TOEFL Listening Practice Paper 10

Listening Practice Set 1

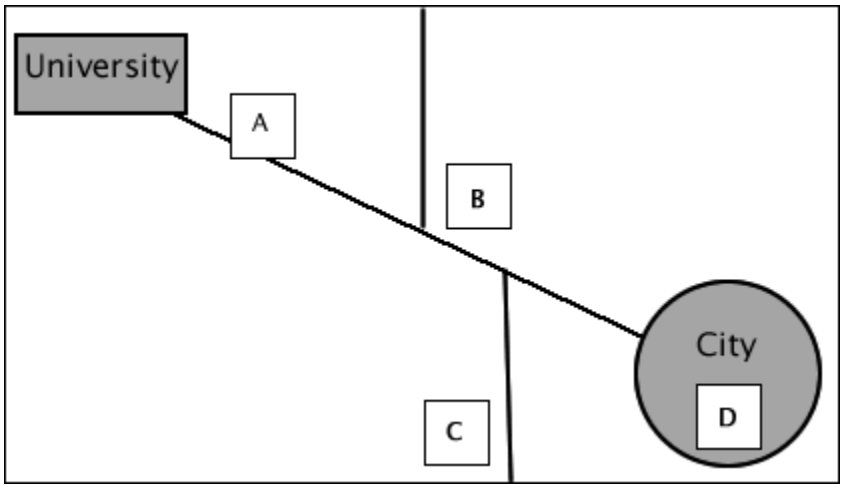
Student: Hello, er... is this the accommodation office?
Officer: Yes, how can I help you?
Student: Well, I've got a bit of a problem. I'm staying in the Godfrey White Dorm, and on Monday, the warden came and told me that I have to move out this Thursday.
Officer: Really? How long have you been staying in the Godfrey White Dorm?
Student: For the last ten weeks.
Officer: Oh, have you been doing one of the summer courses here then?
Student: Yes, I've been doing the Academic Language course since the beginning of July.
Officer: And didn't you realize that your accommodation was temporary?
Student: No, I thought I would be able to stay there for the whole year. I didn't read the small print on the document. The warden went through it with me, and now I see my mistake.
Officer: Oh, dear. So, you're looking for somewhere to stay then.
Student: Yes.
Officer: Well, I'm afraid all the places in the dorms are full. I mean, there may be some students who don't show up when term starts, but we won't know that for the next couple of weeks. The best thing you can do is look for a private house. You'll have to share with three or four other students. Meals aren't included in the price of course, as they are in the university dorms, and you'll have to contribute to the electricity bills.
Student: Where can I find out about these houses?
Officer: I've got a list here, but it's not up to date. Rooms are taken up every day, so it's hard to know whether a house has a free place or not. I can give you a photocopy of this list and you can ring round.
Student: Can I use the phone here?
Officer: I'm afraid not! If we let everyone who asked do that, there'd be someone here all day!
Student: Do you have a map? It'd be useful to know where these places are.
Officer: Yes, I can give you a map. This one's got the bus routes on it too, so you can find out how easy it is to get from the house to the university.
Student: Great. And what if I can't find a place before Thursday?
Officer: Well, the YMCA offers cheap beds. It's located halfway between here and the city center. You can get a bed in a shared room there, and you can also buy cheap meals. But you should phone up and book a bed in advance. It's very busy this time of year. I'll give you the number. Do you need a pen?
Student: No, don't worry, I've got one.
Officer: So, the number's 482 5903.
Student: 482 5903.
Officer: That's right. Anything else I can help you with?
Student: No, that's everything thanks. Bye.

1. When is this conversation taking place?
A) July
B) before term starts

C) at the beginning of term
D) midway through a term

2. Whose mistake was it that led to the problem?
A) The student's
B) The warden's
C) Godfrey White's
D) The accommodation office

3. Where is the YMCA on the map?
A
B
C
D



4. Which of the following TWO things does the accommodation officer provide for the student?

A) a telephone

B) a map

C) information about bus routes

D) a pen

Listening Practice Set 2

Professor: Good morning everyone, now in today's lesson I'd like to talk about Population Growth, and in particular, fertility rate. Now, can anyone here define fertility rate?
Charlene: Er, is it the number of births in a population, measured per thousand people per year?
Professor: Oh, er no, that's what we call the birth rate. The number of children born in a year, per thousand people. No, the fertility rate is the average number of children born per woman in

her lifetime, that is, if she lives beyond her child-bearing years. Now, do you think the British fertility level is higher or lower than it was ... say twenty years ago?
Charlene: I think it's lower, because these days women are far more focused on their careers than they used to be.
Professor: Well, that point is certainly true, but actually, fertility levels in Britain are relatively high at the moment. In 2008, it was 1.96; that means that on average, each woman gives birth to 1.96 children, and in 2009 it was only slightly lower, at 1.94. The last time fertility rates were this high was back in 1973. In the UK currently, the highest rate of fertility is in Northern Ireland, where the rate is 2.04, and the lowest is in Scotland, where the rate is just 1.77.
Charlene: I don't understand. How come fertility rate is going up? Women are just as career-driven these days as they were thirty years ago.
Professor: Well, the reason is that during the 1990s women really started to delay having families, and that was the reason for the decrease in birth rate then. Now those women are in their thirties and early forties, and they are starting to have families. So that's why the birth rate is going up.
Charlene: Oh, I see, so it's not actually as if people are actively choosing to have more children than they used to.
Professor: Yes, that's right Charlene. The number of children per family is continuing to fall. Women who are currently in their 70s had an average of 2.4 children. Those in their sixties had 2.2, those in their fifties had 2.0, and the current figure is 1.9. Actually, this figure isn't due to more families choosing to have only one child, although that certainly is occurring, it's mainly because of the increasing number of women who have no children at all. This figure was 1 in 10 among the age group who are now 65, but now 1 in 4 women in their mid-40s are childless.
Charlene: I heard that the fertility rate in Europe is, like, really low. 1.3 or something.
Professor: That's right, Charlene. It is. It's far below the replacement level. Can you tell me what replacement level means? No? It's the number of births you need to keep the population constant.
Charlene: Yes, I heard that in France they're trying to get people to have more children. They even give out gold medals if you have eight!
Professor: That's right. So, we've already mentioned that women are waiting before having children because of their careers. Why else is the fertility rate generally decreasing?
Charlene: I think they have fewer children because they're so expensive. I mean, I heard one report that said it costs £200, 000 a year to raise a child here. But I find that difficult to believe. People's standard of living is far higher now than it used to be a hundred years ago when families had eight or nine kids.
Professor: That's very true, but these days people's expectations tend to be higher. Parents want their children to have the best opportunities in life, so they're prepared to pay to develop their children's talents.
Charlene: Yes, I heard that in China, where they're easing off some of the rules of the one-child policy and allowing some couples to have two, many parents are still choosing to have one. They say it's just too expensive. But, you know, I reckon that, with all this parental micromanagement that's going on these days, parents only have the time to manage one or two children.

Professor: That's a good point. So, now I'd like to look at some different organizations, and examine what they believe about the current population issues.

1. Which of the following is defined as the number of children born per 1000 people per year?
   A. Replacement Level
   B. Fertility Rate
   C. Birth Rate
   D. Fertility Level

2. Which of the following countries in the UK has the highest fertility rate?
   A. England
   B. Scotland
   C. Wales
   D. Northern Ireland

3. Why is the fertility rate in the UK higher than it was twenty years ago?
   A. Couples are choosing to have larger families.
   B. A higher proportion of women are having children.
   C. Women who delayed childbirth are having children now.
   D. Fewer women are interested in their careers.

4. What proportion of women in their mid-forties do not have children nowadays?
   A. 10%
   B. 4%
   C. 25%
   D. 40%

5. What do French couples who have eight children receive?

A  B 

C 

 D

6. Which of the reasons for low fertility rates is NOT mentioned?

A. Women are increasingly focused on their jobs.
B. People want to enjoy their lives before taking on responsibility.
C. Parents do not have time to have many children.
D. Children are considered to cost a lot of money.

Listening Practice Set 3

Lecturer: Hello class, so today we're going to be looking at facial recognition, and to the different sorts of technology that go into facial recognition. Now before we start, can any of you tell me where we can see facial recognition in action? yes, you at the back?
Student: In the TV show Las Vegas?
Lecturer: Yes, well you're right. In this popular TV show, the security team pull images of the individuals from their surveillance system and run the image through a data base to identify the person. In that way, all the card counters and blacklisted gamblers can be escorted from the poker tables. It looks easy on TV, but in the real world, facial recognition is a tricky business.
So let's start with the more traditional methods of facial recognition. Every face has peaks and valleys, and these can be translated into what is termed as nodal points. Each face has about 80 of these, and they include distance between the eyes, the length of the jaw, the width of the nose, things like that. These measurements can be used to create a numerical code, and this is called a faceprint. This system is good, because it can compare two dimensional images, such as photographs. The problem is that the images have to be controlled. The person has to be staring straight at the camera, there must be no variance in facial expression or lighting, because any variance in these parameters reduces the effectiveness of the system. So they had to come up with another way.
So the new way of recognising faces is by using a 3D model. It has better accuracy, allegedly. 3D imagery detects distinctive features in the face, such as the curves of the eyes, nose and chin – features which do not change over time. These are measured at the sub-millimetre level. Interestingly, a 3D image can be taken not only from a live scan but also from a 2D photograph. And another good thing about the 3D system is that it can recognise a person from a range of angles, the person doesn't have to be directly facing the camera, as in 2D technology. Once again, the system gives each individual a unique code – a set of numbers that represents the face.

It's easy to match a 3D image to another 3D image, if you already have a 3D image in your database. It's less easy to match 3D images to 2D images. But what they can do is pull certain measurements from the 3D image, such as size of the eye and so forth, and use this to convert the 3D image into a 2D image, and this image can be more easily compared to the 2D images in the database.

But it's not just the measurements which can be used to recognise faces. There's also a new development called Skin Biometrics. This uses the uniqueness of skin texture to get its results. The process takes a picture of a patch of skin, and the system will then identify any pores, lines, moles, blemishes and other features of skin texture. This method can be used to identify identical twins, something that cannot be done with the 3D technology. Its other advantages over 3D imagery are that it's insensitive to changes in expression, blinking, smiling and so forth, and can compensate for changes in facial features – such as the growth of a beard, or wearing glasses. It's not perfect, though, as it is sensitive to lighting conditions and poor camera resolution, and if there is glare from the sun.

So, now we've covered the main types of facial recognition, we'll move on to its uses. Now, has anybody here.

1. Where does the TV show 'Las Vegas' take place?
    A. In a shopping mall
    B. In a police department
    C. In a casino
    D. In a crime lab

2. What is a faceprint?
    A. a code which identifies a face
    B. distinctive curves in the face
    C. a 2D image of the face
    D. the number of nodal points on the face

3. Identify TWO problems with 2D facial recognition from the list below.
    A. It is not effective if a picture is dark.
    B. The person in the photograph must face the camera.
    C. Facial curves change over time.
    D. Nodal points cannot be measured

4. What is the problem with the 3D technology?
    A. It can only be used when the individual is directly facing the camera
    B. The image might change over time
    C. It's impossible to match a 3D image to a 2D image
    D. It cannot distinguish between identical twins

5. Which TWO elements below can be measured by Skin Biometric technology?

A. the curve of someone's chin
B. the texture of someone's skin
C. the existence of lines on the face
D. the distance between the eyes

6. Which of these faces will the Skin Biometric System be UNABLE to identify?

A 

B 

C 

D