

gets **HIGHER**
go beyond



Prepare for Global Success

Listening Module

Familiarisation for test-takers

Things you must know

- Test duration is approximately 40 mins
- The test has a total of 30 questions in 4 parts
- Test-takers hear a number of different recordings and answer questions based on what they hear
- In each part of the test there is some time to read the instructions and questions before the recording plays
- Recording for each Part is played twice
- Test-takers should fill in their answers while they listen to the recording the first time and confirm answers when it plays the second time

Things you must know

- Extra time of 75 seconds is allowed in each part to check and revise answers after the recording plays
- Approximate duration of the listening tracks:
 - Part 1: 1.5 to 2 mins
 - Part 2: 3 to 3.5 mins
 - Part 3: 3.5 to 4 mins
 - Part 4: 3.5 to 4 mins

Difficulty level and Marking

- Difficulty level increases as the test progresses
- One mark is awarded to each correct answer
- There is no negative marking. This means you do not lose marks for wrong answer

Tip:

- There is no negative marking. Attempt all questions. Make intelligent guesses in case you are not sure of the answers.

Question type

The question paper has following types of questions:

- Three option multiple choice
- Gap-fill
- Table completion
- True / False

Questions are based on listening of :

- Dialogues
- Monologues
- Narrative

in a standard variety of accents

Source of questions

The question paper is designed using authentic and/or adapted real-world materials:

- Announcements
- Dialogues
- Discussions
- Interviews
- Lectures
- Monologues
- Presentations
- Radio programmes and talks
- Telephone conversations

What skills are tested?

- Listening for specific information and details
- Listening for detailed meaning
- Listening for identify attitude and opinions of the speaker
- Listening for gist and main idea or overall meaning

Listening texts are set in both familiar contexts and those outside the everyday experience

Tips for the Listening Test

Useful Tips

- Stay calm
- Keep track of the questions
- Pay attention and listen carefully NOT casually
- Anticipate – listen for key words
- Do intelligent guessing
- Listen, Read and Write (make notes) at the same time
- Read questions in the time provided before the recording plays

Useful Tips

- Note keywords that needs to be listened
- Use abbreviations / short forms while making notes, when the track is playing
- Be very careful about spellings and numbers, especially the ones that sound similar
- No negative marking. Attempt all questions
- The speaker may give an answer and then correct himself. Watch out. This is a common trick

Pauses and Abrupt Endings

Pauses and Abrupt ending

There are many long and short pauses in the listening test

During the pauses before the recording plays:

- Note keywords in the instructions
- Find out what the instruction is communicating
- Read the question very well and very carefully
- Check the question type
- Try guessing answers and making a note

Tip:

The pauses in the track gives you an opportunity to prepare so use this time effectively

Pauses and Abrupt ending

- Fill in your answers while listening to the recording the first time, do not wait for later
- All recordings play a second time after a short pause and a beep. Review and revise your work when the track plays again
- During the pauses after the second play:
 - Revise your answers
 - Confirm your answers
 - Check spellings or any other errors
- Recordings may sometimes end abruptly. These are no errors, but part of the test design. Don't get distracted

General Tips

General Tips

- Listen carefully to the introduction for each part
- Try to imagine and guess what the speaker will be talking about
- Use the time at the beginning of each part to look at the questions, think about the topic and make notes
- Questions always follow the order of the recording
- Don't panic if you miss one question. You can always complete it when the recording plays the second time
- If you miss a question, look ahead and think about the next one

General Tips

- When you read the question, think of words to listen for, which have similar meaning
- Listen to the intonation of the speaker. This can help you to decide whether the sentence is positive or negative.

Tips for Multiple Choice

- Listen to everything the speaker says before you choose the answer, in order to be sure that you are selecting the correct option.
- The options don't follow the order in which you hear them on the recording. So make sure that you read them all first and keep them all in mind as you answer the questions.
- The words that you hear that give you the right answer may not be the same as the words on the page. On the other hand, you may hear the exact word from one of the options, but this does not necessarily mean that it is the right answer. Listen for meaning not words.

Tips for Table Completion

- Spellings of names or numbers may be dictated on the recording. Listen carefully for letters, numbers, timings, currency and measurements.
- Familiarise yourself with standard symbols such \$ or £. These are often tested in the table completion task.
- Remember to check your work carefully. Make sure your grammar and spelling are correct.

Tips for True or False

- Begin with analysing each statement before you answer. The exact same words as heard on the recording may not be used in the statement. Therefore, you should understand synonyms of words used by the speakers.
- Listen for the 'meaning' of the given statements. Sometimes the exact same words are used but the meaning is entirely changed, be cautious.
- When you mark an answer as 'False', remember you are not looking for an opposite meaning but for any contradiction of the information in the given statement.
- For an answer to be 'True' its meaning must be the same as the information in the text and not similar.

Tips for Gapp Fill

- Read the instructions very carefully to understand how many words should be used for each gap and follow instructions, else you will lose marks.
- Read the gapped text before the recording plays. This will give you a good idea about what you are going to listen.
- Try to identify the type of word that will fit in the gap. For example, if the gap is best filled by a noun, a verb, an adjective or a number. Listen accordingly for the missing information.
- Check that each answer has the correct spelling and grammar for it to be marked correct.
- Many test takers find it useful to read the task and the questions before reading the passage. This helps them read with a purpose and they are better aware of the topic and main ideas of the given text.

Preparation Tips

Preparation tips

- Do lots of practice by listening to test type recordings from YouTube etc.
- Practice with the same sample test, more than once. Suggested up to 3 times
- Do lots of dictation exercises with words such as:
 - Surnames, Double letters, Similar sounding words, Telephone numbers, Addresses, Dates, Time, Amount of money, Weight and measurements, Currency etc.
- Listen to a variety of accents of English

Analysing your problems

Try analysing your potential problem areas such as:

- You could not hear the information
- The recording was too fast or it was complicated or unclear
- You were unable to understand the accent
- You misunderstood the question
- You do not have enough time to key in your answer
- You make careless mistakes
- You begin responding too quickly without fully understanding the question and listening to the recording

Examples of careless mistakes

- You write '2.30' instead of '2.30 pm'
- You write 'right' instead of 'write'
- You write 'going oversea' instead of 'going overseas'
- You write '43 Oxford' instead of '43 Oxford Street'
- You write '750' instead of '750 \$'
- You write '76642' instead of '74462'

Small and easily avoidable errors can mean a lot

Tips:

- Don't rush. Be careful. You don't have to be the first to complete the test. You have to answer the questions

Test Booking & Administration

- Book your test through an 'Authorised Centre'.
- Vantage Siam is the 'Authorised Centre' for Thailand
- Test is administered through an 'Authorised Centre'
- Test administration details are confirmed by the 'Authorised Centre'
- For general enquiry email to: info@vantage-siam.com
Website: www.englishatvantage.com