

ESOL International
English Listening Examination
Level B2 Independent User

Texts to be used with the examination.

These will be recorded and sent to the centre on a disk prior to the examination.

Instructions are written in underlined italics and should not be recorded.

The recording must be played to learners in full from start to finish.

This is the NOCN ESOL International Independent User Level B2 Listening examination.

Please check that your name and other details are on your mark sheet.

The invigilator will have explained how to fill in the mark sheet.

Do not write on your examination paper.

Put your answers on the mark sheet.

The Listening examination will now begin.

Part 1

You will hear ten sentences.

Read the replies on your examination paper.

You have two minutes to read the replies on your examination paper.

Pause for two minutes.

Listen to the sentences. You will hear the sentences in full twice. Choose the best reply for the situation. You will then have two minutes to check your answers.

Play the sentences.

1. I heard the birds singing.
2. My shoes are hurting me.
3. Can I borrow your sun cream please?
4. I completed a marathon yesterday.
5. Can you teach me to play chess?
6. Your train is leaving now.
7. I think autumn has arrived.
8. What can I plant to attract bees?
9. Do you want to go cycling with me later?
10. Oh no, I've left my car unlocked!

Pause for five seconds after the first reading.

Now listen to the sentences again.

Play the sentences again.

Now check your answers. You have two minutes to check your answers.

Pause for two minutes after the second reading.

Part 2 – Conversations

You will hear two conversations. Read the questions and answers on your examination paper for both conversations. You have two minutes to read them.

Pause for two minutes.

Listen to **Conversation 1**. You will hear the conversation twice. Answer the questions.

You will then have two minutes to check your answers.

Play the conversation.

Jane:	Ok Sam, here we are, on the corner of Central Park, Manhattan, New York, USA.
Sam:	Wow, I can't believe we are finally here. That was one long flight, nine hours! I hope it's worth it. Where are we staying Jane? What's the surprise?
Jane:	Wait for it...we are staying in the five star, luxury, Langham Hotel, in Midtown Manhattan, on Fifth Avenue, near the Empire State Building.
Sam:	Really! Oh my word, you really have made this a wonderful trip. Can we go there now and just stay there, for the four days we're here?
Jane:	I don't think so! Let's drop our bags off there, have a quick wash and discuss where we both would like to go, and what we'd like to see.
Sam:	Good idea. Taxi! I've always wanted to shout that at a yellow cab in New York. Another tick on my wish list.
Jane:	Now that we've had a coffee and changed into some comfy shoes, where would you like to go?
Sam:	You know I'm a bit of a culture fan. I would like to visit the Museum of Art, 11 West, 53 rd Street, as it has world class sculptures, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, here on Fifth Avenue. It's the largest museum in the world, and, the 4 th most visited. It's a must. What about you?
Jane:	Shopping for me I'm afraid. The smart department store, Saks, here on fifth Avenue and of course, the amazing Bloomingdale's Department Store, which is second to the Statue of Liberty as a tourist attraction.
Sam:	I can see why we are staying on Fifth Avenue. How about, we do one of our favourites together for the next two days, then, decide what we want to do for the last two?
Jane:	Sounds like a great plan. Ok, let's not waste time...let's go!

Pause for five seconds after the first reading.

Now listen to the conversation again.

Play the conversation again.

Now check your answers. You have two minutes to check your answers.

Pause for two minutes after the second reading.

Part 2 – Conversations

Listen to **Conversation 2**. You will hear the conversation twice. Answer the questions.

You will then have two minutes to check your answers.

Play the conversation.

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|----------------|--|
| Leroy: | Come round to the back garden Sydney. This is what I need help with, it's a mess at the moment so we can't sit outside and enjoy it. |
| Sydney: | I can see. We'll be able to do this together in about 2 to 3 weeks, as long as we get all the materials and tools. What are you wanting to do with it? |
| Leroy: | I'd like a tiled patio area with seating in the left hand corner, as that is where the sun stays all day. This area here, by the patio doors, needs lots of colour, perhaps some wooden decking instead of the grass, so we can put a dining table there, big enough for ten people to sit at. |
| Sydney: | Ten? |
| Leroy: | Yeah. For the kids' friends, who all seem to end up at our house. |
| Sydney: | Okay. I'll measure the garden and work out how much you need for everything. What's your budget for all the materials? |
| Leroy: | I thought £1000 for the patio tiles, £700 for the wooden decking and about £3000 for the plants, as I want it to look very green with lots of colour. What tools do I need to buy? |
| Sydney: | That budget seems reasonable, but you will need to add another £1000 for the tools that I need, like a cement mixer, spades and other gardening tools. |
| Leroy: | No problem! At least with us doing the work, it saves on all the labour costs. I'll pay you with food and plenty of cups of tea. |
| Sydney: | Cheers Leroy! If we go to the garden centre, we could order everything and get it delivered by the end of the week. There is Shades of Green on Burnley Road or Dobbie's Plant Emporium on Waterloo Road. Which do you think would be the best one to go to? |
| Leroy: | Shades of Green is the best one, plus I have a discount card for there. |

Pause for five seconds after the first reading.

Now listen to the conversation again.

Play the conversation again.

Now check your answers. You have two minutes to check your answers.

Pause for two minutes after the second reading.

Part 3 – Broadcasts

You will hear two broadcasts. Read the questions and answers on your examination paper for both broadcasts. You have two minutes to read them.

Pause for two minutes.

Listen to **Broadcast 1**. You will hear the broadcast twice. Answer the questions.

You will then have two minutes to check your answers.

Play the broadcast.

Welcome to Facts2UFM. My name is David Healy and I'm a huge fan of the butterfly. I will be telling you some truly interesting facts that I hope you will find fascinating. I want to inspire you with my knowledge and encourage you to look more closely at the butterfly family.

Firstly, did you know that the wings of butterflies are actually clear? Yes, the amazing colours you see are essentially tiny scales and as they get older, the scales drop off leaving gaps, where you can see through their wings. Isn't that amazing?

And another mind-blowing fact is that these beautiful creatures have taste buds on the bottom of their feet to help them find the food that they like, when they land on plants. A female butterfly will land on a plant and start stamping her feet until the plant releases its juices, and then she will lay her eggs, as it will be a good source of food when her eggs hatch.

Aren't they just remarkable! I think I have time for just one more amazing fact.

Did you know that they cannot fly if they're too cold? Yes, they need a body temperature of about 85 degrees to fly, as they are cold blooded. If their temperature falls below 55 degrees, they are unable to fly and get away from predators.

I hope you've enjoyed listening to all the amazing information about butterflies.

Pause for five seconds after the first reading.

Now listen to the broadcast again.

Play the broadcast again.

Now check your answers. You have two minutes to check your answers.

Pause for two minutes after the second reading.

Part 3 – Broadcasts

Listen to **Broadcast 2**. You will hear the broadcast twice. Answer the questions.

You will then have two minutes to check your answers.

Play the broadcast.

Who are the Sámi people? The Sámi people are native to an area called Lapland, within the Arctic Circle. The area covers the most northerly regions of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. Most of the Sámi population live in Norway; there are between, 40,000 to 60,000 Sámi.

Reindeers are central to their culture and society. About 10% of the population are involved in the herding of reindeers and it is a full time job for about 2,800 Sámi, although the majority of Sámi have other careers.

Reindeer skins are traditionally used in the making of their traditional dress, called 'gakti', although today, other materials are more commonly used, such as wool, cotton or silk. The colours and patterns of the 'gakti' tell where the person is from and if they are single or married.

Their language is still kept alive, with the children being taught in their native language and signs have both Sámi and Scandinavian written on them. Traditional Sámi singing, called 'joiku' can still be heard on many occasions, helping to keep their traditions and language alive also. The songs are often dedicated to animals and birds, special people or special occasions. Flutes and hand drums can be heard playing alongside the singing of the 'joikus'.

Pause for five seconds after the first reading.

Now listen to the broadcast again.

Play the broadcast again.

Now check your answers. You have two minutes to check your answers.

Pause for two minutes after the second reading.

That is the end of the Listening examination. Please check your mark sheet is completed correctly. Put your pens down.

End of Examination

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