

[TEXTS FOR THE LISTENING COMPREHENSION SUBTESTS]

[NOTE TO THE EXAMINERS: All instructions to the examiner alone will be enclosed in brackets. Underlined instructions, not in brackets, should be read to the candidates.]

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRACTICE PROFICIENCY EXAM

II. LISTENING COMPREHENSION (Approximately: 40 minutes) (25 points)

The Listening Comprehension test is composed of four parts: five dialogues, ten statements, five news items and an interview followed by five questions. Each of these will be read twice and you may take notes if you wish. After you have listened to each question, mark your answer. If you wish, you may mark your answers in the examination booklet. When the Listening Comprehension test is over, please remember to transfer all your answers to the separate answer sheet.

A. Dialogues

In this part of the Listening Comprehension test, you will hear five dialogues. You will hear each dialogue twice. After the second reading, the question will be read once. After you hear the question, mark your answer immediately.

Dialogue 1 W = woman M = man

- W: I hope you can come to the party on Saturday.
M: I didn't know I was invited.
W: Sure you are! Everyone on the winning team is invited.
M: What should I wear?
W: Don't worry about that. Wear anything you like.

Second reading ...

[NOTE TO THE EXAMINER: After the second reading, read each of the questions only once and then allow a 20-second pause to permit the candidates to make their choice.]

Question number 1. The reason for the party is to celebrate _____.

Dialogue 2

- W: There seems to be something wrong with my records. It says I have twenty-five vacation days, and I know I have at least forty.
- M: That's impossible. You can't have forty vacation days. The most anyone can have is twenty-five.
- W: But I haven't taken more than ten days off in the past two years. And the way I calculate it, that leaves me forty.
- M: Don't you ever read your circulars? In January we got a notice saying that anyone having more than twenty-five vacation days had to take them before June 30th or they would lose them. So I guess that's what happened to you.
- W: But that's unfair I earned those days.
- M: Unfair or not, that's what the new rules say.

Second reading ...

Question number 2. What does the woman find out about her leave?

Dialogue 3

- M: When I went to sign the papers for the apartment I told you about, the building superintendent told me he'd already rented it. That's the third time something like that has happened to me.
- W: Did you slip him a little something on the side when you first spoke with him?
- M: Of course not!
- W: Well you've got to offer a bribe if you want to get an apartment in this city. I thought everyone knew that.

Second reading....

Question number 3. What advice does the woman give?

Dialogue 4

M: I'm going out to get the paper. Is there anything you need while I'm out?

W: No, I don't think so.

M: Okay. I'll see you later.

W: Wait! I'll go with you. It's my turn to cook and I need to get some food for dinner. I'd rather pick it out myself.

M: Why? Don't you trust my judgment?

W: No, it's just that you never pay attention to how much things cost.

Second reading

Question number 4. The woman in this conversation _____.

Dialogue 5

M: Don't put your coffee cup on my desk, Betty. I just cleaned it.

W: What's the difference? It'll get dirty sooner or later anyway.

M: Well, I'd prefer later and I'd definitely prefer to be the one to do it.

W: I was only joking. Don't you ever laugh?

M: Of course I do -- when somebody says something funny.

Second reading...

Question number 5. The woman _____.

B. Statements

From item 6 to item 15, you will hear a total of 10 statements. Each will be read twice. After you hear each statement, mark the answer which most closely corresponds to the statement you heard.

Example:

You will hear the following sentence:

Mr. Smith is in court today, but if you leave your number, I'll have him call you about your case when he returns.

In your test booklets you will have to choose among four possible answers:

- (a) Mr. Smith is a merchant.
- (b) Mr. Smith is a doctor.
- (c) Mr. Smith is a lawyer.
- (d) Mr. Smith is a teacher.

The only answer which agrees with the first sentence is (c).
Mark the correct answer for each question on your answer sheet.

[NOTE TO THE EXAMINER: After the second reading allow a 20-second pause to permit the candidates to make their choice.]

Item number 6. Did the company return your call?

Second reading ...

Item number 7. Several strategies will still need to be explored.

Second reading ...

Item number 8. The butler could hardly have been the one who did it.

Second reading ...

Item number 9. Her reply wasn't amusing in the least.

Second reading ...

Item number 10. Monday is really too early for the conference, but the rest of the week, all the meeting rooms are already booked.

Second reading...

Item number 11. Chances are rather slim that the economy will improve.

Second reading...

Item number 12. Should you see her in London, give her my regards.

Second reading ...

Item number 13. Book sales dropped off at the beginning of the year, but things are picking up now.

Second reading ...

Item number 14. Many people took exception to Mary's recent remarks on the subject.

Second reading ...

Item number 15. It's funny I never saw her.

Second reading ...

C. News Items

In this part of the Listening Comprehension test you will hear five news items. Each item will be followed by one question. You will hear each news item twice. After the second reading, the question will be read once. After you hear the question, mark your answer immediately.

News Item 1

Research scientists have recently discovered that people who live on mountains are significantly less likely to die from coronary heart disease than those who dwell closer to sea level. The reason, they suspect, is that people get more exercise at higher elevations, as even routine activity in the thin mountain air requires more exertion. The researchers who carried out this study in New Mexico found that the death rate from coronary heart disease gradually declined as they went higher into the mountains. Dr. Edward Mortimer, who directed the study, termed this difference "highly significant".

Second reading ...

Question number 16. How do scientists on Dr. Mortimer's research team explain their findings?

[NOTE TO THE EXAMINER: After the second reading, read each of the questions only once and then allow a 20-second pause to permit the candidates to make their choice.]

News Item 2

Two doctors at Columbia University have dealt yet another blow to what little is left of elegant living. Pouring wine out of lead crystal decanters and into test tubes, they discovered that the spirits were absorbing lead from the bottles. The lead content of a decanted bottle of port poured over four months jumped from 89 micrograms per litre to 5,331. Anything to worry about? Historians believe that the Roman taste for sweet wines, unwittingly laced with toxic lead, helped bring down the Empire.

Second reading ...

Question number 17. According to the news bulletin, what have doctors at Columbia University discovered?

News Item 3

Anywhere from 10 to 20 percent of today's couples will choose an alternative to the tradition of the bride taking her husband's surname. While the concept is nothing new, state officials and scholars say the percentage of couples wrangling over the issue is rising. University of Washington sociology Professor Pepper Schwartz says that what began as an idealistic movement by "ardent feminists" has grown more mainstream. She attributes the surge in alternative naming to high divorce rates and growing ranks of career women. She says women are reluctant to change their names because they are daunted by the number of marriages that fail, or are already established professionally under their maiden name.

Second reading ...

Question number 18. According to Professor Schwartz, why do so many women choose to retain their maiden names nowadays?

News Item 4

Unleaded petrol, which is now used by many motorists, increases the amount of benzene emitted through a car's exhaust. A special filter must be attached to the exhaust to remove the benzene. Not all cars which use unleaded petrol have these filters, and because benzene is more harmful than lead, there are those who think it was a mistake to introduce unleaded petrol before cars were equipped with these filters.

Second reading...

Question number 19. According to this report, which of the following statements is true?

News Item 5

A recent study has found that the psychological forces that propel so many chronic gamblers to ruin marriages, lose jobs and even turn to crime may spring from a biological need for risk and excitement. The biological findings suggest that pathological gamblers suffer from an addiction like alcoholism rather than problems controlling impulses, as had been thought by experts. If these findings hold up, they may one day lead to a treatment for compulsive gambling, perhaps through the use of drugs.

Second reading ...

Question number 20. According to this news item, chronic gambling _____.

D. Interview

You will hear the following interview twice. First, you will hear the entire interview without interruption. The second time the interview will be divided into two parts with questions following each part. Each question will be read once. After you hear a question, mark your answer immediately.

[NOTE TO THE EXAMINER: Read each of the questions twice and then allow a 20-second pause to permit the candidates to make their choice.]

The following is an interview with Dr. Leslie Jordan, an expert on communicable diseases. The interviewer speaks first.

- Int:** Dr. Jordan, do we know any more these days about the common cold and what causes it?
- Dr:** We used to think that the common cold was a simple, single disease. Now we know that it can be caused by more than 100 different viruses and that some non-viral agents responsible for allergies can cause similar symptoms.
- Int:** Just how common is the common cold?
- Dr:** Estimates indicate that people have on the average six colds per year. Among children and in families with a child in school, the number is as high as 12 colds per child per year. At the peak season for colds, one out of every 125 adults has a cold on any given day.
- Int:** Are there any new advances in the treatment of colds?
- Dr:** The current trend in research is to develop anti-viral drugs that will help fight at least some types of colds. Interferon-- a natural substance -- has been shown in laboratories and clinical tests to inhibit rhinoviruses, the classic cold viruses. It appears that interferon may be useful in preventing a certain percentage of colds -- and those which do occur will be less severe. There is, however, some indication that prolonged use of interferon may irritate nasal passages.
- Int:** Why is this most common ailment so difficult to treat?
- Dr:** Because it is caused by so many different agents. The task of finding a vaccine or a drug that will be effective against all of them is mind-boggling. What's more, you can't do research on cold remedies with animals, because for some reason animals don't catch colds. This makes the development of effective therapies very difficult.
- Int:** Can treatment shorten the duration of a cold?
- Dr:** No. As the saying goes: If you do anything about your cold, it may last a week, and if you don't, it may last seven days.

Int: What about antihistamines?

Dr: Antihistamines have a certain sedative effect, but there is no indication that they have any therapeutic value against cold symptoms.

Int: What about folk remedies such as lemon and honey and chicken soup?

Dr: They have no therapeutic value, other than perhaps the satisfaction of knowing that at least you're doing something about your condition.

Int: Will bed rest limit the duration of a cold?

Dr: There is no evidence to that effect. However, staying in bed may make you feel better.

Int: Dr. Jordan, does susceptibility to colds vary with age and sex?

Dr: Yes. You get fewer colds as you grow older, probably because your body has built up immunity against at least some of the cold viruses. Studies indicate that, up to a certain age, boys get more colds than girls. In adulthood, it's the other way around: women seem to get more colds than men. Nobody knows why that is.

Int: What role does climate play?

Dr: There are some seasonal variations. In temperate climates, there tend to be more colds during the winter months than the summer months. In the tropics, colds occur more often in the rainy season than in the dry season. Again, we don't know why. It may be that the greater prevalence of colds in winter or the rainy season is due simply to the fact that the weather keeps people indoors. This helps cold viruses spread. In autumn, the school season brings together many children for an exchange of viruses.

Int: Mothers tell their children to bundle up and keep their feet dry or else they'll catch cold. Is there any medical basis for this?

Dr: None. It makes sense, of course, to stay warm and comfortable and there's no point in walking around with cold, wet feet. But judging from experiments with human volunteers, having cold, wet feet doesn't affect the chances of getting a cold one way or the other.

Int: Isn't there any way to avoid catching a cold?

Dr: Basically, no -- not as long as we are going to live in society and have to ride elevators, trains and buses and go to school with children who are incubating colds and meet with people who are shedding viruses. If you are juicy with a cold, it's common courtesy to try not to give it to other people. You should stay at home rather than go to the office, wash your hands frequently and be careful where you dispose of used facial tissues.

Second reading ...

The following is an interview with Dr. Leslie Jordan, an expert on communicable diseases. The interviewer speaks first.

- Int:** Dr. Jordan, do we know any more these days about the common cold and what causes it?
- Dr:** We used to think that the common cold was a simple, single disease. Now we know that it can be caused by more than 100 different viruses and that some nonviral agents responsible for allergies can cause similar symptoms.
- Int:** Just how common is the common cold?
- Dr:** Estimates indicate that people have on the average six colds per year. Among children and in families with a child in school, the number is as high as 12 colds per child per year. At the peak season for colds, one out of every 125 adults has a cold on any given day.
- Int:** Are there any new advances in the treatment of colds?
- Dr:** The current trend in research is to develop antiviral drugs that will help fight at least some types of colds. Interferon -- a natural substance -- has been shown in laboratories and clinical tests to inhibit rhinoviruses, the classic cold viruses. It appears that interferon may be useful in preventing a certain percentage of colds -- and those which do occur will be less severe. There is, however, some indication that prolonged use of interferon may irritate nasal passages.
- Int:** Why is this most common ailment so difficult to treat?
- Dr:** Because it is caused by so many different agents. The task of finding a vaccine or a drug that will be effective against all of them is mind-boggling. What's more, you can't do research on cold remedies with animals, because for some reason animals don't catch cold. This makes the development of effective therapies very difficult.
- Int:** Can treatment shorten the duration of a cold?
- Dr:** No. As the saying goes: If you do anything about your cold, it may last a week, and if you don't, it may last seven days.
- Int:** What about antihistamines?
- Dr:** Antihistamines have a certain sedative effect, but there is no indication that they have any therapeutic value against cold symptoms.

- Int:** What about folk remedies such as lemon and honey and chicken soup?
- Dr:** They have no therapeutic value, other than perhaps the satisfaction of knowing that at least you're doing something about your condition.
- Int:** Will bed rest limit the duration of a cold?
- Dr:** There is no evidence to that effect. However, staying in bed may make you feel better.

Now mark the one phrase which correctly answers the two questions which follow. Each question will be read twice.

Question number 21. What does current research with the substance inteferon seem to indicate about its usefulness in treating colds?

Question number 22. According to Dr. Jordan, what is one of the reasons why doing research on remedies for the common cold is so difficult?

Second part of text...

- Int:** Dr. Jordan, does susceptibility to colds vary with age and sex?
- Dr:** Yes. You get fewer colds as you grow older, probably because your body has built up immunity against at least some of the cold viruses. Studies indicate that, up to a certain age, boys get more colds than girls. In adulthood, it's the other way around: women seem to get more colds than men. Nobody knows why that is.
- Int:** What role does climate play?
- Dr:** There are some seasonal variations. In temperate climates, there tend to be more colds during the winter months than the summer months. In the tropics, colds occur more often in the rainy season than in the dry season. Again, we don't know why. It may be that the greater prevalence of colds in winter or the rainy season is due simply to the fact that the weather keeps people indoors. This helps cold viruses spread. In autumn the school season brings together many children for an exchange of viruses.
- Int:** Mothers tell their children to bundle up and keep their feet dry or else they'll catch cold. Is there any medical basis for this?
- Dr:** None. It makes sense, of course, to stay warm and comfortable and there's no point in walking around with cold, wet feet. But judging from experiments with human volunteers, having cold, wet feet doesn't affect the chances of getting a cold one way or the other.
- Int:** Isn't there any way to avoid catching a cold?

Dr: Basically, no -- not as long as we are going to live in society and have to ride elevators, trains and buses and go to school with children who are incubating colds and meet with people who are shedding viruses. If you are juicy with a cold, it's common courtesy to try not to give it to other people. You should stay at home rather than go to the office, wash your hands frequently and be careful where you dispose of used facial tissues.

Now mark the one phrase which correctly answers the three questions which follow. Each question will be read twice.

[NOTE TO THE EXAMINER: Read each of the questions once and then allow a 20- . second pause to permit the candidates to make their choice.]

Question number 23. According to Dr. Jordan, which of the following is medically effective in treating a cold?

Question number 24. Who among the following would probably get the most colds in a single year?

Question number 25. What possible explanation does Dr. Jordan give for the fact that people get more colds in the winter season and the rainy season?

This is the end of the Listening Comprehension. Please transfer your answers to the answer sheet. You may continue with the rest of the examination.