

Rubric: Cambridge Assessment English – Preliminary Listening Test. Sample test 2.

There are four parts to the test. You will hear each part twice.

We will now stop for a moment.

Please ask any questions now, because you must not speak during the test.

Now look at the instructions for part 1.

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: For each question, choose the correct answer.

Look at question one.

Rubric: 1 – Which flight will they book?

M: Jenny, about our flights to the States. The choice is night flights at 22.30 or 23.40 or an early morning flight at 6.40.

F: What happened to the afternoon one?

M: The 14.15 is full – of course!

F: Right, let's get the first night flight then, and sleep on the plane. If we catch the early morning one we'll have to get up in the middle of the night to go to the airport.

[71 words]

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: Now listen again.

REPEAT

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: 2 – Which is the picture for the poster?

M: Now for the poster for our new drinking chocolate, we're having something quite traditional, with a mug of chocolate taking up most of the space. We thought about giving the idea of a person enjoying the drink by adding some hands, but decided against it. One hand doesn't look right, and two hands take attention away from the mug. Now we have to think about the words... **[FADE]**

[67 words]

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: Now listen again.

REPEAT

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: 3 – Which is the woman's bag?

M: Can you describe the bag you left on the bus? Does it have pockets on it?

F: Yes, it's got one at each end, and it fastens at the top.

M: Ah, this'll be it. Someone's just handed this one in.

F: Oh ... that one's only got one handle. But apart from that, it is just the same as my bag. Thanks, anyway. I'll maybe call back tomorrow to see if anyone's found mine.

[71 words]

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: Now listen again.

REPEAT

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: 4 – What did the girl do last weekend?

F: Hi, it's Martina. Just to remind you, we've got that cycling trip this weekend. Let's start early Saturday, so we can go a good distance. Sorry I didn't call last weekend, my parents had visitors from Austria and we wanted to take them to the beach. It was great, we played volleyball most of the time. I'd hoped to go windsurfing, because the conditions are usually good at this time of year. But it was very calm, so there was no point. Talk to you later, to make plans.

[89 words]

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: Now listen again.

REPEAT

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: 5 – What does the woman decide to eat?

M: Have you decided what to have for lunch? I'm going to order my usual.

F: The mushroom pizza I suppose?

- M:** Of course! Why ever not? So how about you? The chicken and chips looks good. You could try that.
- F:** Mmm, it does look nice. I love chicken. Though, actually, it looks a bit much. I think I'll go for the spaghetti – I like the tomato sauce they do here.
- M:** Remember we're having pasta tonight?
- F:** So we are! Oh well, I'll just have the same as you then.

[86 words]

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: Now listen again.

REPEAT

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: 6 – Which room will they paint first?

- M:** So where do you think we should start painting?
- F:** It all needs doing but we knew that when we moved in – bathroom, kitchen, dining-room. I'd like to get the dining-room done first. I'm quite embarrassed if anyone comes for a meal.
- M:** Can't that wait – let's think about ourselves. Where do we spend most time together? – round the kitchen table chatting over coffee when we get in from work! The bathroom can wait too.
- F:** You're probably right.

[76 words]

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: Now listen again.

REPEAT

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: 7 – Which photo will the boy send to his friend?

- F:** Hi, how's the holiday going?
- M:** Great. The snow's perfect for ski-ing. Did you get the photo I sent you?
- F:** The last one I got was of you getting off the train at the station. I think you'd just arrived.

- M:** I sent you another one after that. We'd finished ski-ing and were having a drink outdoors on the hotel terrace.
- F:** Wow! No I haven't seen that one.
- M:** Maybe I didn't manage to send it after all. Someone said if you stand on your balcony, you get a better signal – I'll try that.

[87 words]

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: Now listen again.

REPEAT

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: That is the end of part 1.

PAUSE 00'10"

Rubric: Now look at part 2. For each question, choose the correct answer.

Rubric: 8 – You will hear two friends talking about a book they've read.

PAUSE 00'08"

- F:** I've just finished reading that book you recommended. It looked so thick and heavy that, at first, I thought I'd never manage to read it all.
- M:** I read it on my phone - it took me ages.
- F:** I really got into the story though – all those different characters! - I didn't want it to end. But I was surprised at how they behaved sometimes. At the same time though, it was pretty realistic. We all do things we shouldn't – that's what makes life interesting I guess. At least I now know not to make the same kind of mistakes that they did.
- M:** Really?

[100 words]

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: Now listen again.

REPEAT

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: 9 – You will hear two friends talking about a well-known actor.

PAUSE 00'08"

- M:** Did you see that Jim Yates is starring in the next *Crazy Cars* movie?
- F:** Yeah! He's cool - so many actors aren't able to deal with celebrity; he seems to be much the same person as he was when he started out.
- M:** Yeah, and he'll be great in the film.
- F:** I think it's a pity he went for that role, actually. I mean, he's so talented, but in something like that, which is all action, audiences won't appreciate his acting skills. I think he should keep on playing more complex characters, like he usually does.
- M:** Maybe you're right.

[98 words]

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: Now listen again.

REPEAT

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: 10 – You will hear a woman telling a friend about the flat she's renting.

PAUSE 00'08"

- M:** What's your new flat like?
- F:** Well the rent's quite high. But I think it's actually worth it, because I enjoy being there so much.
- M:** That's good.
- F:** Yeah, I mean it's really bright and modern. It's quite near the train station. I did actually worry if that'd make it noisy, but even with the windows open, the sound of the trains never keeps me awake. I've got used to it now. And my journey to work's a bit easier.
- M:** Great!
- F:** The rooms are a good size, too. I hope you can come round and see it soon. I'm sure you'll like it!

[100 words]

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: Now listen again.

REPEAT

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: 11 – You will hear two friends talking about a new sports club.

PAUSE 00'08"

- F:** I'm really pleased that I joined the new sports club.
- M:** Me too. It's got much better gym equipment than my last one.
- F:** My last place actually had better changing rooms and stuff, but I didn't like the group sessions. They're great here.
- M:** I haven't tried any of them yet. I'll let you know what I think when I have! I'm impressed that there are so many of them though.
- F:** That's what I meant – plenty to choose from. And membership costs less 'cos it's a bit outside the city centre.
- M:** It's still pretty expensive, but that's what you have to pay these days.

[101 words]

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: Now listen again.

REPEAT

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: 12 – You will hear a woman telling a friend about a football match she went to.

PAUSE 00'08"

- F:** I went to see the Cup Final.
- M:** Wow!
- F:** I'd never been to a big match before. It's very different from football on TV. It was really lively too – thousands of fans all shouting and singing.
- M:** That's normal at matches.
- F:** Yeah. But if you didn't like noise, it'd be terrible. Then there's all the people selling food and drinks, photographers and the security people.
- M:** What about the game?
- F:** Both teams definitely made a huge effort. You sometimes get the idea that footballers are only interested in money, but those guys never stopped running.
- M:** Yes, it looks different when you're there.

[100 words]

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: Now listen again.

REPEAT

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: 13 – You will hear a woman telling a friend about her new electric bike.

PAUSE 00'08"

M: How's your new bike?

F: It's better than the old one I had before. Though there are actually some things I miss about the old bike. The new one's a funny colour. But I can get to work in only twenty minutes now, which is brilliant – that's why I replaced the old one. I was tired of having to leave home so early just to make sure I'd be at the office on time. But it was lovely to ride. I was warned it might feel a bit strange when I first started using the new one, but it's been fine.

[99 words]

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: Now listen again.

REPEAT

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: That is the end of part 2.

PAUSE 00'10"

Rubric: Now look at part 3.

For each question, write the correct answer in the gap. Write one or two words or a number or a date or a time.

Look at questions 14 to 19 now. You have 20 seconds.

PAUSE 00'20"

Rubric: You will hear part of a radio programme about a Chinese circus.

F: ... and this week the Chinese circus is back in town! They made their first appearance here on the thirtieth of May last year, and are coming back to do two special shows on the second of June this year.

Do go if you can, because it's a great experience. The tradition of the Chinese circus goes back hundreds of years, and you'll see lots of different things in the show. The first is gymnastics. You'll see a fantastic performance and it ends with twenty of the gymnasts standing one on top of the other. They form a tower. It's really high.

Next, there's comedy, and there'll be plenty to make you laugh. There's one man who does a fantastic act balancing objects from the home, like tables and chairs, and he also uses plates.

And then there's dance. Some of the female dancers perform a very gentle ballet holding large fans which have beautiful pictures of birds and flowers on them. Then there are some very energetic dances in which the male dancers pretend to be animals. Last year they dressed up as a dragon, which finished the show by breathing fire. This year they dress up as a lion, which dances with the gymnasts and then roars at the audience! The music for the dance is wonderful – it's all done with bells and drums.

Now, if you decide to go, advance booking is essential, and the price of a family ticket – that's two adults and two children – is excellent value at £25.50.

And one final attraction – there are plenty of souvenirs to take home with you afterwards, such as light sticks. But what I'd recommend you to buy are the wooden toys. Everybody likes them.

And finally, the number to call if you're interested is, 564... **[FADE]**

[298 words]

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: Now listen again.

REPEAT

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: That is the end of part 3.

PAUSE 00'10"

Rubric: Now look at part 4. For each question, choose the correct answer.

Look at questions 20 to 25 now. You have 45 seconds.

PAUSE 00'45"

Rubric: You will hear an interview with a man called Toby Young who's talking about his work as a chef.

F: Toby Young is head chef at a top London restaurant. Toby, you're only twenty-eight. Why do so many people like the way you cook?

M: Everyone wants a chef to create perfect dishes. I've worked with some of the greatest chefs in the world and watched how they made food taste extra-special. I got great ideas about what customers will enjoy. It's more than just ingredients and practice.

F: Why did you apply for your present job?

M: I needed to push myself. I didn't want power. I actually prefer it when someone else is in charge, but I knew I might get bored if I didn't try something different. Working under other chefs was great, and I enjoyed myself, but I knew I couldn't do that forever.

F: What about your colleagues in the kitchen?

M: They tell me I need to relax a bit more. I worry about every dish, and I take my job very seriously. I put all my energy into it. I advise them not to cook in a way that's too traditional

and encourage them to use their own ideas. I don't like it when recipes go wrong, but I never let them see that I'm angry.

F: Do you find it difficult running the kitchen?

M: It's hard dealing with people and getting everyone in the right place at the right time. We have to work quickly to get the dishes out to the restaurant on time. But the worst thing is if people don't like the food and send it back – that really gets to me.

F: What was the most important thing you learnt as a young chef?

M: One thing every chef learns is that everything has to be kept in order. When I started, I made mistakes, and it's still hard to remember so many things at the same time, but that doesn't matter. I love cooking and I think I was always able to predict what dishes customers would love.

F: Do you think people's eating habits are changing?

M: People sometimes go to restaurants to eat food that's complicated to make at home, and some people prefer a few good dishes to a wide range of things on a menu. There's a move towards food that's better for you, and that's what's become very popular these days.

[379 words]

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: Now listen again.

REPEAT

PAUSE 00'05"

Rubric: That is the end of part 4.

PAUSE 00'10"

Rubric: You now have six minutes to write your answers on the answer sheet.

PAUSE 05'00"

Rubric: You have one more minute.

PAUSE 01'00"

Rubric: That is the end of the test.