

Check your ECCE Listening Skills – Part 2– Activity 1

Key and Item Analysis

Imagine you are listening to the radio. You are going to hear someone from a radio station interviewing some people at a Teddy Bear Factory.

Woman (W): Before we take a tour of the factory Mike, can you tell us a little bit about the history of the factory?

Man (M): Well, it was originally built in 1876 and then renovated for the first time in 1920. This part of the building we're standing in now though was built fairly recently. I think it was some time in the seventies. In the early days it was a very small business that employed just a handful of people and manufactured teddy bears only. Later on, other stuffed animals were gradually added and today our line includes over 150 different kinds of stuffed animals. We used to make real life sized animals but now we stick to the smaller sizes.

Item 1:

Item Difficulty: Less challenging

1. When was the Teddy Bear factory built?

- A. 1876
- B. 1920
- C. 1970

Answer: A

Explanation: The correct answer is B as the man states that the factory was first built in 1876: "Well, it was originally built in 1876"

Item 2:

Item Difficulty: Less challenging

2. What do they produce now?

- A. a variety of different animals
- B. over 150 different kinds of teddy bears
- C. real life-sized animals

Answer: A

Explanation: The correct answer is A as the man states that the factory produces many different types of animals: "Today our line includes over 150 different kinds of stuffed animals".

W: What's special about the teddy bears you make?

M: Each bear has its own personality. There are more than 100 unique designs. We have angel bears, career bears, golfer bears, superhero bears—there is a gift for everyone. There's even an alien bear, whose removable bear face reveals the green creature hiding inside. I can't imagine what a gift recipient would do to deserve that scary surprise!

W: Me neither. So which bears are really popular?

M: All our bears are popular. They make a great gift as an alternative to flowers, especially on Valentine's Day. And many people like to buy smaller bears as key rings. Some people even like to hang them from their handbags. People are very sentimental about teddy bears. They can't resist buying a cute teddy bear.

Item 3:

Item Difficulty: Less challenging

3. What does he say is special about the teddy bears?

- A. They are scary
- B. You can remove their faces
- C. They have their own personality.

Answer: C

Explanation: The correct answer is C as the man states that the bears have their own personality: "Each bear has its own personality."

Item 4:

Item Difficulty: Moderate

4. Why is it a good idea to buy a teddy bear as a gift?

- A. They are better than flowers.
- B. They are small gifts.
- C. They are suitable for just about everyone.

Answer: C

Explanation: The correct answer is C as a teddy bear can be given to someone as a gift instead of flowers, a teddy bear can be used as a decoration on one's bag, and a smaller teddy bear can be used to hang keys on. Consequently, teddy bears are suitable for nearly anyone: "They make a great gift as an alternative to flowers, especially on Valentine's Day. And many people like to buy smaller bears as key rings. Some people even like to hang them from their handbags."

W1: Thank you for giving me all that background information on the factory.

M: You're welcome. I'll introduce you now to the tour guide who will take you round the factory and explain the process. This is Michelle.

W1: Hi Michelle.

W2: Hi Donna.

W1: So Michelle, could you tell me a little bit about the tour before we start?

W2: Sure. Well, basically the visitors who go on the tour of the factory can discover how teddy bears are made, and they can even participate in their production. Up until a few years ago we were one of the few U.S. manufacturers of stuffed bears that let visitors watch our workers hand make the cuddly creatures. Many of them do these tours now, but our tour is still special. It is the only one which shows the whole process. We don't keep any secrets about our production. The tour allows participants to shower and dress up a teddy bear, which is also common in other factory tours, but we also involve our participants in all stages of the production. We do these tours daily. They are really popular with companies, charity donation events and private groups, but families with children are our most regular visitors. Some of the people who make the bears are not experts, but they work with good crafts people who are excellent teachers. We really believe in teamwork at our factory.

Item 5:

Difficulty level: Moderate

5. What is the visitor invited to do on the tour of the Teddy Bear Factory?

- A. to help with the production
- B. to make a donation
- C. to work in a team

Answer: A

Explanation: The correct answer is A as visitors can wash and put clothes on the teddy bears as well as be involved in the other stages of production: “. The tour allows participants to shower and dress up a teddy bear, which is also common in other factory tours, but we also involve our participants in all stages of the production.”

Item 6:

Difficulty level: Moderate

6. How are the teddy bears made?

- A. only by machine
- B. only by hand
- C. only by experts

Answer: B

Explanation: The correct answer is B as the visitors can watch the workers use their hands to make the bears on the tour and some of the workers are not experts: “. . . visitors watch our workers hand make the cuddly creatures.” “. . .some of the people who make the bears are not experts. . . .”