

First Listening Overview

This is the last exam of the day. Being tired, you will need a clear idea of how to manage this exam. Even if your listening level is very good, you will have difficulties if you do not practise enough and don't have a system.

General points

- **Prepare to listen** – anticipate using headings, underline key words and note them down before listening. E.g. synonyms, opposites, theme-related words.
- **Use the first listening to understand the text.** Make notes on the question paper if that helps you. Do not stop listening if you do not understand.
- **Do not decide your answers too soon.** There will be traps. Target language mentioned in the wrong context, or details may be expressed in the negative rather than the positive to trick you so keep listening.
- **Use the second listening** to complete your answers.
- **Use the time.** Go straight to the next part as soon as finish a section.
- **Make sure you transfer all your answers** onto the answer sheet in the given time.

Specific exercise-related tips

Part 1 – Multiple choice – short texts relating to eight different situations

Part 4 – Multiple choice – long text

- Make sure you respond to the specific question asked
- Decide your answer before looking at the option answers

Part 2 – Sentence completion

- You occasionally need to write 3 words but it is normally one or two
- Underline the key language near the gap which will warn you that the missing information is coming
- Anticipate the type of missing details. E.g. a noun, number
- Make sure the missing words fit grammatically. i.e. verb, noun, adjective
- Be patient. Sometimes, there are long spaces between answers
- Check spelling

Part 3 – Multiple matching – different speakers

- Follow the general points listed above
- The answer is what you precisely hear not what you think

