

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.

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. I like travelling by train.
b. It leaves at half past four.
c. I took the train yesterday.</p> <p>2. a. I exercise with my friends.
b. I often go to exercise classes.
c. I exercise three times a week.</p> <p>3. a. No, there are no carrier bags.
b. Yes, I bought some bags.
c. Yes, of course I can.</p> <p>4. a. There's one just round the corner.
b. You can pay by card here.
c. I don't have any cash on me.</p> <p>5. a. The film starts at eight.
b. I thought it was brilliant.
c. I usually watch comedies.</p> | <p>6. a. We can meet in an hour.
b. About an hour and a half.
c. It's in Meeting Room three.</p> <p>7. a. I'd prefer a window seat, please.
b. I'm looking forward to sitting down.
c. The middle of the plane is my favourite.</p> <p>8. a. Because I want to travel to Spain.
b. Spanish is a very beautiful language.
c. I learn Spanish on Tuesdays.</p> <p>9. a. I usually go shopping on Sundays.
b. The shop sells clothes and shoes.
c. They always open at nine in the morning.</p> <p>10. a. I had a great meal last night.
b. Yes, there's an Italian in the town square.
c. Yes, I'm really hungry tonight.</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 did Martin think the escape room would be like?**
 - a. Quite straightforward.
 - b. A fun way to spend an hour.
 - c. A strange challenge.
2. **Where was the first clue hidden?**
 - a. Behind the light.
 - b. Underneath the table.
 - c. In one of the old books.
3. **What surprised Martin during the game?**
 - a. The voice through the speaker.
 - b. Moving furniture.
 - c. The fake cobwebs.
4. **What does Claire say was the toughest clue?**
 - a. The map clue.
 - b. The clock puzzle.
 - c. The mirror clue.
5. **How much time did they have left when they escaped?**
 - a. One minute.
 - b. Five minutes.
 - c. Ten minutes.

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 course is the student starting?**
 - a. Engineering.
 - b. History.
 - c. Music.
2. **What kind of accommodation does the student prefer?**
 - a. Somewhere close to town.
 - b. Somewhere quiet.
 - c. Somewhere social.
3. **The postgraduate halls are:**
 - a. A ten-minute walk from campus.
 - b. A long bus ride away.
 - c. In the city centre.
4. **What is said about shared flats?**
 - a. They are generally a bit cheaper.
 - b. They include private kitchens.
 - c. They're for postgraduate students only.
5. **What is included in the rent for the studio?**
 - a. Just electricity bills.
 - b. Only internet access.
 - c. Heating, electricity and internet.

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. **The radio station is called:**
 - a. Sunrise FM.
 - b. Sunshine FM.
 - c. Sunday FM.
2. **What is the new segment focused on?**
 - a. Mindfulness.
 - b. Meditation.
 - c. Exercise.
3. **Which stressful morning activity is mentioned?**
 - a. Making breakfast in a hurry.
 - b. Getting out of bed.
 - c. Catching the bus.
4. **Where might listeners be during the segment?**
 - a. At work.
 - b. On a walk.
 - c. In the kitchen.
5. **The guest speaker will:**
 - a. Demonstrate breathing techniques.
 - b. Share personal insights.
 - c. Notice how you're feeling.
6. **What support is available on the website?**
 - a. Practical resources.
 - b. Positive thinking.
 - c. Tracking guides.

Listen to the broadcast again and check your answers.

Now listen to Broadcast 2.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

Broadcast 2

1. **What is the purpose of the event?**
 - a. To celebrate film characters.
 - b. To support a children's hospital.
 - c. To hold a school competition.
2. **What is the theme of the event?**
 - a. Comic Books.
 - b. Superheroes.
 - c. Children's Art.
3. **Which activity will take place during break time?**
 - a. Team games.
 - b. Best dressed hero.
 - c. A bake sale.
4. **The goal is to raise money to:**
 - a. Buy books, toys and art supplies.
 - b. Pay for home-baked goods.
 - c. Paint the school library.
5. **What must people do by the end of Tuesday to get involved?**
 - a. Take part in the games.
 - b. Design a themed quiz.
 - c. Sign up on the sheet.

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.

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.

Usain Bolt: The Fastest Man in History	1
	2
Usain Bolt is a retired Jamaican sprinter, a runner who races over short distances. He	3
became famous around the world because of his amazing speed and fun personality.	4
He is often called the fastest man in history, holding world records in both the 100	5
metres and 200 metres.	6
	7
Bolt first became well known at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, where he won three gold	8
medals and broke world records in the 100m, 200m and 4 x 100m relay. What made	9
his races even more special was how easy he made it look. He seemed relaxed and	10
even playful, smiling as he crossed the finish line far ahead of his opponents.	11
	12
He repeat this success at the 2012 London Olympics and again in Rio in 2016.	13
Altogether, he has won eight Olympic gold medals and eleven World Championship	14
titles, making him one of the most succesful athletes in the sport.	15
	16
However Bolt's success is not just about speed. He is known for his good attitude,	17
friendly behaviour and the positive energy he brings to athletics. After retiring in	18
2017, he tried playing professional football and has continued to inspire _____	19
athletes around the world.	20
	21
Although he no longer competes, Usain Bolt's name is still famous in sport, not only	22
for his records, but also for the way he made sprinting more exciting for everyone.	23

- 1. What is Usain Bolt famous for?**
 - a. Playing professional football.
 - b. Being the fastest man in history.
 - c. Coaching new athletes.
- 2. At which Olympic Games did Bolt become well known?**
 - a. 2016 Rio.
 - b. 2012 London.
 - c. 2008 Beijing.
- 3. How did Bolt make his races look easy?**
 - a. He smiled at his opponents.
 - b. He seemed relaxed.
 - c. He had a friendly attitude.
- 4. How many Olympic gold medals did Bolt win in total?**
 - a. Three.
 - b. Eight.
 - c. Seventeen.
- 5. What type of energy does he bring to athletics?**
 - a. Positive.
 - b. Good.
 - c. Special.
- 6. Which line has a spelling error?**
 - a. Line 5.
 - b. Line 13.
 - c. Line 15.
- 7. Which line has a grammar mistake?**
 - a. Line 9.
 - b. Line 13.
 - c. Line 22.
- 8. Which line has a punctuation error?**
 - a. Line 5.
 - b. Line 8.
 - c. Line 17.
- 9. Which word is missing from line 19?**
 - a. Young.
 - b. Slow.
 - c. Complex.
- 10. The word 'opponents' on line 11 means:**
 - a. Competitors.
 - b. Coaches.
 - c. Trainers.

Text 2

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

Stonehenge: The Mystery of the Ancient Stones	1
	2
Stonehenge is one of the most famous prehistoric sites in the world. Located in	3
Salisbury, about 2 miles from the town of Amesbury, it attracts more than a million	4
visitors annually who come to wonder at the mysterious stones.	5
	6
The monument was built over 4,000 years ago, although, no one is completely sure	7
how or why it was created. Some believe it was used as a burial place while others	8
think it had a religious or astronomical purpose. The stones are arranged in a circle,	9
with some standing upright and others lying across the top. Each stone is incredibly	10
heavy and moving them without modern machines would have been extremely	11
difficult.	12
	13
Many of the stones were brought from a place called the Preseli Hills in Wales about	14
250 kilometres away. How ancient people transported this massive stones remain a	15
topic of debate among experts. Some theories suggest they were rolled on logs or	16
carried on hundreds of wooden rafts along rivers for many miles.	17
	18
Today, Stonehenge is a protected historic site and a symbol of Britain's rich past.	19
Although much remains unknown about the monument, it continues to inspire	20
historians, archaeologists and visitors from around the world.	21
	22
If you ever have the chance to visit this _____ monument, you can walk around the	23
stones and imagine what life might have been like thousands of years ago.	24

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>11. Where is Stonehenge located?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Wales.b. Amesbury.c. Salisbury. <p>12. How old is Stonehenge believed to be?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Over 2 centuries.b. Over 4,000 years.c. Over 25,000 years. <p>13. One theory about the purpose of Stonehenge is that it was a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Circular arena.b. Place to study astronomy.c. Burial place. <p>14. It is suggested that the stones were transported by being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Rolled on logs.b. Brought by machines.c. Carried by people. <p>15. What does Stonehenge continue to do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Protect.b. Imagine.c. Inspire. | <p>16. Which line has a spelling error?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Line 16.b. Line 19.c. Line 24. <p>17. Which line contains a grammar mistake?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Line 15.b. Line 20.c. Line 21. <p>18. Which line has a punctuation mistake?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Line 4.b. Line 7.c. Line 10. <p>19. Which word is missing from line 23?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Ancient.b. Modern.c. Dated. <p>20. The word 'debate' on line 16 means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. A speech.b. A discussion.c. An agreement. |
|--|---|

Text 3

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

The History of Afternoon Tea: A British Tradition

Afternoon tea is one of Britain's best-known traditions. It's believed to have started in the early 1840s when Anna, the Duchess of Bedford, said she often felt hungry between lunch and dinner. At that time, dinner was often served late in the evening.

To solve the problem, the Duchess asked for a tray of tea, bread and butter and small cakes to be brought to her bedroom. She later invited friends to join her and the idea quickly spread among the upper classes. Queen Victoria also helped to make afternoon tea fashionable, although the Duchess was the one who began the custom.

By the late 19th century, it had become a social event. People dressed up and gathered in drawing rooms, gardens or even small theatres to enjoy tea, sandwiches, scones and sweet pastries.

Although formal afternoon teas are less common today, many hotels, tea rooms and even cinemas across the UK offer afternoon tea. It often includes a selection of teas, cakes and other delicious treats.

Afternoon tea in the 21st century remains a much-loved part of British life, either for a special occasion or just a relaxing moment.

21. When is afternoon tea believed to have started?

- a. In the early 1840s.
- b. In the late 19th century.
- c. In the 21st century.

22. Who is credited with starting the tradition of afternoon tea?

- a. Queen Victoria.
- b. The Duchess of Bedford.
- c. Friends of the Duchess.

23. What did the Duchess ask to be brought to her bedroom?

- a. Tea, bread and butter.
- b. Scones and pastries.
- c. Small cakes and sandwiches.

24. Where did people often gather for afternoon tea by the late 19th century?

- a. Hotels and cinemas.
- b. Drawing rooms and gardens.
- c. Bedrooms.

25. Afternoon tea in the 21st century remains part of British life for:

- a. The upper class.
- b. A fashionable moment.
- c. A special occasion.

Text 4

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

Learning to Skateboard

Learning to ride a skateboard might seem difficult at first, but once you start, it becomes an enjoyable and active hobby. Like any new ability, it takes time, patience, and regular practice—so don't expect to do tricks on day one.

Before you begin, make sure you have the right equipment. You'll need a good quality skateboard, a helmet, and pads for your knees and elbows. It's also important to wear flat shoes with good grip. Avoid sandals or soft sports shoes. Then, find a flat, quiet place with no traffic or obstacles. An empty car park or a quiet path in the park is perfect. Stay away from skateparks with ramps until you're more confident.

Start by practising your balance. Stand on the board without moving to get used to it. Then slowly push off with one foot, keeping your knees slightly bent and looking ahead. Don't hurry. To turn, lean gently left or right. Some beginners try turning with their foot or lifting the board, but this often leads to falling. To stop, press the back of the board down or step off with your back foot. Falling is normal—even experienced skaters fall sometimes.

26. Learning to skateboard takes:

- a. Patience and practice.
- b. One day.
- c. New abilities.

27. What kind of shoes should you wear when skateboarding?

- a. Padded shoes.
- b. Flat shoes with good grip.
- c. Soft sports shoes.

28. Where is a good place to practise as a beginner?

- a. A busy street.
- b. A skatepark with ramps.
- c. An empty car park or a quiet path.

29. What should you do before trying to move on the skateboard?

- a. Practise your balance.
- b. Jump on and hope for the best.
- c. Lean left and right.

30. How do you practise turning?

- a. By using your foot to push the board sideways.
- b. By leaning gently to the left or right.
- c. By lifting the front of the board.

31. What does the text say about falling?

- a. You're too confident.
- b. You're not looking ahead.
- c. Falling is normal.

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.

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.

The local transport in your area has improved recently. There are additional bus routes and more train services. Write a letter to the transport department to thank them for these improvements, saying how these changes have benefitted you and other people in the community.

You could write about:

- what the transport used to be like
- how the changes have helped you
- what you and others like the most
- a suggestion for any further improvements.

OR

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

Write an article for a school or college magazine to discuss the benefits and disadvantages of part-time working for students.

You could write about:

- yours or your family's experience of part-time working
- the advantages of students working part-time
- the disadvantages of students working part-time
- what your own opinion is about part-time working for students.

Write 100–150 words.

(12 Marks)

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

You received a birthday gift from your cousin. You were really pleased to receive the gift. Write a thank you email to your cousin.

You could write about:

- the gift you received
- how you felt when you got the gift
- how you've been using it or what you've done with it
- what you did to celebrate your birthday.

Write 150–200 words.

(12 Marks)

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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