

PRACTICE TEST 1

Listening Section

The Listening Section (items 1-30) comprises four parts. You will hear each of the parts twice. As you listen, mark your answers in your test booklet. When the Listening Section has finished, you will be given five minutes to transfer your answers to the separate answer sheet.

Part 1

In this part of the Listening Section (items 1-10), you will hear ten conversations. Each conversation is accompanied by one question. For each question there are three answer choices, A, B, and C. As you listen, choose the answer choice which best answers each question according to what you hear. The questions will not be read aloud. You will hear the conversations **twice**.

You now have one minute to read the questions and answer choices before the conversations begin.

Now you will hear the conversations.

1. The following is a conversation between two friends.

What are the man and the woman mainly discussing?

- A. the amount of studying they have to do
- B. when is the best time to have a party
- C. how the woman spent her birthday

2. The following is a conversation between two college students.

What does the man want to do?

- A. become a better runner
- B. take up basketball
- C. improve his fitness

3. The following is a conversation between a pharmacist and a customer.

Why is the woman visiting the pharmacy?

- A. Her son has a very bad cough.
- B. Her son has a very sore throat.
- C. Her son has a high temperature.

4. The following is a conversation between a sales assistant and a customer.

What does the woman ask for?

- A. a ham bagel
- B. a plain bagel
- C. a cheese bagel

5. The following is a conversation between two students.

What homework task do they have for next week?

- A. copy notes from last class
- B. prepare a presentation
- C. write about a family event

6. The following is a conversation between two sports fans.

Which team does the woman think will win tomorrow's game?

- A. she is not sure
- B. the Red Stars
- C. the Blue Lakers

7. The following is a conversation between two co-workers.

What will the woman do now?

- A. go to the print shop
- B. replace the ink cartridge
- C. check the printer again

8. The following is a conversation between two friends.

What are they mainly discussing?

- A. the new comic book by a famous writer
- B. an event they attended recently
- C. a shop where they often buy books

9. The following is a conversation between a sandwich shop assistant and his manager.

What will the man put in the sandwiches?

- A. sweet and sour sauce
- B. chili sauce
- C. mayonnaise

10. The following is a conversation between a brother and sister.

What does the brother want to do?

- A. take his sister to the mall
- B. take his driving test
- C. go to the beach with friends

End of Part 1

Part 2

In this part of the Listening Section (items 11-20), you will hear an interview carried out in order to complete a questionnaire. The questionnaire comprises ten questions. For each question there are five answer choices, A, B, C, D, and E. As you listen, choose the answer choice which best answers each question according to what you hear. The questions will not be read aloud. You will hear the interview **twice**.

You now have one minute to read the questions and answer choices before the interview begins.

Now you will hear the interview.

Survey on Music

Place: Concord, NH

Name of participant: Dianna Jessop

11. Which age group do you belong to?

- A. under 20 B. 20 - 25 C. 26 - 30 D. 31 - 40 E. over 40

12. What type of music do you listen to most often?

- A. classical B. jazz C. rock D. pop E. hip hop and rap

13. What type of music do you listen to least often?

- A. classical B. jazz C. rock D. pop E. hip hop and rap

14. Regarding the music you listen to most often, in what period was this music made?

- A. 1960s or before B. 1970s C. 1980s D. 1990s E. 2000s or after

15. When do you usually listen to music?

- A. when relaxing B. when driving C. when at work D. when studying E. when socializing at home

16. When was the last time you bought some music?

- A. over 2 years ago B. 1 year ago C. 6 months ago D. 2 months ago E. 1 month ago or less

17. In what form do you normally purchase new music?

- A. vinyl disc B. cassette C. CD D. mp3 file E. download

18. How do you usually find out about new music?

- A. reviews B. friends C. radio D. posters E. the internet

19. How often do you attend live music events?

- A. very rarely B. rarely C. sometimes D. often E. very often

20. On a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), how far do you agree with the view that today's musical acts are getting worse in terms of quality?

- A. 1 B. 2 C. 3 D. 4 E. 5

End of Part 2

Part 3

*In this part of the Listening Section (items 21-25), you will hear a discussion between two people, accompanied by five questions about what was said. For each question there are three answer choices, A, B, and C. As you listen, choose the answer choice which best answers each question according to what you hear. The questions will not be read aloud. You will hear the discussion **twice**.*

You now have one minute to read the questions and answer choices before the discussion begins.

Now you will hear the discussion.

21. What are the man and the woman mainly discussing?

- A. their plans to hold a 'Silent Disco' at the weekend
- B. the benefits and drawbacks of 'Silent Discos'
- C. a 'Silent Disco' that the woman has been to

22. What does the man like most about Silent Discos?

- A. It is easier to have a conversation.
- B. People don't have to dance all the time.
- C. Headphones are provided for everyone.

23. What is the woman's first impression of Silent Discos?

- A. They are outdated.
- B. They are popular.
- C. They are unexciting.

24. According to the woman, what is one advantage of stereo speakers?

- A. They do not cause hearing damage.
- B. They have better sound quality.
- C. They can play music at low volume.

25. What do the man and the woman agree about?

- A. Silent Discos are ideal for some purposes.
- B. Silent Discos are always better than parties.
- C. Silent Discos should only be held during the day.

End of Part 3

Part 4

*In this part of the Listening Section (items 26-30), you will hear a talk, accompanied by five questions about what was said. For each question there are three answer choices, A, B, and C. As you listen, choose the answer choice which best answers each question according to what you hear. The questions will not be read aloud. You will hear the talk **twice**.*

You now have one minute to read the questions and answer choices before the talk begins.

Now you will hear the talk.

26. Who is the speaker?

- A. a musician
- B. a dog trainer
- C. a vet

27. What behavior did the speaker observe in his three dogs?

- A. They got close to their mother when they felt scared.
- B. They enjoyed his music while they were playing.
- C. They calmed down when they heard his music.

28. What was the conclusion of the study described by the speaker?

- A. Music can increase anxiety in dogs.
- B. Music works as well as medication for dogs.
- C. Music may reduce physical pain in dogs.

29. According to the speaker, what do dogs like to hear in music?

- A. music with a slow, soft beat
- B. music with a strong, fast beat
- C. short songs with lots of singing

30. What does the speaker do at the end of his talk?

- A. introduce a performance
- B. invite listeners to his home
- C. advertise a product for sale

End of Part 4

End of the Listening Section

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Reading and Use of Language Section

The Reading and Use of Language Section comprises 5 tasks and 50 items, numbered 31-80. All items have only one correct answer and are worth one mark. Mark all your answers on the separate answer sheet. You will have 75 minutes to complete the Reading and Use of Language Section.

Task 1

For items 31-45, fifteen sentences have been taken from students' writing. **Six** sentences contain errors. Decide which sentences are grammatically correct, paying attention to the underlined part in each sentence.

If the sentence is grammatically **correct**, choose **C**.

If the sentence is grammatically **incorrect**, choose **I**.

Darken the appropriate circle for each answer on the separate answer sheet. Remember that you **must mark six sentences** as grammatically incorrect.

31. Jill has recently been offered an exciting new teaching job in Japan.
32. The laptop that I have now is much better than my old one.
33. Few young people pay attention for retirement plans when they start work.
34. Most apartment buildings in this area were built in the 1970s.
35. The principal is considering to introduce more after-school classes.
36. I wish Martin would stop playing his music so loudly.
37. The coffee shop gave customers a 10% discount on coffee if they bring their own reusable cups.
38. Some students prefer working alone to working in a group.
39. The improvement in Antony's tennis technique shows how much he has been practicing.
40. You have to charge your new phone fully before you will use it for the first time.
41. My tutors have all told me I must to make more progress this year.
42. Classes begin next Monday.
43. It is essential for university students to be able to work independently.
44. Philip's grades this semester are less good than last semester's.
45. The President promised that her government would double funding for public transport.

Task 2

Each of the two texts below has five gaps. For items 46-55, read the texts and choose from A, B, C, or D the option which best completes each of the gaps.

TEXT A

Urban growth can threaten natural habitats. But cities themselves are in many ways an ideal habitat for a **46** ____ variety of creatures, including mammals, birds and insects.

Outside the city, animals and birds are constantly in **47** ____ from nighttime predators and hunters. But inside the city, streetlights make **48** ____ easy to see predators at night, and hunters are not allowed to go around **49** ____ animals.

50 ____ the danger of being eaten or shot is lower in the city, the availability of food is higher. Animals can find plenty of tasty goodies in the trash and on the sidewalks.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| 46. A. high | C. wide |
| B. long | D. deep |
| 47. A. risk | C. threat |
| B. danger | D. stress |
| 48. A. them | C. very |
| B. it | D. so |
| 49. A. shoot | C. shooting |
| B. shoots | D. shot |
| 50. A. For | C. Like |
| B. With | D. While |

TEXT B

The bodies and the behavior of living things change rapidly to match new habitats. Creatures that move from the countryside to take up residence in cities **51** ____ used to the urban environment amazingly quickly.

Some learn to come out only **52** ____ night, so as to avoid people, and they soon understand **53** ____ to cross the street without getting hit by vehicles. Those that lived by hunting in the countryside quickly realize that the best way to find a meal in the city **54** ____ to look for food waste in the trash.

The city is **55** ____ longer just an environment for people, but for wildlife too.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 51. A. have | C. were |
| B. get | D. take |
| 52. A. at | C. in |
| B. when | D. on |
| 53. A. so | C. that |
| B. for | D. how |
| 54. A. than | C. has |
| B. is | D. where |
| 55. A. of | C. no |
| B. as | D. much |

Task 3

Ten people are searching an Internet site which has advertisements and reviews about gyms. Five of the texts they found are on the opposite page. Read the ten questions below, items 56-65, and decide which gym is suitable for each person, choosing from A, B, C, D, or E. Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Which gym should each person choose?

- 56. Adriana would prefer a gym with free parking.**
- 57. Olivia wants expert advice on the best way for her to get into shape.**
- 58. Bill is interested in using many different kinds of exercise machine.**
- 59. Zoe is a member of a professional women's basketball team.**
- 60. Patricia's washing machine is not working at the moment.**
- 61. Rea finds background music distracting when she is exercising.**
- 62. Carl is visiting the area for two weeks and doesn't want to pay for a full gym subscription.**
- 63. Jason is a university student and would like to get a discount on his subscription.**
- 64. Sophie likes to eat health food after her exercise routine.**
- 65. Saul is looking for somewhere to work out after midnight.**

Gyms

A. Pulse Gym

Opening times: 8 pm – 7 pm,
Monday to Saturday

Pulse Gym is located near the Concord University campus and offers special rates for students on its six-month subscriptions.

Our male and female changing areas have showers and places for you to store your belongings while you work out (no extra charge).

After your gym session, take a seat in our cafeteria and try one of our healthy snack deals – the best way to refuel without those unnecessary extra calories.

B. NRG Gym

Opening times: 12 pm – 8 pm,
weekdays only

Think big, think NRG! Our huge range of high-quality exercise machines enables you to do many different forms of exercise on different machines to boost your physical condition.

Car parking in our underground lot is free, and we have bike racks for cyclists to use. You can also buy health and power drinks to help you get the most from your workout.

Try our 6-month subscription at only \$80!

C. Mantra Gym

Opening times: 12 pm – 2 am

Looking for a workout experience with a difference? Then come to Mantra Gym.

Here at Mantra, we realized that there was a growing number of people who want to avoid the noisy environment of most gyms. Our ‘no-music’ policy is designed especially for these customers.*

Another thing we found out? Many people see going to the gym as a lonely experience. Working out on your own, on individual exercise machines? No, thanks! That’s why we offer a whole range of exercise classes, so that you can enjoy keeping in shape as part of a group.

** Personal music devices with headphones are permitted.*

D. No Sweat! Gym: Review by Martha Graham

Opening times: 9 am – 6 pm, weekdays

I’m not exactly what you’d call a ‘fitness freak’.

But when I discovered No Sweat! Gym, I thought, why not give it a try? After all, I wouldn’t have to commit to a long-term subscription. At No Sweat!, you can pay just \$8 per single gym session.

And the No Sweat! Kit Hire service makes life easy, too. For an extra \$5, you can borrow workout clothes, sneakers, and a towel. No need to carry your own gear around. And no laundry.

All in all, ‘No Sweat!’ is the right name. Everything there is totally trouble-free.

No Sweat! Gym, 26 Wilson Square

E. XerciZe

Opening times: Mon – Fri, 10 am – 9 pm

If you want to reach your fitness goals in the fastest and most effective way, a year’s membership to XerciZe is just what you need.

XerciZe has everything to improve your fitness and strength fast! Each member is assigned an XerciZe Personal Trainer, who helps you organize a workout program and keep to it. Your eXerciZe PT will help you every step of the way to achieving your fitness goals – or you get your money back!

If you’re a member of a sports team, you can enroll on our 2-month intensive pre-season program for only \$60.

Task 4

You are thinking of buying the Guard Security System as a present for your grandparents. Before you place your order, you are carefully reading some of the online customer reviews. The reviews are followed by eight questions, items 66-73. For each question, choose the answer choice from A, B, C, or D which best answers each question, using the information from the texts. Mark all your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Andrew Barns, California

After my home was broken into, my neighbor recommended the Guard Security System. The basic package only comes with five 'contact sensors' for doors and windows, so I included more in my online order – something you should do too, if you live in a larger property. Installation was easy. You just fix the sensors and cameras to the walls using the sticky pads – you don't even need special tools. The money I would have spent on professional installation was enough to pay for 'monitoring' instead. So, if the alarm goes off, Guard Security System personnel will be at my home within minutes to check on the situation!

Mary Connolly, Louisiana

My husband and I own a small apartment downtown. According to the law, we can only rent it out to university students if it's equipped with an alarm system. We contacted the university student services department and they recommended the Guard Security System – which is perfect! It's simple to set up and simple to operate too, so our young tenants have no problem. Be aware, however, that the Guard package only comes with five 'contact sensors' – the parts you stick to doors and windows, so that when the system is in 'zero entry' mode, the alarm goes off whenever a door or window is opened. Five sensors were sufficient for our needs. But if you live in a suburban house, you're going to want to purchase extra.

Gus Goldberg, New York State

I came across a review of the Guard Security System on the Internet which said you can have this system up and running, by yourself, in little more than an hour, and without the need for any tools or professional help. So, we decided to order it and we couldn't be happier with this product! Living downtown, we probably don't need the monitoring service, as there are always patrolling policemen **on hand** to be on the scene if the alarm goes off. But we're so impressed with our Guard system that we might just pay for the monitoring as well.

Elena Kara, New Mexico

After moving to the countryside, we didn't have much money left over for a security system. Then I saw a TV advertisement for the Guard Security System, which said that it also offered 'monitoring', which is the service that sends security staff to your property whenever the alarm goes off, for only \$8 a month. I decided to purchase the package but have ended up regretting it. Basic installation takes no time at all, but it's a completely different story when it comes to trying to connect the system to a smoke alarm for fire detection. This turned out to be such a **headache** that I just gave up!

- 66. Which person probably wishes he or she had not bought the Guard Security System?**
- A. Andrew Barns
 - B. Mary Connolly
 - C. Gus Goldberg
 - D. Elena Kara
- 67. What do all of the reviewers mention?**
- A. how important it is to have the Guard Security System in the city
 - B. how simple it is to set up the Guard Security System
 - C. how effective the Guard Security System is for fire detection
 - D. how complicated the Guard Security System is to operate
- 68. Which reviewer heard about the Guard Security System from someone he or she knows?**
- A. Andrew Barns
 - B. Mary Connolly
 - C. Gus Goldberg
 - D. Elena Kara
- 69. How many of the reviewers have paid for the 'monitoring' service?**
- A. 1
 - B. 2
 - C. 3
 - D. 4
- 70. Which reviewer did not buy the Guard Security System for his or her own home?**
- A. Andrew Barns
 - B. Mary Connolly
 - C. Gus Goldberg
 - D. Elena Kara
- 71. What do some of the reviewers recommend?**
- A. using the system as a fire alarm
 - B. paying for professional installation
 - C. buying more contact sensors
 - D. keeping doors and windows shut
- 72. Which of the following could replace 'on hand', in Gus Goldberg's review?**
- A. qualified
 - B. paid
 - C. fast
 - D. nearby
- 73. Which of the following could replace 'a headache', in Elena Kara's review?**
- A. a difficult task
 - B. an essential feature
 - C. a waste of money
 - D. a faulty design

Task 5

For items 74 through 80, read the text and choose the best answer choice from A, B, C, and D to the 7 questions which follow. Mark all your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Making conversation with strangers can be a real struggle for some people. You may see them sometimes at parties, standing awkwardly at the side, hoping that no one will come over to chat. Most of the time, the problem is not that these people are unsocial. **They** just lack knowledge about the basic rules of conversation, even though these rules are in fact quite simple.

Conversation usually begins with 'small talk'. Each person expresses and responds to basic questions and statements, such as: "Are you enjoying the party?" or "I love your T-shirt!" But don't be fooled by the name. While small talk may seem to center around unimportant topics, it is essential for keeping the talk flowing. For these reasons, it is important to get small talk right.

Let's suppose someone opens the conversation with a question. If you're at a party, that question could be: "Do you like the music the DJ is playing tonight?" Or, if you're waiting in line to see a movie, it could be: "Do you often go to the movies?" Whatever the question, try not to answer by simply saying "Yes" or "No". The kinds of small talk questions people usually ask are called 'closed questions', because responses can be limited to just a 'yes' or a 'no'. However, such one-word replies can end the conversation, if you don't follow them up with more detailed information.

The same is true in cases where small talk begins not with a question, but with a statement, such as a comment or an observation. If you're at a party and someone says "The DJ is playing great music tonight", try not to limit your response to a simple "Yeah, he is." Much better, in this situation, is to say how the other person's statement makes you feel. A good reply to the above statement could therefore be: "I'm glad you think so, because I'm enjoying the music, too." Such replies show a willingness to start a proper conversation.

Though small talk may seem trivial, it actually serves an important purpose: to discover a topic that both people find interesting enough to start a real, in-depth conversation about. You should therefore be on the lookout for a topic that comes up during the small talk phase and take the opportunity to develop it.

Once you **do**, keep in mind, however, that a topic that may seem interesting to you may not be as fascinating to the other person. Skillful speakers, therefore, always offer the other person the chance to 'opt in' to the conversation. If you pause during what you are saying, and the other person opts in by asking you to continue, you can be confident that the topic of conversation interests both of you. If, on the other hand, the other person does not opt in, and instead changes the subject when you pause, you know that it's time to go back to the small talk phase and continue the search for a topic that appeals to you both.

74. What is the text mainly about?

- A. the reasons some people are unsocial
- B. people who dislike meeting new people
- C. the best ways to start a conversation
- D. places where you can meet new friends

75. What advice does the writer give about questions?

- A. always agree with the other person
- B. avoid giving one-word answers
- C. limit your answers to a simple “Yes” or “No”
- D. only ask questions suited to the situation

76. According to the writer, why is it important to express feelings?

- A. to show that you are willing to talk more
- B. to give the other person the chance to talk
- C. to imply that small talk does not interest you
- D. to check that the other person is interested

77. According to the writer, what does ‘opting in’ involve?

- A. asking the speaker to change the topic of conversation
- B. pausing during a conversation to show you are interested
- C. asking the speaker to continue what he or she was saying
- D. continuing to talk, even if the subject is not interesting

78. What opinion does the writer express?

- A. Small talk is unnecessary, even though most people do it.
- B. Small talk is the most difficult stage in a conversation.
- C. Even skillful conversationalists get small talk wrong.
- D. For a successful conversation, small talk is important.

79. What does “They” in the fourth sentence of the first paragraph refer to?

- A. people who have difficulty talking to strangers
- B. the situations in which people chat to strangers
- C. simple rules that can make conversation easier
- D. the methods people use to avoid conversations

80. What does “do” in the first sentence of the sixth paragraph refer to?

- A. ask a stranger a polite question
- B. start talking about a specific topic
- C. make a comment about something
- D. respond to a stranger’s question

Writing Section

There are two Tasks in the Writing Section. Choose only **ONE** of the Tasks. You have 40 minutes to complete the Writing Section. You should write about one page.

Task 1

You are emailing a friend who has asked you about your favorite movie. Describe the best movie you have ever seen. You should include:

- Where you saw it
- Who was in the movie
- What happened in the movie
- Why it is your favorite movie

Start your email with: *"Hi Antony,"* and end with: *"Take care,"* and your first name.

Task 2

Your friend Maria wants to start doing some exercise. She is not sure whether she wants to play with a team or exercise alone. She has emailed you to ask whether you think she should join a soccer team or whether she should take up swimming at the pool. Decide which one would be better and write to her with some advice. Your email should include:

- an introduction
- at least two advantages of the option you chose
- at least two disadvantages of the option you did not choose
- a conclusion

Start your email with: *"Hi Maria,"* and end with: *"See you soon,"* and your first name.