

**ESB Level 3 Certificate in ESOL  
International All Modes – (C2)  
500/3655/5**

## **C2 – 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 3 Certificate in ESOL Examination C2.

**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.**

Listen to the first section of a radio programme in which a presenter talks to Joel Cox about very large cities.

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.**

Presenter:  
(female)

Hello and welcome to today's edition of Life on Earth. We'll be discussing the growth of large cities around the world and potential problems associated with this phenomenon. Let's welcome our first guest, Joel Cox, who has just published his new book "Megacities".

Joel:  
(male)

Hi, and thanks for inviting me here today.

Presenter:

Joel, in the last few years we're hearing the expression "megacity" more and more frequently, but most people don't really know what it means. So, can you briefly tell us what exactly a megacity is?

Joel:

Sure. A megacity is usually defined as a metropolitan area with a total population in excess of ten million people. It can be a single metropolitan area, or two or more of them that converge into one. This definition's simple, but sometimes can be misleading. The main problem is that most cities are expanding and it can be difficult to determine their territorial boundaries; in other words, to decide exactly where a city actually ends.

Presenter:

I see that defining a megacity is a hard task, but tell us how many of these cities there are in the world and which city is at the top of the list.

**Joel:** Yes. According to the latest data about world population, there are 34 megacities in existence and, for the last 65 years, Tokyo, home to 37 million people, has ranked well above the others. But, as so many other cities are expanding at a rapid rate, we expect Tokyo to be overtaken fairly soon by cities like Jakarta and Shanghai.

**Presenter:** All the cities you have mentioned are oriental. Does that mean that we don't have megacities in the West?

**Joel:** No, there are some, **[stress]** but you've just touched on a very interesting topic. If we look at the list of the top ten megacities, only New York, which was **[stress]** the biggest city in the world in the 1950s, is on that list and is ranked at number eight. Some European and US cities are in the longer list of the 34 megacities in the world, but they come very low down, compared to Asian and South American cities. An interesting example is London, which was the first modern city of a million people, but is now almost at the bottom of the list, with very little expansion taking place. This demographic increase of the eastern and southern parts of the world is a relatively recent trend and if we look at the data from as recently as 1990, New York was still in second place and Los Angeles ranked eighth.

**Presenter:** What do you think will happen in the future? Can we expect a contraction of the demographic growth of the East and South and an expansion of European and American cities?

**Joel:** No, I believe that this so-called de-Westernization trend is likely to continue. The fastest-growing cities over the past decade have been primarily in the developing world and, from the year 2000 onwards, the developing world has accounted for 90% of all megacities. In China and India for example, cities are expanding extremely quickly. This trend, of course, may be affected by any number of developments, including the possible threats to cities from wars, terrorism, environmental challenges or other large-scale disruptions. But, I think we can say, with some confidence, that the list of world megacities will continue to be dominated by countries from Asia and the Southern Hemisphere.

**Presenter:** Thanks for sharing your expertise with us, Joel. In the next part of the programme, Johnny McGovern will be talking about megacities with the well-known photographer, Kate Watson, whose entire career has been dedicated to urban photography 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.**

**Listen to the second section of the radio programme in which the presenter, Johnny McGovern, talks to Kate Watson about urban photojournalism.**

**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]**

**Presenter:  
(male)**

We are now joined by Kate Watson, one of the world's most renowned urban photojournalists. Kate, I'm sure our listeners are familiar with photojournalism in general, but what is it that makes an urban photojournalist unique? Just taking pictures of traffic?

**Kate:  
(female)**

**[laughs]** Well, that's certainly part of it, but you won't find me taking pictures of the rush hour in London unless something really eventful is going on. Photos have to tell you something extraordinary about a city and, in megacities like Rio, Bangkok, Mumbai... places like that... the insane traffic certainly helps to paint a picture.

**Presenter:**

You mentioned megacities, and most of your recent work has been in that area. Why are you so interested in **them** **[stress]** rather than relatively smaller and more beautiful places such as Florence, Prague, Venice and the like?

**Kate:**

The three lovely locations you mention are a photographer's dream, which means that almost every photographer wants to take pictures there. True, you end up with fantastic photos, but ones that have been taken a thousand times before... ones that don't really tell you anything new, or fresh.

**Presenter:**

And megacities provide an opportunity to do just that?

**Kate:**

Exactly. You can see so much in any given day in a megacity, the whole gamut of human emotion. Scenes that make you laugh, cry, scream, retch... sometimes all in the same moment!

**Presenter:**

Is there any particular city which stands out? Or one that you especially like to go back to?

**Kate:**

Well, I couldn't claim to be an absolute authority; I've only been to 23 out of the 34 current megacities. But, if I had a deadline and needed some good shots, then I'd get straight on a flight to Tokyo, it's become a second home to me.

**Presenter:**

What makes Tokyo so special?

**Kate:** It's the sheer range of eccentricity and enthusiasm. All megacities provide you with interesting stories and unusual people, but Tokyo does it with so much energy, colour and verve. I love Delhi, Beijing, and Mexico City, but in none of them do you see middle-aged businessmen dressed as comic book characters, smoking a cigarette while playing on a pinball machine. That's Tokyo for you!

**Presenter:** **[laughs]** And you actually managed to capture the moment with your camera?

**Kate:** Thank goodness, I did! My editor would've killed me if I'd missed out on that gem. Probably another reason I like Tokyo so much is because many of the best pictures I take in other, less developed, places can be heart-breaking. I see scenes of disease, death, violence and abject poverty. I often feel guilty that these dreadful scenes are making my career... winning me awards. I have to constantly remind myself that, by bringing these people to the attention of the world, I am, hopefully, making a small difference to their plight. However, it can be overwhelming at times; it comes close to shattering your spirit.

**Presenter:** And that's when you need to take a break in a more off-the-wall destination like Tokyo?

**Kate:** Exactly. Not that I'll ever give up on the people in the other places though, their stories need to be told.

**Presenter:** Kate Watson, thank you very much. Tomorrow's special guest will be...**[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.  
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.

Alice:  
(female)

**[frustrated]** This queue goes on for miles. We're never going to get in at this rate. I can't believe we've driven all this way only to spend three hours standing in line. **[sarcastic]** Thanks a lot, Gerard.

Gerard:  
(male)

Me! What did I do? This whole thing was your idea! I'd have been quite happy staying at home. **[cheerful]** Anyway, don't be so defeatist. There's still a chance we could make it.

Alice:

Yeah, a fat chance! My legs'll give out before we get within a hundred metres of the stadium. I'm exhausted!

Gerard:

Well, why don't you take a seat on that bench over there? I don't mind standing in line while you have a rest. Then, when you feel better, you can come back and rejoin the queue.

Alice:

**[annoyed]** So I'm supposed to sit around all on my own with nobody to talk to? And then hold your place while you go and take a break? Not likely! You know, we wouldn't be in this mess if it weren't for the fact...

Gerard:

**[interrupting]** If it weren't for the fact that I'd driven us down here then we wouldn't even be standing in this queue! When you asked if I wanted to come to this concert, I rather assumed that you'd have done something in the way of buying tickets!

Alice:

**[shocked]** So it's all my fault now is it? As usual, it seems like it's up to me to do everything. **[sarcastic]** Well, I'm terribly sorry if I'm not perfect. Perhaps it'd be better if we just forgot the whole thing? You obviously don't really want to see the band.

Gerard:

**[placatory]** Look, I don't mind what we do. I'm just as happy to stay or go, have dinner or catch a movie. Whatever you prefer. But what I really, really **[stress]** don't want to do is stand in a queue and have a row. So can we please...

**Alice:** **[interrupts defensively]** Who's having a row? You're the one who keeps arguing. If I'd known you were going to behave like this, then I'd never have invited you tonight. Honestly! You try to do a nice, sociable thing and you get your head bitten off! All I said was...

**Gerard:** **[angrily interrupts]** You can stay here if you want to, Alice. But I've had about as much "fun" as I can take for one night. I'm jumping in the car and heading home. And I want to say that next time you invite me to... **[calmer]** Oh, hang on a minute. **[excited]** The queue's moving! **[laughs]** Well, not such a waste of time after all!

**[Pause three seconds]**

## TRACK 7

**Female  
Narrator:**

Now Listen Again.

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

## TRACK 8

**[BLEEP]**

**Female  
Narrator:**

Conversation Two.

**Rupert:**  
**[male]** Racquet, water, balls... yep, I think we've got everything we need for a nice relaxing game of tennis.

**Agatha:**  
**[female]** **[surprised]** Relaxing? Not likely! I've never known you to be relaxed when it comes to sport. You're probably the most competitive person I know, Rupert. I thought you were going to smash your racquet to pieces when I beat you last time.

**Rupert:** **[light-hearted]** I'm not **that** **[stress]** competitive. Most people would say I'm a pretty easy-going sort of guy.

**Agatha:** **[laughs]** Most people haven't played tennis with you. I'd agree that you're pretty laid back... until you get on a tennis court, that is!

**Rupert:** Well I suppose everyone has an Achilles' heel, I guess mine is tennis. Though it's not the losing I mind, it's the playing badly. Last time we played, I was total rubbish; I couldn't serve, couldn't return. I don't mind losing if I play well and lose to a better player.

**Agatha:** **[irritated]** So you're implying I'm not a better player? That the only reason I won last time was because you were rubbish? Not because I'm actually any good myself?



**Rupert:** **[patronising]** Well... I didn't want to say it out loud, but come on, Agatha, you know I'm better. I'm stronger, faster and taller. I move around the court better. I serve better and I'm quick at the net. That's why I was in such a bad mood last time we played, I really shouldn't be losing to a player of your... ability.

**Agatha:** **[pause followed by a laugh]** Well, of all the arrogant fools I've ever met, you rank up there with the best of them!

**Rupert:** **[joking too]** I'm glad to see you think I rank highly!

**Agatha:** For big-headedness you could compete in the Olympics!

**Rupert:** **[serious]** There're things we're all good at and, for me, it's tennis.

**Agatha:** Not on last week's evidence it's not!

**Rupert:** Well, everyone's allowed a little blip once in a while. Anyway, I'm sure there're things you're very good at. You know, things like...

**Agatha:** **[interrupting]** If you say cooking or sewing then I'm going to break my racquet over your head!

**Rupert:** **[laughs]** I was actually going to say fighting!

**Agatha:** **[laughs]** And don't you forget it!

**Rupert:** Anyway, that's enough messing about. Let's get out onto the court.

**Agatha:** **[surprised]** It looks like we'll have to wait. It's just started drizzling.

**Rupert:** **[annoyed]** Typical! I was really up for a game as well.

**Agatha:** **[mocking]** Hmm...Pity! We're not going to be able to find out if you're quite as good as you think you are. Not today anyway!

**[Pause three seconds]**

## TRACK 9

Female  
Narrator:

Now Listen Again.
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**[Replay Conversation Two]**

**[Pause three seconds]**

**TRACK 10**

**[BLEEP]**

**Female  
Narrator:**

**Conversation Three.**

**Train Manager:  
(male)**

Tickets! Tickets! Tickets please ladies and gentlemen. Good afternoon Madam.

**Passenger  
(female)**

**[worried]** Look, can you help me? I'm not at all sure I'm on the right train. I don't even know if my ticket's valid.

**Train Manager:**

Oh, your ticket's just fine, Madam. It's an open ticket you see, so you can travel on any train on this line. Whether you're on the right train or not is another matter; we're heading towards Glasgow.

**Passenger:**

Yes, I know that much, but will we be stopping in Manchester?

**Train Manager:**

Manchester? Oh, I'm afraid this isn't the train you want, after all.

**Passenger:**

**[angry and anxious]** I knew it! The man on the platform in London told me this train would pass through Manchester, but I could tell he wasn't really paying attention. Now what am I supposed to do?

**Train Manager:**

Well, it's not as bad as all that. We're about to pull into Preston.

**Passenger:**

I hardly call that good news!

**Train Manager:**

**[laughs]** Well, you'll be able to get the 4.22 from Preston to Manchester which means you'll be there a little after five.

**Passenger:**

**[exasperated]** Well that's no good. I have a meeting **at [stress]** five.

**Train Manager:**

**[slight pause]** I see. Well, I'm very sorry about that, Madam. Are you sure you were told this train stopped in...

**Passenger:**

**[interrupting]** Of course I'm sure! He was a tall man with a beard, wearing a uniform just like yours and he is directly responsible for me missing my meeting.

**Train Manager:**

Well, on behalf of my colleague and, indeed, the company itself, I'd like to apologise for...

**Passenger:**

**[interrupting]** Well what use is an apology? I want to know what you're going to do about it.

**Train Manager:**

Do? I'm very sorry, Madam, but I'm not sure what I can do.

**Passenger:**

Seeing as **I'm [stress]** going to have my business meeting disrupted by your company's incompetence then I think the very least you can do is

provide me with a taxi to my chosen destination.

**Train Manager:** **[laughs]** Oh, that's quite out of the question, Madam.

**Passenger:** **[indignant]** I fail to see why. Any other suggestions?

**Train Manager:** **[clears throat]** Well, Madam. You can claim financial compensation in writing but it often takes weeks to...

**Passenger:** **[interrupting]** Well what exactly **can [stress]** you do for me now?

**Train Manager:** All I can offer you at the moment is free access to the refreshment car.

**Passenger:** **[sighs]** Well, what are you waiting for? Go and get me a menu!

**Train Manager:** Of course. I'll be back in a second, Madam. Though, I'm not sure you'll have time to order much, we'll be pulling into Preston in a few minutes!

**[Pause three seconds]**

## **TRACK 11**

**Female  
Narrator:**

**Now Listen Again.**

**[Replay Conversation Three]**

**[Pause three seconds]**

**[BLEEP]**

**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.**