



ECPE Sample Test, Form C

Listening Section Audio Script

Examination for the Certificate of Proficiency in English Sample Test, Form C

Listening Section Instructions

This is a test of your ability to understand spoken English. The listening section has three parts. There are 50 questions. Mark all your answers on the separate answer sheet. Do not make any stray marks on the answer sheet. If you change your mind about an answer, erase your first answer completely.

Part 1

In this part, you will hear short conversations. From the three answer choices, select the answer which means about the same thing as what you hear, or is true based upon what you hear. For example, listen to the conversation:

- M:** Let's go to the football game.
F: Good idea. I don't want to stay home.
N: The correct answer is b.

For problems 1 through 15, mark your answers on the separate answer sheet. No problems can be repeated. Please listen carefully. Do you have any questions?

- M:** Come take a look at this: the way the snow is sparkling under the moonlight!
F: Wow! It almost makes you wish that winter would go on forever.
- F:** My doctor says I need to drink more water, but I prefer juice.
M: Yeah, but water would be much better for you than all that sugary juice you always drink.
F: OK, I'm going to give it a shot and see if I get used to it.
- M:** You know, you're going to get indigestion if you eat so fast.
F: But class starts in 15 minutes and the building's way over on the other side of campus.
M: We're fine. I know a shortcut.
F: You do? That's a relief.
- F:** Excuse me. I think you left your wallet on the counter next to the cash register.
M: Oh you're right! I was sure I'd put it in my pocket, but it's empty. Thank you so much!
F: You're welcome.
- M:** I'm interested in a guided tour of the museum. When are they available?
F: The next one's at 11:00, and there's another at 2:00.
M: I have a lunch date at noon. How long does it take?
F: Forty-five minutes. If it's nearby, you can make it.
- F:** I'm hoping to get some hands-on experience to go along with my journalism courses, so I was wondering if you had any information about the campus paper?
M: I think they're always looking for new talent. You should talk to the editor, Eric. He can tell you more.



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7. **M:** How did the meetings in Paris go?
F: Really well. The deal's almost finalized. We just need Greg's signature on the final version and then mail it back for their signatures.
M: Great! And did you get a chance to see the city while you were there?
F: Luckily, this wasn't my first trip there, because this time around all I had a chance to do was admire the decor of meeting rooms.
8. **F:** Do you still think it was a good idea to invite George to our study group?
M: I do. Even though he's a little abrasive, he asks really good questions.
F: Yeah, I remember the material better after discussing it--or arguing about it--with him.
9. **M:** I'm curious how you first got interested in postage stamps.
F: So you don't collect them yourself, then?
M: No. Actually, that's kind of why I'm asking.
10. **M:** My parents are coming to stay for the weekend.
F: Oh, that's right. You mentioned that last week.
M: Yeah, but look at this mess! I can't let them see my apartment like this.
11. **M:** Professor Johnson, about the exam, I've got a doctor's appointment on Thursday, so could I-- Would it be OK if I...?
F: Took it at a different time?
M: I'd really appreciate it.
F: OK. I'm sure we can accommodate that.
12. **M:** Did Tom say that the meeting would start at 12:00 or 12:30?
F: I think it was originally at 12:00 but then he changed it so people could grab something to eat first.
M: OK. Then I'm guessing he won't mind if I bring a sandwich to the meeting.
13. **F:** How's the planning coming along for the office holiday party?
M: Great! We've been making a lot of headway since Caroline joined the group.
F: Oh yeah, she's really great with organizational projects.
M: I'll send you notes summarizing what we've done so far.
14. **F:** Excuse me, I'm trying to find the indoor swimming pool here on campus. It's in the Carson Recreation Center, or so I was told.

- M:** Yeah, that's right. You're not far away. Just turn right at that stop sign there and go about a half a mile. It'll be on the left-hand side.
F: Oh, OK. I'm not quite as close as I thought then.
15. **F:** What shade would you say this is?
M: Hmm, I'd say somewhere between cream and light yellow. Very pretty.
F: That's what I thought. We're hoping to do our bedroom walls soon.
M: You know, I painted my dining room in April. The staff at the hardware store downtown was really helpful when I picked something out.

End of Part 1.

Part 2

In this part, you will hear a question. From the three answer choices given, choose the one which best answers the question. For example, listen to the question:

M: When's your sister getting married?

N: The correct answer is a.

For problems 16 through 35, mark your answers on the separate answer sheet. No problems can be repeated. Please listen carefully. Do you have any questions?

16. **F:** How long do you think it'll be before the conference room projector is fixed?
17. **M:** I heard that the university is spending like fifty million dollars on a new computer science building.
18. **F:** Did you mention Professor Harris's work in your paper?
19. **M:** I'm sorry, but I'm on a roll now. Can we talk later?
20. **M:** You know that novel you lent me? It's quite a page turner.
21. **F:** Tell me if I'm wrong, but we have to rent a compact car for the drive to the conference next week, right?
22. **F:** You wouldn't happen to have any Sunday papers left, would you?
23. **F:** Is it vital that I get Kevin to agree with our plan?
24. **M:** Would you like to impart any pearls of wisdom as I head off to university?

25. **F:** What's the high temperature expected to be today?
26. **F:** Will you stay at a hotel or your parents' house during the conference?
27. **M:** Don't tell me you lost your keys again!
28. **M:** If you're interested in joining our study group, like we discussed earlier, could you just let me know?
29. **F:** Are you interested in a position with greater responsibility or one that allows you the flexibility of working from home?
30. **M:** Why don't you drop me a line sometime next week?
31. **M:** You said there was another student available to do data collection, didn't you?
32. **F:** I feel like the senator should resign because of the scandal.
33. **M:** The CEO really underscored the importance of cutting costs this quarter in the meeting, didn't he?
34. **F:** Do you have any idea where I could go to reserve a city sightseeing tour?
35. **M:** Are you going to be able to salvage any of your computer's data?

End of Part 2.

Part 3

In this part, you will hear three short segments from a radio program. The program is called "Learning from the Experts." You will hear what different radio guests have to say about three different topics. Each talk lasts about three minutes. As you listen, you may want to take some notes to help you remember information given in the talk. Write your notes in this test booklet. After each talk, you will be asked some questions about what was said. From the three answer choices given, you should choose the one that best answers the question according to the information you heard.

Remember, no problems can be repeated. For problems 36 through 50, mark all your answers on the separate answer sheet. Do you have any questions?

Now you will hear the first segment.

M1: Few people in the United States today worry about getting enough water. You turn on the faucet in your kitchen or bathroom, and there it is! But ensuring an adequate water supply is one of the basic concerns of any civilization. We literally can't live without it. Janna Morgan reports.

F: A striking example of the high priority that past civilizations have placed on water is provided by the amazing aqueducts of Ancient Rome. These structures were so extensive and so well-built that many of them still stand, two thousand years after their construction. An aqueduct is, basically, a channel for transporting water: the word comes from the Latin *aqua*, for water, and *ductus*, for channel. Historian William Griggs tells us about why these structures were built.

M2: The aqueducts were a response to the growth in Rome's population. When Rome and the other cities of the Roman Empire were small, people were able to get enough water from local rivers and wells. But as the civilization prospered and the population grew, these traditional sources proved to be insufficient. The Romans were lucky, however: most towns weren't far away from rivers and lakes. The problem facing the Romans was how to transport that water from surrounding areas to the growing cities. The answer was the aqueduct. Aqueducts were carefully constructed to use the force of gravity: they were inclined ever so slightly downhill, at precise angles. Although the majority of aqueducts ran slightly below ground, in what we would describe today as trenches, occasionally, in order to cross valleys or other low-lying areas, Roman engineers built magnificent arched stone structures that we can still see the remains of today.

F: One would assume that in the hundreds of years since the fall of the Roman Empire, humans might have abandoned the use of aqueducts. But they are still relied on today. In fact, much of the drinking water in Los Angeles, California, comes to southern California from the Colorado River via aqueduct. Here's William Griggs again.

M2: The Colorado River Aqueduct carries water almost 245 miles--or about 400 kilometers--from Arizona west to the Los Angeles area. This aqueduct, which was completed in 1941, is credited with being a principal reason for the growth of the Los Angeles region over the past 60 years. A second and even longer aqueduct is the California Aqueduct: it is almost twice the length of the Colorado River Aqueduct, and it carries water from Northern California to Southern California. The problem for engineers on these projects is the same one faced by the Romans: how to transport water across ground that is generally flat and low-lying. However, today, engineers take advantage of modern pumping

techniques and this is how it works. Water will flow gradually downhill for many miles, until it arrives at a pumping station. Here technology takes over. A pump pushes the water uphill, and then the water resumes its downward journey to the next station.

F: Now there's something to think about the next time you turn on your tap!

36. *According to the historian, why did the Romans seek another water supply?*
37. *What does the historian say about the design of Roman aqueducts?*
38. *According to the historian, what impact has the Colorado River Aqueduct had?*
39. *What is the main difference between the Colorado River Aqueduct and the California Aqueduct?*
40. *What is one of the main challenges in the construction of aqueducts?*

Now you will hear the second segment.

M1: Many farmers in the United States are continually looking for ways to control diseases that can harm their plants. An interesting new method to prevent disease on strawberry plants is currently being tried out in New York. Mary Rodriguez reports.

F: Strawberry plants are challenging to grow, because they are susceptible to many diseases. One disease, a fungus called gray mold, occurs if the plants get too wet and can't dry out. Up until now, the only way to control this disease was to frequently spray the strawberry plants with chemical fungicides, specifically designed to kill the gray mold. This is a very labor intensive and expensive process, in addition to being dangerous. Professor Marcus at the Agricultural Research Center has come up with an alternative solution.

M2: We are investigating new ways to control disease without using chemicals. These alternative methods are known as biological control. In our experiments in strawberry fields, we know that the chemicals used on the plants are dangerous for the farmers to be exposed to. They need to wear protective gear and then be careful not to come in contact with the newly sprayed plants. The chemical sprays also cover the whole plant--the leaves and flowers--when in fact the target for the chemicals is only the flowers. If the flowers are free of mold, then the fruit will develop uninfected. As an alternative to the spraying, a biological control method was developed using bees. We found that bees could deliver a natural fungicide directly to the strawberry flowers.

F: Professor Marcus and his team put a tray of a natural fungicide--an anti-fungal microorganism--at the entrance of bee hives located in the strawberry fields. The bees would simply walk through the fungicide on their way out. It would stick to their legs and the bees would fly off to the flowers. As they flew from flower to flower, the fungicide would be deposited directly on the flowers. But what about the effectiveness of this method?

M2: When we compared the results of both the biological and chemical methods, we found that with the bee delivery method, the total amount of fungicide present on the flowers was less, but the result was more effective. The bee method reduced the amount of infected fruit by 75%, while chemical spraying reduced it by only 40%. What was unexpected was that strawberries from the plants with the bee delivered treatment weighed 25 to 50% more than berries with no treatment. So, adding bee hives to strawberry farms not only controlled disease but also helped farmers increase their fruit yield.

F: Professor Marcus also found that delivering the fungicide by bees in no way harms the bees or

damages the bee hives. And, of course, any time chemical use can be reduced in agriculture, the better it is for all of us.

41. *According to the report, why did farmers need to wear protective gear?*
42. *According to the report, what is one problem with distributing chemical fungicides?*
43. *Where did the researchers put the natural fungicide?*
44. *How do the results of the bee delivery method compare to the chemical treatment?*
45. *What is surprising about the bee delivery method?*

Now you will hear the third segment.

M1: One of the biggest challenges organizations face is finding a way to keep their best employees for the long term. Company loyalty is mostly a thing of the past. Nowadays, many workers are concerned with personal ambition, so after a year or two in one position, they may begin looking for other work. And hiring people isn't cheap. Organizations spend big bucks replacing key staff. Marilyn Ford reports.

F: In order to retain your best employees, it's important to understand what makes workers leave in the first place. Of course, many employees simply want a larger paycheck. But one of the most common complaints that employees make about their jobs is the lack of career development opportunities. People feel stuck in a job if there's no room for promotion or advancement, they receive little training, or if they don't feel challenged. Henry Richards, a human resources expert, is here to discuss what companies can do to reduce employee turnover.

M2: Well, the bottom line really is the money. It doesn't matter how much you love your job if the pay is too low. If employees think that other companies will pay more for the same work, you can bet it will be difficult to keep them around without raising salaries or improving benefits.

However, employees also want to enjoy going to work.

For many people, this means feeling like their work makes a difference and that their work is appreciated. So the quality of the office environment matters a lot. Generally employees prefer a collaborative workplace to a competitive one. In a number of research studies, workers have reported that the most rewarding aspect of work is personal attention from their supervisor. So whether that be positive feedback or praise, employees want their work to be valued by the people they admire.

F: So increasing pay and benefits and showing workers appreciation are key strategies for employee

retention. What are some additional steps companies can take? And won't the strategies chosen depend on the company's size?

M2: Yes, definitely. Your strategies do depend on size. Many small organizations don't have the resources to pay employees a competitive salary, so they make up for it in other ways: you know, by making the office a fun place to work or by providing more opportunities for being mentored. Bigger organizations have an advantage because they can offer a greater number of traditional options, like professional training or tuition reimbursement for workers who want to go back to school.

But there's no need to worry if you're managing a smaller business. Don't underestimate the importance of praise and personal attention. Keeping the lines of communication open is very effective. Some businesses have been known to conduct employee interviews every six months, just to keep track of whether their workers are happy or not.

F: So talking with your employees is a good place to start if your company is having problems with employee retention. Organizations can't make positive changes if they don't know what their workers need or want. And this is critical because the long-term success of a business often depends on its employees.

46. *What does the woman say is the most common employee complaint?*
47. *What important research finding is mentioned in the interview?*
48. *What can small organizations offer that many large businesses cannot?*
49. *Why does Mr. Richards say that companies should conduct interviews with employees?*
50. *What is the woman's opinion about employee job satisfaction?*

End of the listening test.