

Exploring Skills for English Tests

Listening Part 3: A1 and A2

Format of the task

There are three parts to the A1 and A2 Listening test. In **Part 3**, candidates will listen to a monologue, for example someone leaving a message on a phone, or an announcement (approximately 120-160 words for A1 and 300-350 words for A2). Topics will be on everyday issues and appropriate to A1 and A2 levels.

There are 5 questions in this part. Candidates must complete 5 sentences by using drag and drop to draw from a pool of 10 options. The focus of these questions will be on key information. Candidates will need to answer the questions as they listen.

Candidates will have time to read and check their answers. All audio recordings and questions are at A1 and A2 level. Candidates will hear this section played twice.

Skills/functions being assessed

- Comprehension of the main message in monologues and in simple conversations for a given purpose
- Understanding of specific concrete information of everyday personal nature
- Understanding of language relating to numbers, times, directions, locations, likes, needs, agreements and disagreements

Tips for teachers

Provide candidates with:

- Practice in listening to a variety of recordings from different sources and various everyday topics
- Skills to understand how informal and formal monologues are organised
- Strategies that focus on sentence completion and placing the correct words to gapped statements to identify the main points
- Skills to be able to understand unfamiliar words through context

Tips for learners

- In preparation, listen to as many audio exercises in English as you can
- Read the questions carefully before listening, remember the key words
- Use the second listening to check your answers
- Practise using cues in the text to help you identify meanings of words you don't know and look at key words that tell you the main points that fit in the gaps in the questions

Sample A1/A2 Listening Part 3 Task

This is a short example extract from the type of recording and questions a candidate may encounter in Part 3.

Attention all passengers! Please listen to the following information as it may affect your journey today.

The train from Glasgow to London, due to leave from **platform 7**, is now delayed. We are not sure how long this delay will last, but the train now leaves from **platform 10**. Can all 'Glasgow to London' passengers please make their way to this platform immediately.

Also, there has been a handbag found at the station. Inside are a set of **keys** and a wallet, but no **money**. Please can you check to see if you are missing these items. If the handbag is yours, please make your way to the **information desk** next to the **ticket office**, where staff will be there to help. Please bring some identification if possible.

Part 3 is always a monologue meaning there is only one speaker.

Candidates can change their answers by dragging in a new option.

Q1

Q2

Q3

For each question, chose one answer from the box.

The wrong options are also mentioned in the text, so listen for the details connected to each option in order to choose the correct answer.

information desk	keys	platform 7	ticket office	platform 10	money
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- 1) Passengers waiting for the Glasgow to London train should go to _____.
- 2) A handbag was found with a wallet and some _____ inside.
- 3) The person missing their handbag should go to the _____.

Candidates should drag and drop the correct answer from the box into the gap in the sentence.

Answers:

1. platform 10
2. Keys
3. information desk

Note: this sample task is for guidance purposes only. For examples of level-specific listening tasks, please refer to the Skills for English Practice Tests available through the Skills for English website: <https://skillsforenglish.com/language-learning/>