

Exploring Skills for English Tests

Listening Part 3: B1

Format of the task

There are three parts to the B1 Listening test. In **Part 3**, candidates will listen to an extended monologue, such as a talk at a tourist site (approximately 460-600 words). Topics will be of general interest and will be appropriate to B1 level.

Questions found in this part require candidates to complete 10 questions set out as notes or sentences capturing information from the monologue. The questions will be either in the form of 10 drag and drop/fill in the blank items or 5 notes completion and 5 drag and drop/fill in the blank items. In all cases, candidates do not need to provide an answer but select from a pool of possible answers.

Notes are set out in two sets of 5 questions to reduce reading load. Answers are provided in a pool of 10 options in total for each set of 5 questions. The focus of these questions will be on key information, main ideas, detailed or specific information, attitudes and opinions. 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 B1 level. Candidates will hear this section played twice.

Skills/functions being assessed

- Understanding of specific, detailed information, opinions, attitudes and feelings, agreement/disagreement, and negotiation of meaning
- Understanding of main points
- Some simple inference of meaning
- Focus on both vocabulary and grammar to convey message
- Comprehension of short narrative and order of events

Tips for teachers

Provide candidates with:

- Practice in listening to a variety of recordings and topics
- Skills to understand how informal and formal monologues are organised, identifying key words and meaning
- Strategies that focus on sentence completion such as practice with synonyms, word formation and practice inserting appropriate words into sentences
- 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 and remember the key words used to help identify the relevant points in the speech
- 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
- Prepare by using the online Skills for English (SfE) practice tests

Sample B1 Listening Part 3 Task

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

<p>Speaker 1</p>	<p>Hello everyone, welcome to the Wellbeing Session, I'm Steve Gibbons, your trainer today. We're.... err, going to be looking at identifying stress in the workplace and looking at ways we can reduce it through some simple but effective techniques to try out at work.</p>	
<p>Topics are general in nature and similar to real life situations in the UK. The audio also contains "real language use" such as contractions (I'm, we're) and hesitations (umm, er).</p>	<p>So, what causes stress? Well, there can be a variety of factors, such as extra work hours or even job worries. But importantly, if not identified at an early stage, it can impact staff health and eventually lead to time off work. The causes of stress can be big or small and are not always noticed by an employer. Therefore, it's really important for employers to keep improving at reading the signs of stress and taking immediate steps to help. Make sure your staff are taking regular breaks and provide them with opportunities to relax with colleagues and discuss openly any issues they might have.</p>	<p>Q1</p> <p>Q2</p> <p>Q3</p>

Complete each section by dragging a word from the box. To change your response, click on the dragged answer.

signals	worries
noticed	variety
improving	issues

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

Be aware of the use of synonyms such as "noticing" and "seeing" that can help you find answers.

1. Stress can be caused by long hours, or the _____ of a job.
2. Factors that lead to stress may not be _____.
3. Employers should get better at identifying the _____ and acting fast.

Answers:

1. worries
2. noticed
3. signals

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/>