

LanguageCert
Communicator B2
Level 1
International ESOL (Listening, Reading, Writing)
Practice Paper 6

NB Read out the text which is not in italics. Read at normal speed making it sound as much like spoken English (rather than English which is read aloud) as possible.

Listening part one.

You will hear some short conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answer for each conversation.

Number one. Number one.

(6 seconds)

M: We haven't met before, have we?

F: No, we haven't. *[introducing herself]* Doctor Tilden.

M: Professor Lawson. Delighted, I'm sure.

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(10 seconds)

Number two. Number two.

(6 seconds)

F: Which salad shall we order?

M: Don't mind, s' long as it hasn't got fruit in it.

F: How' bout the spinach, grilled chicken and nuts, then? Huh?

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(10 seconds)

Number three. Number three.

(6 seconds)

F: Mr Baker's office, *[sounding helpful and willing]* can I help you?

M: Can I speak to Mr Baker, please?

F: Could you hold, please, and I'll see if he's in..

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(10 seconds)

Number four. Number four.

(6 seconds)

M: *[very excited]* Check **out** my new **gadget**!

F: *[puzzled]* Um..., but **what** is it? I don't get it?!

M: S' **smart watch** - does loads of things! S'**amazing**!

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(10 seconds)

Number five. Number five.

(6 seconds)

F: *[plaintive, complaining]* **Oh, Bob! Haven't** you put those new shelves **up yet**?

M: *[apologetic, not wanting to start a row]* Don't worry, dear! I'll get around to it soon!

F: *[fed up and frustrated]* You've been **getting around to it** for ages!

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(10 seconds)

Number six. Number six.

(6 seconds)

F: Remember that novel I wrote?

M: Sure! What happened? What did the publishers say? Bet they loved it!

F: **They** turned it down!

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(10 seconds)

Number seven. Number seven.

(6 seconds)

F: *[hesitant]* Erm, dad, you've had a word with Mum, haven't you?

M: *[instantly cautious and suspicious]* Err...? What about?

F: *[on her best behaviour, pleading, rising intonation]* Me going to that disco! Surely you've managed to reach a decision by now.

(10 seconds)

That is the end of Part One.

Listening part two.

You will hear some conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answers for each conversation. (10 seconds.)

Conversation One

- M: Oh! Wow! Hey, Martha, check out this **flower!** It's **awesome!** Look at the **colours!** And the **smell...!**
- F: Great, isn't it? It's a wild rose! They grow here, and in spring they're an amazing sight!
- M: How come you know so much about strange stuff like this? I'd never realised ...
- F: Oh, it's my hobby, I'm very much into local wild flowers and animals. I've even got a blog going!
- M: Really! Wow! I've got a blog, too! So what exactly d'you do with yours? Do you take photos and post them online?
- F: Not just that, I also use it to organise guided tours. [*shocked, raising her voice*] **No!** What are you **doing? Don't pick** it!
- M: Sorry, I didn't know! Don't be angry! I didn't mean any harm, it's just it was pretty! I wanted to see it up close!
- F: I know, but we **shouldn't** - wild flowers're there for everybody to enjoy!

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(Wait 10 seconds before going onto the next conversation.)

Conversation Two

- M: [*frustrated and very upset*] Oh, **what a day!** I **don't know why** I keep this job, **never** gets any better!
- F: [*sympathetic*] Oh, dear! I'm so **sorry!** Was it really **bad?**
- M: **Yes! Again!** I'm **so fed up!** I don't know what to do!
- F: [*showing sympathy*] Suppose it's the **boss again? That woman! Why'd you keep** putting up with her! I don't get it! You **really** should stand **up** to her! She has **no** right to treat people **like that!**
- M: Ugh! I know, but I **need** the job! Don't forget the girls are going to college soon. We **need** the **money!** You know that!

- F: [trying to suggest something useful or uplifting] You're **right** of course, I know that! But there **must** be **something** you can **do**! I mean, there **must** be some **laws** or company **rules** to protect employees at work!
- M: [defeated] Oh, I don't know! There's no point, I guess! Everybody's **scared** of her! The big **bully**!
- F: [trying to calm him down] Look, have a rest while I get some food ready!

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(Wait 10 seconds before going onto the next conversation.)

Conversation Three

- F: Hey, Andy! What're you reading there? You seemed rather absorbed!
- M: Oh, hi, Gina! Didn't hear you come in. It's an article on the net –weird statistics!
- F: [bored and a bit disgusted] Ugh! **Statistics! BO – RING!**
- M: [agreeing at first, but wanting to prove his point] Well, that's what I thought too, at first! I mean, **who reads** about statistics, huh? But then, something in the article caught my interest! D'you know that Americans are the fastest eaters in the world? They only spend one hour and fourteen minutes in total eating every day!
- F: [going along, but not quite agreeing] Okeeeey! But **why's that** interesting? I mean, **who cares?**
- M: Umm..., but listen to this, too; [warming to the subject] d'you know that car accidents happening on Friday evenings are **fifty two** percent **more** likely to be serious than accidents happening at **other** times? Isn't that weird? I mean, it makes you think, right?
- F: [impressed] **Really!** That **IS** interesting! Perhaps, we **should** be **more** careful on Fridays then.
- M: Yeah, it can't just be a coincidence, can it? There must be some reason. That's why this is more than just trivial information. We should study these a bit more, I think

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(10 seconds.)

That is the end of Part Two.

Listening part three.

You will hear someone talking. You will hear the person twice. Complete the information. Write short answers of one to five words.

(1 minute.)

[beep]

[clearing throat to indicate beginning of radio programme] Hmhm...Good morning! Today we're going to address one of the most common health issues in the modern world – **backache**. And what's the major cause? Well, it's simply that most of us today spend our working lives **sitting down**, very likely in front of computer screens. [as an afterthought] And, of course, many of us also walk and exercise less than our ancestors did too.

Erm...Well, there are several things you can do to help decrease the back pain you suffer. Firstly, think about your body type and the desk you work at, and then choose the right office chair for you.

What you're going to sit on, possibly for **hours** every day, should be **comfortable** and allow you to sit in a **healthy** position that doesn't put unnecessary strain on any part of your body. Whatever you choose, it should allow you to sit at the **correct height** for your desk, high enough so that when you're using a mouse or typing, you can have your arms loose by your sides so that your hands are slightly above your keyboard. **Also**, when you sit back properly in it, it should support your back comfortably.

There are **other** things you can do to lessen back pain and **improve** your health at the same time. If your job requires you to spend long hours sitting at a desk, take a five-minute break. Stand up, stretch a bit and walk around the office to relax your back and leg muscles once every hour.

Another tip, and one you may find surprising or unexpected, concerns the quality of sleep you get. If your bed **isn't** suitable for your body type, chances are you'll suffer from backache. So, get yourself a comfortable bed.

[pause to signal change of idea] Also, add a little **exercise** to your daily schedule. If you take the bus or train, the easiest and most convenient way to do this is to get off one stop before yours and simply walk. Walking the extra distance will allow you to burn some calories, but it'll also stretch those muscles that have been inactive for a while.

Don't forget, gentle exercises can also help your back. Hm... Yoga, Pilates or aerobics are good because they strengthen your muscles. But remember to start off gently and not overdo it if you haven't exercised for a long time!

One last tip: Most of us who have back problems aren't very active and so we may also be a bit overweight. So, **lose some weight**. It doesn't have to be much, just a bit can really make a difference. Losing weight lightens the body and works wonders for our back and knees.

Well, I hope you found today's programme interesting and helpful. See you next week same time! Bye for now!

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(10 seconds.)

You now have thirty seconds to read through and check your answers.

(30 seconds.)

[beep]

That is the end of Part Three.

Listening part four.

You will hear a conversation. You will hear the conversation twice. Choose the correct answers.
(20 seconds.)

- M: [*keen*] Did you read that online **article** I sent you, Fiona?
- F: [*absent-minded*] Mmm.... Which one, Andy? The one about the new library or the other one about the use of classical music at schools?
- M: No, the one about that guy who's got a company that builds electric cars and stuff! Did you take a look? He's **AWESOME!**
- F: [*bored*] Nuh... Andy, you know I'm really **not** into business people.
- M: Yeah, I know, you've told me a million times, but **this guy here's** different! **Totally** different, as a matter of fact!
- F: [*sceptical*] Oh? How so? What's so special about him? I thought all super-rich businessmen were arrogant! They have just one good idea, they create a start-up – these days it's cheap and easy with the internet – they make a fortune, sell their company for loads and retire to a life of luxury, far away from any of the world's problems.
[*sarcastic*] Have I left anything out?
- M: [*patiently*] Well, Fiona, this time you've got it all wrong! This man, Tobias Gardener, is the real thing! He's got these amazing ideas which can actually change the future of mankind and the planet, and he's turning them into reality!
- F: [*tentatively*] Mmm... Like what ideas, for example?
- M: Well, for starters, you've heard about electric cars, haven't you? **He's** the man who's started producing them! [*speaking very fast in excitement*] I mean, I know they haven't made him any profit, but, well, ... before that..., you know ClickandPay, the money service, right? I mean who hasn't used that? Well, that was one of his first projects. Another fascinating one!
[*as an afterthought*] He became extremely rich selling that one, by the way! Sold it for millions!
- F: Mmm... I guess he must have! But I still don't see why this businessman is worth paying attention to. I mean all he's done is make some money, so? There're **hundreds** of others who've done the same thing.
- M: No! That was only the beginning! As a kid, he was inspired by science-fiction films and believes that space exploration is the only way for humankind to move forward, so he decided to build a base on Mars. But then, he started another company, Travel-X, which has now launched the first re-usable rockets – just because he couldn't find inexpensive space ships to carry equipment to Mars. Can you believe that? The future **IS** happening!

- F: [*grudgingly*] Ok, I'll admit that's impressive! I've read about this company, and their reusable rockets! It **IS** promising! But I still don't see why you get so excited about **him**, Andy – I mean, there've been **others** like him, don't you remember **Steve Jobs**? Without him we wouldn't have smartphones and tablets! He practically invented them!
- M: Sure, he was one of the greats, Fiona, but I think that Tobias Gardener's going to have a lot more influence on our world and the environment, I mean, he's even considering doing something about pollution in the future and ...
- F: You've got a point there, Andy, I'll have to admit that. But then Jobs belonged to a different generation and people weren't so worried about the planet back then, I guess.
- M: Yeah, ... perhaps that's why. [*full of enthusiasm*] But the fact remains that this guy is set to change the Earth and how we travel outside it, and if he can pull it off, he'll have us living on Mars, and even other planets too! **Imagine that!** He's not limiting himself to just the Earth, Fiona! Far from it!
- F: [*convinced*] Oh, OK, it seems he is quite an interesting person, after all, Andy! I'll look him up, I promise!

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(10 seconds.)

That is the end of Part Four.

You now have two hours and ten minutes to complete the rest of the paper.