

## LISTENING PART 1

You will hear eight short unfinished conversations. Choose the best reply to continue the conversation. Put a circle around the letter of the best reply. You will hear the conversations once only. First, look at the example.

### EXAMPLE:

Speaker 1: *What a week! I'm exhausted.*

Speaker 2: *You haven't had a holiday for ages, have you?*

Speaker 1: *No, but at least I've got the weekend off.*

a) *Did you have a nice time?*

b) *Me neither!*

c) *Enjoy yourself!*

d) *Do you?*

1. a) Is she really?  
b) I'll be there.  
c) It isn't done yet.  
d) No, it was wonderful.
2. a) Yes, he's getting over a bad cold.  
b) It's absolutely freezing, isn't it?  
c) I've never known him to be so rude.  
d) The forecast for tomorrow is better.
3. a) They'll be here shortly, I'm sure.  
b) No, I was among the first to meet them.  
c) We can only wait until 8.30.  
d) What is it this time?
4. a) Good morning. Reception.  
b) Sorry, it won't happen again.  
c) Certainly sir, at what time?  
d) The time is now 7.33 a.m.
5. a) I'm sure you'll understand.  
b) There's no need to apologise.  
c) Perhaps you should write and tell them.  
d) No, it sounded like a disaster.
6. a) Let's hope she never does.  
b) She'll be back shortly.  
c) We'd better pull over and ask someone.  
d) I've no idea what she does, I'm afraid.
7. a) My mark was just as bad.  
b) She said we can't use the internet.  
c) Yes, it's great to have a free evening.  
d) I thought you'd taken it!
8. a) It's only the occasional family argument.  
b) She becomes more like her every day.  
c) I think it's a good idea.  
d) Wasn't that kind?

**LISTENING PART 2**

You will hear three conversations. Listen to the conversations and answer the questions below. Put a circle around the letter of the correct answer. You will hear each conversation once only. Look at the questions for Conversation One.

**Conversation 1**

- 1.1 The woman is trying to
- a) make an appointment for herself.
  - b) cancel an appointment.
  - c) help someone make an appointment.
  - d) explain why there are no appointments.
- 1.2 The man has probably seen the woman before
- a) on TV.
  - b) at a party.
  - c) in a film.
  - d) at the theatre.

**Conversation 2**

- 2.1 The speakers are
- a) family members.
  - b) teacher and student.
  - c) flatmates.
  - d) colleagues.
- 2.2 At the end of the conversation, the man
- a) apologises.
  - b) makes a suggestion.
  - c) refuses to help.
  - d) makes a promise.

**Conversation 3**

- 3.1 The conversation is taking place
- a) before school.
  - b) during a lesson.
  - c) in a school break.
  - d) after school.
- 3.2 The two speakers agree that
- a) it has been a difficult school year.
  - b) the new teachers are all very friendly.
  - c) the classroom is comfortable.
  - d) the lesson was not enjoyable.



# Practice Test 4

## LISTENING PART 3

Listen to the message about travel conditions. Make **short** notes about the message. First look at the notes. The first one is done for you. You will hear the message once only.

### Travel update

Travel helpline: 0854 667755

1. Cause of delays on railways: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Train services return to normal: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Road closed: \_\_\_\_\_

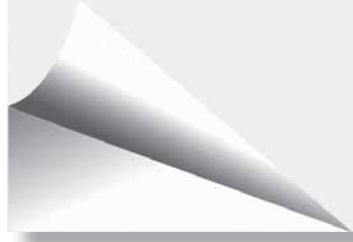
4. Alternative route: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Coaches leave from: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Town centre roadworks from 10.00 to: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Number of parking spaces free now: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Next travel update: \_\_\_\_\_



**LISTENING PART 4**

Listen to the conversation and answer the questions. Put a circle around the letter of the correct answer. First look at the questions. The first one is done for you. You will hear the conversation twice.

**EXAMPLE:**

*Terry is busy because he*

- a) *is finishing some college work.*
- b) *has to get ready for a trip.*
- c) *needs to write a report.*
- d) *got up late this morning.*

1. Who does the puzzle book belong to?
  - a) Terry.
  - b) Joan.
  - c) One of Joan's children.
  - d) Terry's friend.
2. What does Terry say about word games and puzzles?
  - a) They annoy him.
  - b) He used to like them.
  - c) They're great fun.
  - d) He has no time to do them.
3. When Joan offers to read out some of the questions in the book, Terry
  - a) accepts gratefully.
  - b) doesn't reply.
  - c) asks her not to.
  - d) accepts reluctantly.
4. Who likes the question about the days of the week?
  - a) Joan.
  - b) Terry.
  - c) Both Joan and Terry.
  - d) Neither Joan nor Terry.
5. When Terry asks Joan to make coffee, she expresses
  - a) anger.
  - b) concern.
  - c) indifference.
  - d) amusement.
6. What does Terry say he plans to eat later in the day?
  - a) A large meal.
  - b) He hasn't decided.
  - c) Nothing.
  - d) A light snack.
7. When does Terry say he will phone Joan?
  - a) Later the same day.
  - b) The following morning.
  - c) Sometime in the next few days.
  - d) He won't be able to phone.
8. Why does Terry take the book at the end of the conversation?
  - a) To please Joan.
  - b) He has become interested in the questions.
  - c) It will impress his colleagues.
  - d) He has nothing else to read.

## READING PART 1

Read the text and complete the tasks that follow. Choose a, b, c or d. Put a circle round the most appropriate answer. An example is done for you.

## Old news provokes strong views

News is normally out of date within hours. Not this time. Official documents released after twenty-five years have got people's attention.

The documents report sightings of unidentified flying objects. These UFO reports have not been in the press earlier because they come under a law on classified information: information which cannot be made public without government approval. A government official commented, 'There is nothing unusual about holding back certain information when there is a good reason to do so.'

According to SkyWatch spokesperson Jake Penn, the 'good reason' was that the government knew all along that spaceships from other planets visited Earth regularly in the late twentieth century. 'There are too many reports to ignore,' said Jake. 'The fact that they were kept secret proves what we've always known. Visitors from space are trying to contact us.'

A retired scientist who was part of the team dealing with reports wasn't so sure. 'True, there were high numbers of reports of sightings of unidentified objects a quarter of a century ago, but that doesn't mean that people actually saw UFOs. They may have imagined they saw things or in a few instances claimed to have seen things as a joke. The obvious answer is that most people really did see something they couldn't identify at the time, but which turned out to be nothing out of the ordinary, let alone from space.'

Among sightings with perfectly ordinary explanations are weather balloons and aeroplane tail lights. One report from a group of soldiers of 'something strange, hovering above the ground and moving backwards and forwards with supernatural speed,' turned out to be a lighthouse seen from an unusual angle. 'Even the most reliable witnesses can be deceived by tricks of the light; we can't always believe our eyes,' the scientist explained. 'It's called a parallax view. Two people see the same thing from different angles and 'see' different things. There is nothing inexplicable or supernatural in that.'

The same scientist observed, 'The highest number of reported sightings happened at the same time as the release of popular science fiction films. Perhaps people saw what they wished to see.' This comment made SkyWatch members angry. Jake Penn said, 'They would say that, wouldn't they? Why not just accept that people saw the movies then kept their eyes open and saw what was there above them? It's a cover-up. Government scientists can come up with clever explanations but they will never fool us. We know what we know.'

**EXAMPLE:**

*The documents relating to reports of UFO sightings*

- a) *were first published in the late twentieth century.*
- b) *are difficult to classify as fact or fiction.*
- c) *need official permission to be published.*
- d) *are no longer available to the general public.*

1. The spokesperson for SkyWatch
  - a) claims to have met visitors from outer space.
  - b) believes the government has been hiding the truth.
  - c) thinks the law on classified information is good.
  - d) has reasonable doubts about all reported sightings.
2. In the scientist's opinion, most people who report UFO sightings
  - a) do so as part of a practical joke.
  - b) are simply imagining things.
  - c) believe they see something strange.
  - d) can no longer remember the incident.
3. The ordinary things which have been reported as unidentified flying objects include
  - a) man made structures.
  - b) freak weather conditions.
  - c) secret military activities.
  - d) lights from all night outdoor parties.
4. According to the scientist a parallax view
  - a) is an entirely natural phenomenon.
  - b) has no rational explanation.
  - c) is experienced by very few people.
  - d) doesn't explain why people appear to see different things.
5. The scientist thinks that science fiction films
  - a) help people focus on what they see in the sky.
  - b) are really not worth watching.
  - c) help make scientific research more popular.
  - d) have influenced what people think they see.
6. Jake Penn's final position on the controversy is that he
  - a) refuses to discuss the question of UFOs.
  - b) hasn't changed his views at all.
  - c) accepts that scientific evidence has proved him wrong.
  - d) believes his opinions will be ignored.

## READING PART 2

Read the text and fill the gaps with the sentences A–H. Write the letter of the missing sentence in the box in the correct gap. There are two extra sentences you will not need.

1752



## The most unusual year on record

Do you know exactly how many people were born in Britain between 3 and 13 September, 1752? It sounds like a very difficult question.  1. The answer is none at all. Nobody was born and nobody died between those two dates, even though the population of the country was over 6,000,000 at the time.  2.

Well, there is and yet at the same time, there isn't. Of course a period of eleven days with no births or deaths among a population that size would not have been merely suspicious.  3. And yet, the records are entirely accurate and reliable. Here is the remarkable story of how it all came about:

By the year 1752, Britain and the rest of the English-speaking world, including what was still in those days the colony of America, had fallen out of step with most of the countries in Europe.  4. The result was that Britain appeared to be eleven days behind its neighbours. After much discussion, it was decided that it was time for Britain to come into line with the countries in Western Europe and to be officially on the same date.  5. In other words, to jump straight from 2 September to 14 September.

Although it may sound straightforward and logical enough to us now, the change caused unforeseen problems. One of these was that people felt they had somehow lost eleven days of their lives, something about which they not unnaturally protested.  6. The American president, George Washington, was among others officially born in two different years.

- A They were using a different calendar from the one in general use on the Continent.
- B Another was that historians no longer knew what they should record as someone's date of birth.
- C The only practical way to do this was to remove the problematic extra days from the calendar.
- D It is obvious that it would have been absolutely unbelievable.
- E Surely, one would think, there must be something wrong with these statistics?
- F Which was unusually large for what was even in those days a very small country.
- G As a matter of fact, it really could not be any simpler.
- H Then it would become a possibility to do so, taking all significant factors into account.

# Practice Test 4

## READING PART 3

Read the four texts below. There are ten questions about the texts. Decide which text A, B, C or D tells you the answer to the question. The first one is done for you.

**A**

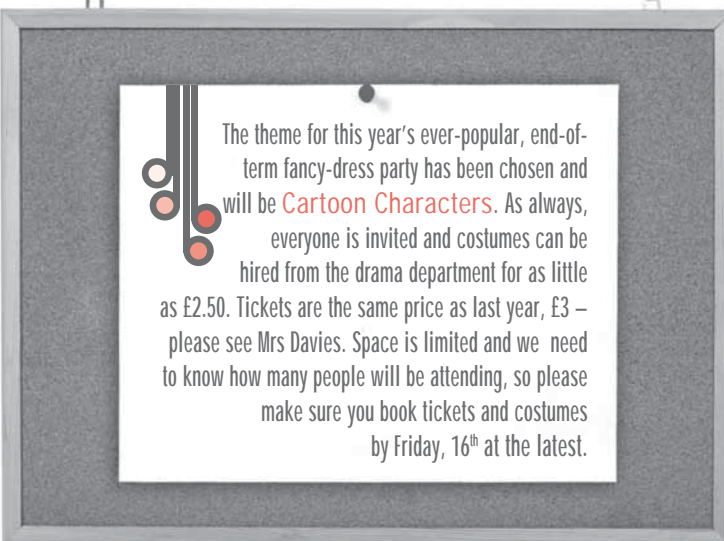


**Everything you could possibly need for your fancy-dress party is here. And if by any chance it isn't, we will be happy to order it for you from our suppliers. Come and try costumes on in store. You can be anyone you want to be from Alice in Wonderland to Zorro, all at a price to suit you. Our costumes are in great demand so pay your deposit by cash or card now to avoid disappointment on the night of your party.**

**B**

You've just got to come with me - do say you will. I've never been before, though I've always wanted to, and I just don't dare to go on my own. Come on, we can dress up as American cartoon characters like Tom & Jerry. It will be absolutely great, I know it will. Promise that you won't tell anyone what we're going to wear, we'll surprise them. Let me know as soon as you can, and please, please, please say 'yes'!

**C**



The theme for this year's ever-popular, end-of-term fancy-dress party has been chosen and will be **Cartoon Characters**. As always, everyone is invited and costumes can be hired from the drama department for as little as £2.50. Tickets are the same price as last year, £3 – please see Mrs Davies. Space is limited and we need to know how many people will be attending, so please make sure you book tickets and costumes by Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> at the latest.

**D**

We found that the origins of dressing in disguise at parties date all the way back to the thirteenth century and the Venice carnival. At the carnival, people wore masks to hide their identity from people they didn't want to meet at celebrations. Fancy-dress parties, which are called costume parties in the USA, became popular in Britain in the 1940s. The pictures we have included in our display show how costumes have become more elaborate and expensive over the years.

**Which text:**

1. gives the name of a person to contact?
2. says exactly how much it costs to go to a fancy-dress party?
3. comes from a student research project?
4. is a letter to a friend?
5. is an advertisement from a shop?

C

**Which text gives you the answers to the following questions?**

6. What is another name for a fancy-dress party?
7. How can I pay my deposit for a costume?
8. When is the final date I have to decide if I want to go to a fancy-dress party?
9. When did fancy dress become popular in Britain?
10. Why did people originally wear disguises at parties?


## READING PART 4

Read the text and answer the questions. Write a maximum of five words for each answer. An example is done for you.

## Content & language

Since the start of the academic year, St. Steffan's College has acquired a new English teacher. Rosa Schmidt has been teaching food technology at the college for twenty years but she is new to the English department.

Rosa explains, 'It's a great success, but I can't honestly say that it was my own idea. It was a number of my food tech students who asked if we could study food technology in English instead of our own language. We thought it could be useful if they wanted to find employment abroad when they finished college as English is spoken almost everywhere these days.

I must say that it took me completely by surprise but I wasn't against the idea in principle as long as the students didn't mind my English – it is thirty years since I studied English and of course I have forgotten so much! I was a little nervous about suggesting it to the college principal because I thought she would say it was impossible, but she was very enthusiastic. Everyone was in favour of the plan except a few of the students' parents. They were afraid they wouldn't be able to follow their children's studies, which I can understand.

The principal asked if the students had a fairly high level of English, around B2. I have to say I'd never even heard of B2, but I knew their English was good so I took a chance and said it was. In fact, many of the students have better English than I do. They didn't feel uncomfortable about this though, because they weren't worried about making grammar mistakes and could concentrate on the content itself, and it didn't bother me all because after all, I teach food technology and know my subject well.'

Rosa herself lays no claim to being an English language teacher. The language teachers who work with her at the college, however, have welcomed her as one of their own. They point out that Rosa's students are now performing more confidently in English language lessons. Rosa's colleagues have even written to the national association of English teachers to suggest inviting Rosa to be a member. The association has done more than that: Rosa, to her pleasure and embarrassment, has been invited to address the annual conference. 'I'm just glad it isn't next week!' Rosa says. 'At least I have two months to practise my English!'

*Example:* How long has Rosa been a teacher at the college?  
20 years / (for) twenty years

1. Who had the idea of studying a college subject in English?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How did Rosa think her students might find studying the subject in English useful?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How did the principal react to the idea of Rosa teaching in English?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Who was not very keen on the idea?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What did Rosa say when she was asked if the students had a B2 level of English?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How did students feel about having better English than their teacher?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Who told the national association of English teachers about Rosa's work?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How does Rosa feel about speaking at the conference?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. When will the conference take place?  
\_\_\_\_\_







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