

IELTS Listening: examples and practice sources

Please note: It is important to **read the instructions** before each set of questions very carefully. For example, some gap-fill exercises tell you to put just one word in each gap, whereas others ask for up to three words and/or a number.

Transcripts from example questions in the video:

Section 1

My full name is Mark **Braithwaite**; that's B-R-A-I-T-H-W-A-I-T-E.

I live at number **18, Hill** Street, Newtown.

I'm joining the library because I'm about to start a **postgraduate** degree, and I need access to books about the local area.

Section 2 - diagram gap-fill

The school is located in the centre of the town, not far from the shopping area and several prominent buildings. If you leave the school building and walk along the main high street, you'll see the **cinema** on the left just after the crossroads. Further along the high street, the road bends to the right, just after Woods Lane, and becomes **East** Avenue. And Town Hall **Square** is the large open area at the end of this street.

Section 2 - matching

We put on three main shows for children, but parents should make sure that they book well in advance to avoid disappointment; our children's shows are very popular. Tickets for "**Magic on Ice**" sell out very quickly because this is our Christmas show, and it only runs for **two weeks during the Christmas holiday**. If you're looking for something to do with your children at the weekend, I would recommend a visit to our farm to see "**Animal Fun and Games**". This show is open on Saturdays and Sundays during **both term time and school holidays**. Finally, "**Rides and Slides**" is closed during the school term, but **open when children are off school**.

Section 3

(Roger) The process of selecting people for the study involved various stages. First, our preference was to use people who had previously put themselves forward for similar studies carried out by members of our department. We chose a small number of participants from the department database, but unfortunately there were not enough people who met our requirements. So, our second step was to find some new volunteers. Next, we needed to select the ten most suitable participants from our volunteer group. We put all of them through a series of exercises to **measure their strength, stamina and balance**. We had expected the younger volunteers to achieve the best results in these

tests, but we were surprised by the performances of some of our older volunteers. In the end, we **chose the ten highest scoring volunteers** to be our study subjects, and we were pleased to have a wide range of ages in the group.

Section 4

The article entitled "Understanding Leadership" came out of a collaboration between the university's Business School and our contacts in several successful medium-sized companies in the city. The initial finding that stood out when we looked at the practices of the most consistent achievers was that these people have a very clear idea of the direction of their businesses; **they see the "big picture" of what is going on** within their companies, in their particular markets, and in the wider world. They also tend to be particularly good at motivating and empowering those around them. The best leaders understand implicitly the need to trust their staff, and they are **happy to delegate tasks and duties** to others.

Sources of further listening practice:

- All official Cambridge IELTS books
- Short practice exercises on the official IELTS website, [click here](#)
- Short practice exercises on my blog ielts-simon.com
- Any other general listening practice will help to improve your "ear" e.g. TV, films, videos on the Internet. Just listen to as much English as possible!