.

31. **How is the community garden described?**

- a. Happy and valuable.
- b. Cheerful and inclusive.
- c. Small and welcoming.

**End of Examination**

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**ESOL International**

**English Writing Examination**

**Level B2 Independent User**

**Instructions to learners**

Check that you have the correct paper.

Please complete the information above.

You must write a minimum of 100 – 150 words for Task 1 and 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 recently booked a seat on a train for an important journey. When arriving at the train station, the train had been cancelled and no other trains were available to your destination. Write an email to the manager of the train company to complain.

You could write about:

- when and where you were travelling from and to
- why you were travelling
- the problems the cancellation caused
- what you would like the manager to do.

**OR**

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

Your local council wants to close the local skate park to save money. Write an article for a local newspaper explaining the benefits of keeping it open.

You could write about:

- who uses the skate park
- what benefits people get from the skate park
- what the impact of closing the park would be
- suggestions on how it could be saved.

Write 100 – 150 words.

(12 Marks)

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

You have just returned from a week's holiday at your cousin's new house. Write a letter to your cousin to thank them for your recent stay with them.

You could write about:

- what you liked about the new house
- why you enjoyed spending time with your cousin
- what activity you enjoyed the most during your stay
- what you would like to do in the future with your cousin.

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**

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