

**ESB Level 2 Certificate in ESOL  
International All Modes – (C1)  
500/3648/8**

## **C1 – Listening Test Transcript**

**In the unlikely event that both the Listening CD and the spare CD should fail, this transcript may be read out to the candidates.**

## TRACK 1

Narrator's text is in boxes.

Highlighted words in *italics* with square brackets **[example]** should not be spoken.

Female Narrator: **This is the ESB Level 2 Certificate in ESOL Examination C1.**

### Section One Listening.

I am going to give you the instructions for this part of the test. You will hear this sound **[BLEEP]** at the start of each piece. Remember to transfer your answers to the optical mark form before the end of the exam. Now open your question paper and look at Part One Section A.

### Listening Part One Section A.

You will hear John McDonald, a radio presenter, and Clive Hoffman, a university professor, talking about language learning.

For questions 1 – 5, choose the correct answer A, B or C. You will hear Section A TWICE. You have one minute to read the questions for Section A.

**[Wait one minute]**

## TRACK 2

**[BLEEP]**

Female Narrator: **Part One. Section A.**

**John:** Good evening and welcome to this episode of "Society", I'm John McDonald and I'm here with our first guest, Clive Hoffman, Professor of Linguistics at Barwood University, to talk about his cutting-edge research into language learning. Good evening, Clive, and welcome to our show.

**Clive:** Hello. And thank you for inviting me here tonight!

**John:** Good to have you! Clive, you've just published a very interesting piece of research about the ability of certain people to learn a huge number of languages. May I ask you why you decided to venture into this field? Are you a polyglot yourself?

**Clive:** **[laughs]** I wish I were! Unfortunately, I'm the exact opposite. As I've always been **completely [stress]** hopeless at learning foreign languages, I'm really fascinated by people who seem to acquire a new language with no apparent effort, so I wanted to discover the secret behind it.

**John:** Well, I'm sure we're all very curious! Have you managed to find the secret recipe for language learning?

- Clive:** I'm afraid no such formula exists, but I discovered something very interesting about the benefits of acquiring new languages, which certainly compensate for the mental effort required.
- John:** I guess you're not just talking about the obvious benefits of better employment prospects or being able to order a coffee when you go abroad. Am I right?
- Clive:** Of course, what you've just mentioned is important, but I was referring to something even more significant, very much related to mental health. In fact, as many studies have already proven, language learning is the best exercise for our brains. Being multilingual can actually improve attention span and memory, and this can delay the onset of degenerative brain diseases such as dementia. Looking at the experiences of immigrants, I found that speaking two languages delays dementia diagnosis by five years. Those who know three languages are diagnosed six and a half years later than monolinguals, while those fluent in four or more languages enjoy an extra nine years of good mental health.
- John:** This is an amazing discovery! I wonder why language schools don't use it to advertise their courses! Unfortunately, I guess we're too old to start this type of brain exercise...
- Clive:** Not at all! I know for a long time we've believed that only young learners are able to reach native-speaker fluency, or can memorise new vocabulary easily. But, this theory has been proved wrong. It's now clear that it's possible to become fluent in a foreign language even in later life. And indeed, the majority of polyglots I interviewed during my research learnt most of the languages they know as adults.
- John:** This is very encouraging! It means I still have some hope left **[laughs]**!
- Clive:** **[laughs]** Absolutely, we shouldn't give up!
- John:** Clive, I've one last question for you. In your research, you write about polyglots and hyperglots. Can you explain the difference in meaning to the listeners?
- Clive:** Well as you know, a polyglot is someone who can speak several languages and the term 'hyperglot' is a newly-invented word to describe polyglots who can speak more than ten languages, a sort of super polyglot.
- John:** **More [stress]** than ten languages! This certainly sounds like an impossible achievement to me! But to prove that such people really exist, our next guest is Karen Spencer, a hyperglot! Many thanks to Clive. You've certainly given us something to think about and... **[fade]**
- [Pause three seconds]**

**TRACK 3**

Female Narrator: **Now Listen Again.**

***[Replay Part One Section A]***

***[Pause three seconds]***

Female Narrator: **That is the end of Part One Section A of the Listening test. Now turn to Part One Section B.**

***[Pause five seconds]***

## TRACK 4

Female Narrator:

**Listening Part One Section B.**

**You will hear John McDonald, a radio presenter, and Karen Spencer, an expert in languages, talking about language learning. For questions 6 – 10, choose the correct answer A, B or C. You will hear Section B TWICE. You have one minute to read the questions for Section B.**

**[Wait one minute]**

**[BLEEP]**

- John:** Welcome back to “Society”. Before the break, we were talking about language learning and its benefits. Now we continue the discussion with our second guest of the evening, so, we welcome to the programme, Karen Spencer.
- Karen:** Hello! I’m very happy to be here tonight, I’m a big fan of the show.
- John:** Thanks, Karen! Just before the break, we talked about the difference between a polyglot and a hyperglot and, if I’m not wrong, you’re a hyperglot. Tell us how many languages you speak.
- Karen:** At the moment I can speak thirteen, but having lately moved to South Korea for a new job, I hope I’ll soon be able to add a new one to the list!
- John:** Korean... that doesn’t sound very easy to learn! And talking about difficult languages, which one did you find hardest to learn, if there is one?
- Karen:** Every language has its difficulties, but I think the one that troubled me the most was Chinese. It was my first Asian language and I had to deal with a new type of writing and a very difficult set of pronunciation rules, it was tough, but still possible! I also struggled to learn Russian, I found the grammar very complicated, it really challenged me!
- John:** I can’t imagine I would ever be able to learn something as complicated as Chinese... you must be a real brainbox! Do you use a special technique or are you just naturally brilliant?
- Karen:** Actually, I don’t think people need to be particularly smart or talented to learn languages. It’s mostly a matter of interest, dedication and necessity; at least, this is what I can say about my own experience as a learner. Languages have always fascinated me. Even as a young girl, I would spend hours listening to radio programmes in languages I didn’t know. Of course, I couldn’t understand anything, but they sounded like beautiful music to me. Then I started travelling, my other great passion, so the motivation was there to learn new languages just to survive in my everyday life.

**John:** Going back to your childhood, how old were you when you learnt your first foreign language? And which was it?

**Karen:** Well, as I grew up in a bilingual family, a French mother and an English father, it's difficult to say which language I learnt first. I have to say that neither English nor French are foreign to me. So, I suppose my first one must be Spanish. In my hometown, there's a big Spanish community and when I started primary school, I tried speaking Spanish with all of my classmates who came from Spanish families. That's how I got started.

**John:** Knowing **three [stress]** already sounds like a hard task to me, but how did you learn all the others?

**Karen:** The others all came later in life. In my last years of high school, I learnt German so that was my fourth, but my really serious interest only started at university, where I studied oriental languages: Chinese and Japanese. The remaining ones are the result of my nomadic lifestyle. As I said, I've lived in many different countries and in each of them, I've learnt a new language. But, my knowledge compared to other hyperglots, is not that impressive at all! I've met **really [stress]** impressive people who can speak **thirty [stress]** languages! My African friend, Pierre, comes from Zaire where there are 365 local languages, one for every day of the year, and he can speak about 20 of them as well as being totally fluent in French and English. I believe that people like Pierre are... **[fade]**

**[Pause three seconds]**

## **TRACK 5**

**Female Narrator:** **Now Listen Again.**

**[Replay Part One Section B]**

**[Pause three seconds]**

**Female Narrator:** **That is the end of Part One Section B of the Listening test. Now turn to Part Two.**

## TRACK 6

Female Narrator:

Listening Part Two.

Listen to three conversations and for questions 11 – 20, choose the correct answer A, B or C. You will hear each conversation TWICE. You have two minutes to read the questions for Part Two.

**[Wait two minutes]**

**[BLEEP]**

Female Narrator:

Conversation One.

**[Telephone conversation]**

**Robert:**  
(male) Hi Nicola, it's Robert.

**Nicola:** Don't you 'hi' me, Robert! Where on earth are you? Don't you remember...?

**Robert:** **[interrupts]** Oh, Nicola, you know how hard I'm working at the moment. I'll be there really soon.

**Nicola:** **[upset]** I've been sitting in this restaurant all on my own for twenty minutes already and I feel like an idiot. Have you even set off yet?

**Robert:** Of course I have. You didn't think I was phoning you to say I was still working, did you? I'm walking out of the office as we speak.

**Nicola:** **[astonished]** You're not even on your way yet! It's Friday night; you're going to be ages with the traffic like it is. Even if you can find a taxi, you probably won't be here for another half hour!

**Robert:** Well, actually. I was thinking about getting the bus. Taxis are so expensive and it'll probably end up being no faster. Like you said, the traffic will be bad.

**Nicola:** Robert, listen to me carefully. If you don't get in a taxi right now then I will not be responsible for my actions. Do you understand me?

**Robert:** **[defensive]** Okay, okay, if it's that important, then I'll jump in a cab. Honestly, I don't see what all the fuss is about. What does a couple more minutes matter?

**Nicola:** Well, quite a lot when you're sitting at a table looking like you've been stood up!

**Robert:** Ah, you know I'd never stand you up. For me, no other women exist. Only you! You're my last frontier.

Nicola: **[incredulous]** Frontier!?

Robert: **[panicking]** No, no, not frontier! I just meant that you're the end of everything for me... in a good way! You're like my last chance... My last hope... Hello? Hello? Nicola? Are you there? Are you...? **[fade] [phone tone]**

**[Pause three seconds]**

## TRACK 7

Female Narrator: **Now Listen Again.**

**[Replay Conversation One]**  
**[Pause three seconds]**

## TRACK 8

**[BLEEP]**

Female Narrator: **Conversation Two.**

Aggie: Oh, hello Julia! I'm glad I ran into you. I've been calling you all afternoon to see what you're up to tonight.

Julia: **[nervous and evasive]** Oh! Hi Aggie. Um... Tonight? Well, actually, I've got plans for tonight. Samantha and I are going to a gallery and then meeting Adam and Dave for drinks and dinner afterwards. So, you know, perhaps some other time?

Aggie: **[enthusiastic]** Oh, no problem. That sounds just fine to me. I love galleries and I haven't seen the boys for ages. How are they doing, anyway? Actually, don't tell me... I'll find out tonight!

Julia: **[still nervous]** Oh, you know, they're fine. Look, Aggie, I'm sorry, but tonight was supposed to be more of a couples' evening and...

Aggie: **[interrupting]** Oh don't worry about that, I can bring Pete along. A cultural afternoon isn't really his cup of tea, but he'll be really up for a meal, any time. He loves his food and drink! What time are we meeting?

Julia: **[more confidently]** Thinking about it, I'm not really sure I'll be able to change the reservation and get a bigger table at the last minute. It's always so busy at *Chez Marcel*.

Aggie: *Chez Marcel!* Oh, that won't be a problem. My cousin's a waiter there. He'll be able to find something for us, no worries.



**Julia:** Oh, I couldn't ask you to do that...

**Aggie:** You're very sweet, but I really don't mind!

**Julia:** But... but, it wouldn't be fair, would it? We'd be taking someone else's table.

**Aggie:** **[laughs]** Oh, Julia. Don't be so moral! I'm trying to do a nice thing for you and, **honestly... [stress]** I really **[stress]** don't mind.

**Julia:** Well I, well I... **[stress]** mind. I really **[stress]** don't want to do this.

**Aggie:** Oh, come off it, Julia. Can you give me one good reason why the six of us shouldn't all have dinner together?

**Julia:** Well... Because... **[sighs]**. No, no I can't think of anything.

**Aggie:** Good, because I'm already dialling. Hello? *Chez Marcel?* I'm ringing about a reservation for this evening... **[fade]**

**[Pause three seconds]**

## TRACK 9

Female Narrator: **Now Listen Again.**

**[Replay Conversation Two]**  
**[Pause three seconds]**

## TRACK 10

**[BLEEP]**

Female Narrator: **Conversation Three.**

**Jenny:** Hi Mark, sorry I'm late. What's that you're reading?

**Mark:** **[nervous]** Oh, hi Jenny. Reading? Me? Nothing really. I wasn't reading anything. Just my phone.

**Jenny:** **[laughs]** Not much of an actor, are you? Come on, what were you reading? All I know is that it must be something embarrassing!

**Mark:** **[defensive]** It's not embarrassing in the slightest.

**Jenny:** Really? You could have fooled me. Come on, what's the big secret? Dating websites?

**Mark:** **[laughs]** Dating websites! There's a blast from the past. No, no, I've got

no time for that sort of rubbish... **[pause]** anymore. I was actually just checking my horoscope, that's all. **[admonishing]** Don't roll your eyes like that! Just because **you** **[stress]**, don't understand it, that doesn't mean it's a load of old rubbish. I don't understand the theory of relativity, but that doesn't mean it's a lot of nonsense, does it?

**Jenny:** Please don't tell me you've just compared Albert Einstein to those idiots who churn out that trash that says: "new opportunities will present themselves today, but beware, not everything is as it seems". Honestly, Mark, it's complete nonsense; it's only one step above believing in fairies.

**Mark:** **[condescendingly]** I really don't know how you can think that huge planets like Saturn and Jupiter don't have any effect on how we live our lives on Earth. Come on... am I really being any more stupid than you are?

**Jenny:** Yes! Much, **much**, **[stress]**, more stupid! You must know that all of those horoscopes are just made up by a journalist sitting in an office somewhere?

**Mark:** **[conciliatory]** Well, let's just agree to differ on this, shall we? I'm happy to respect your beliefs and I think you should respect mine.

**Jenny:** **[heated]** But how do you expect me to... **[calmer]** Yes, you're quite right. There's no need to have an argument.

**Mark:** Good. We should probably order actually and you've not even looked at the menu yet.

**Jenny:** Good point, and, now you mention it; I can see we're getting a nasty look from that waiter. We'd better... What? What are you smiling at?

**Mark:** **[sniggers]** I'd rather not say. If I tell you, then it'll only start things off again.

**Jenny:** **[intrigued]** Go on, I'm curious. And I promise I won't say anything nasty.

**Mark:** Well... I think you'd better read it yourself. There, in the horoscopes – I'm a Capricorn and you're a Gemini, I think.

**Jenny:** Let's see... Capricorn: "Today is a day to enjoy your friends, but beware, a disagreement may ensue." Gemini: "New experiences are waiting for you, but only if you open your mind to meet them."

**Mark:** But, of course, it's all nonsense, isn't it?... **[fade]**

***[Pause three seconds]***

**TRACK 11**

Female Narrator: **Now Listen Again.**

***[Replay Conversation Three]***

***[Pause three seconds]***

Female Narrator: **That is the end of the Listening test. Do not forget to transfer your answers to the optical mark form before the end of the examination. You will not be given extra time to do this. You may now continue with the rest of the exam.**