

End of Primary Benchmark

2019

English Listening Comprehension Procedures

Time: 30 minutes

Teacher's Booklet

Note:

The English Listening Procedures are included in the audio text and candidates are expected to listen to the recorded text during the Listening Comprehension Assessment. This booklet, which includes the instructions, texts and tasks set, is to be read by teachers ONLY when the equipment used does not function properly.

Procedures for Task One

Look at Task One.

(Allow a 15-second pause while students familiarise themselves with the task.)

Listen carefully. You will hear the recording twice.

You are going to hear a radio programme presenting cool facts for children. The first fact is about the Maltese cow. The second is about plastic in our seas and the third fact is about a new museum.

Hi there, kids! We have some cool new facts for you:

Fact Number 1: Saving the Maltese Cow

Did you know that the Maltese cow is larger than most other cow breeds? And that it is brown with moderately long horns? These cows may have been around since prehistoric times; we can find pictures of these animals on some of the stones in our ancient temples. However, in 1991, there were only three Maltese cows left and it looked like this breed could become extinct. In 1995 scientists started breeding the cows once more. In 2010 there were 20 Maltese cows and today there are more than 40. Hopefully, in the future we'll see these cows on Maltese farms.

Fact Number 2: Plastic in Our Seas

We use a lot of plastic items but very little of it gets recycled. Scientists have discovered that a plastic bottle that ends up in the sea can take up to 450 years to decompose. A toothbrush can take 500 years while a plastic shopping bag can take up to a thousand years! One of the main problems is that animals that live or feed in the sea can die if they eat plastic. Scientists have also discovered that the food we eat, such as fish, can also contain plastic.

Fact Number 3: Museum of Childhood Opens Locally

After its official opening last Wednesday, the Museum of Childhood opened its doors to the public on Friday. Visitors to the museum can see how children used to live. They can see what children's bedrooms were like in the past. They can also see antique dolls and toy trains like those of their great-grandparents. The best thing about the museum though is that it is interactive. Children can experience a lesson in an old-fashioned classroom and play hopscotch or else roll hoops in the museum yard. In the museum workshop they can also make multi-coloured paper kites. The museum is open every day from nine in the morning to seven in the evening, except for Tuesdays.

These are all the cool facts for today. We'll be back tomorrow with some more cool facts for you.

Listen to the sentences and underline the correct answer in each bracket as you listen.

(Include a 4-second pause after each number.)

The Maltese Cow

Number 1. The Maltese cow's horns are (extremely, quite, not) long. (4 seconds)

Number 2. Scientists started breeding Maltese cows again in (1991, 1995, 2010). (4 seconds)

Plastic in our Seas

Number 3. A toothbrush in our seas can take (450, 500, 1000) years to break down. (4 seconds)

Museum of Childhood

Number 4. Children can make (hoops, dolls, kites) in the museum workshop. (4 seconds)

Number 5. The museum is closed on (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays). (4 seconds)

True (T), False (F) or No Information Given (NIG).

Listen to the following sentences and tick the correct box.

a) Today we can find Maltese cows on Maltese farms.
Tick the correct box now. (4 seconds)

b) Only some of the plastic we use is recycled.
Tick the correct box now. (4 seconds)

c) Children can enter the museum for free.
Tick the correct box now. (4 seconds)

Now you will hear the programme again. Listen carefully.

(The radio programme is read a second time.)

Listen to the sentences again. You may finish this task as you listen.

(The sentences are read a second time. Include the 4-second pause after each number.)

You now have some time to check your answers. (Allow 30 seconds.)

This is the end of Task One. (Allow a 30-second pause between Task 1 and Task 2.)

Procedures for Task Two

Look at the three exercises for Task Two.

(Allow a 50-second pause while students familiarise themselves with the three exercises.)

Listen carefully. You will hear the recording twice.

In today's radio programme, you are going to listen to Kelly Crest reading her winning story *The Magic Umbrella*.

It was a cold February night when Mr Bell went out for his evening stroll in town. The wind howled against every window and sneaked under every door. It blew gusts of air smelling of car fumes.

Mr Bell hurried down a dark road, as the wind blew harder, almost blowing the tall, lean man off the narrow pavement. Eyes narrowed, Mr Bell made another attempt to walk. A hazy drizzle of misty rain made him shiver and cough. He drew his coat tighter. As he held his hat to his head again, he spotted something black flapping on the pavement. An umbrella!

His heart leapt; the umbrella would be perfect! Feeling as pleased as Punch, Mr Bell doubled his steps towards it and snatched it up. The waterproof umbrella was black and very large. Its handle was smooth and glossy. A pair of cat eyes was drawn on the outside.

As Mr Bell raised the umbrella above his head, something remarkable happened. He began to feel lighter and lighter. With a shriek, he realised that his leather shoes were no longer making contact with the pavement. He was flying! He felt as light as a feather as he floated in mid-air.

With a delighted cry, Mr Bell gazed down. He could see the entire neighbourhood, the town clock and rows of neat, little houses. The street lamps looked beautiful and the cars reminded him of jewel-coloured beetles crawling through the centre.

The wind led him towards the town's garden. Clutching the umbrella tightly, he drifted towards two bronze statues of lions at the entrance gate. Mr Bell held out his free hand and reached towards one. As he passed, he patted it on its cold metal head. The lion roared deeply whilst watching the small man float past. Wide-eyed, Mr Bell swung himself away. The umbrella swayed dangerously and he grasped the handle harder.

Still the wind carried him on. He gripped the umbrella handle for dear life as he drifted higher again. Despite being petrified, he smiled from ear to ear as he sailed through the clouds. Mr Bell felt like a winged ghost.

As he rose, he looked down on the sprawling town. He gently coaxed the umbrella down towards his road. The wind rushed down and with a bump, Mr Bell landed in the driveway, outside his house. He was safe and sound. He looked around to check if anybody had noticed him landing there, before making his way cautiously inside. A bowl of warm soup and his cosy bedroom slippers were waiting for him. As he stood in the front room, he folded the umbrella and smiled secretly to himself. What an exciting bedtime story for his grandchild that night.

Adapted from <https://www.literacywagoll.com/uploads/3/1/3/1/31318533/umbrella.docx>

Listen to the exercises and complete them.

Exercise 1: Tick FOUR items Mr Bell saw while he was flying. Do not tick more than four.
(Allow a 16-second pause for students to tick the four items.)

Exercise 2: Put the following actions of the story in the correct order by writing the number (from 1 – 4) in the right box. The first one (0) has been done for you.
Start writing the numbers now. (Allow a 16-second pause.)

He checked to see if anyone was looking.

He was swept off his feet.

Mr Bell went for a walk to town on a cold, windy day.

He saw the statues in the public garden.

He spotted an umbrella on the pavement.

Exercise 3: True, False or No Information Given. Tick the correct box in the table below.

- a) Mr Bell landed gently in the driveway.
Tick the correct box now. (4 seconds)
- b) Mr Bell spent half an hour flying.
Tick the correct box now. (4 seconds)
- c) He made his way carefully inside his house.
Tick the correct box now. (4 seconds)
- d) He wanted to keep his adventure all to himself.
Tick the correct box now. (4 seconds)

Now you will hear the recording again. Listen carefully.

(The story is read a second time.)

Listen to the exercises again. You may finish off any remaining exercises as you listen.
(The exercises are read a second time.)

You now have some time to check your answers. (Allow 1 minute.)

This is the end of Task Two and the end of the Listening Comprehension Paper.