

Cambridge IGCSE™

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

0511/23

Paper 2 Listening

May/June 2026

TRANSCRIPT

Approximately 50 minutes (including 6 minutes' transfer time)

This document has **18** pages.

R1 Cambridge International Education, Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language, Paper 2, Listening.

[BEEP]

Exercise 1

You will hear eight short recordings. For each question, choose the correct answer, A, B, C or D, and put a tick (✓) in the appropriate box.

You will hear each recording twice.

R1 Question 1

What has the man bought at the department store?

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
3 seconds	4 seconds	5 seconds	6 seconds

M: male, thirties, UK accent

- M:** * Hi Jane. I'm just having a look around the new department store in town to get something to wear at your brother's wedding. They've got a new range of men's clothes, but they're not particularly cheap! I looked at some colourful ties – I've sent you some photos so let me know which one you like. Anyway, I've just got one of the plain shirts they have – it'll go perfectly with my new trousers. I noticed a pair of shoes that'd match them, too! Hmm...I might leave those for another day! **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 Question 2

Where is the girl's brother at the moment?

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
3 seconds	4 seconds	5 seconds	6 seconds

M: male, teenager, UK accent

F: female, teenager, UK accent

M: * I think I might've seen your brother this morning, getting on a bus.

F: Maybe. Which direction was it going in?

M: To the train station I think.

F: Well, he normally travels to work in the opposite direction, so it's unlikely. And he'd usually be teaching his photography class today, but he was asked to take pictures of architecture in town for a magazine instead. So that's keeping him busy right now.

M: Sounds interesting.

F: Mm – and he'll be even more tired than usual on the bus home! **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 Question 3**What did the man forget to take on his motorbike trip?**

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
3 seconds	4 seconds	5 seconds	6 seconds

*M: male, thirties, mild US accent**F: female, thirties, mild US accent***F:** * How was your motorbike trip?**M:** Cool! I haven't owned a motorbike for years, so my friend lent me one of his. I spent ages preparing – hired some special boots, even bought a new leather jacket.**F:** Sounds organised!**M:** Mmm ... and my mate had found me a helmet, so I had everything I needed – apart from my gloves – I can't have put them in my bag. I only noticed when I got to my friend's house before the ride. Anyway, I can't wait to go again – if only so I can wear my expensive jacket! **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 Question 4**Where was the bird when the woman saw it?**

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
3 seconds	4 seconds	5 seconds	6 seconds

*F: female, thirties, UK accent**M: male, thirties, UK accent***F:** * I saw a bird in my garden yesterday that I hadn't seen before. I get lots of common birds on the grass, but this one was unusual – pure white.**M:** Oh? One like that's been visiting my garden too. I put out food for the birds on a bird table there.**F:** I do the same in my garden, and that's where it was. It seemed very hungry! Then it flew off somewhere, probably into a nearby tree.**M:** Well, I've seen it on your roof too – it must like high places! **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 Question 5

What was the woman concerned about doing in her recent horse riding lesson?

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
3 seconds	4 seconds	5 seconds	6 seconds

M: male, late teens, mild Australian accent

F: female, late teens, mild Australian accent

M: * How was your horse riding lesson?

F: OK! I'd been riding before, so I didn't struggle with climbing up onto the horse's back. One thing I'd found hard in my first lesson was the horse's movements when it was walking, but I was prepared this time! The teacher also got us to brush the horses after we'd ridden them, to get the mud off. I was really worried I'd do something wrong, although my horse seemed happy! He'd got muddy from the jumps I'd done with him – but he looked better after I'd finished! **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 Question 6

What do the friends agree to look at first in the arts centre?

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
3 seconds	4 seconds	5 seconds	6 seconds

M: male, mid twenties, UK accent

F: female, mid twenties, UK accent

M: * So what shall we look at this afternoon?

F: Well, there's a great display of work by local painters that I'd like to see.

M: Oh, that exhibition will still be on for some time, but the one on historical costumes closes in a week so we shouldn't miss it.

F: So where is that? Next to the modern sculpture gallery?

M: I think so – and if we have some time left afterwards, we can pop in to see all the ancient pottery down in the basement.

F: That all sounds good to me! **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 Question 7

Which book does the woman decide to borrow from the library?

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
3 seconds	4 seconds	5 seconds	6 seconds

M: male, thirties, UK accent

F: female, forties, UK accent

M: * So did you find anything useful in the gardening section?

F: Absolutely. I wanted a book about flowers and plants. I looked at one about arranging flowers in a vase. And there was one about how to grow indoor plants successfully – but I've probably already got it at home! And I've tried growing vegetables in my garden, but I was hugely unsuccessful. So I'll just stick to flowers, outdoors on my balcony – see what I can grow there. And this book looks perfect for that. I'm going to take it – thanks! **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 Question 8

Where does the man prefer to write his diary?

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
3 seconds	4 seconds	5 seconds	6 seconds

M: male, early thirties, mild Australian accent

F: female, early thirties, mild Australian accent

M: * I've started keeping a diary!

F: Oh?

M: Yeah – I was in the kitchen, listening to a fascinating radio programme about it. I just grabbed a notebook and pen and started writing – but then decided I needed to be somewhere that'd give me some inspiration.

F: So where do you write?

M: I get away from everything by going to the park – nothing distracts me there. I tried the study, but my work stuff in there disturbs my concentration, and I can hear my family in the garden outside. So I've made a good choice! **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 That is the end of Exercise 1. Now turn to Exercise 2.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 Exercise 2

You will hear five short recordings. For each question, choose the correct answer, A, B or C, and put a tick (✓) in the appropriate box.

You will hear each recording twice.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 You will hear two friends talking about a carnival parade.

Now look at Questions 9 and 10.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
15 seconds	19 seconds	23 seconds	30 seconds

F: female, thirties, mild US accent

M: male, thirties, mild US accent

- F:** * I'm so sorry I'm late for the parade! I allowed plenty of time for the journey here, but that didn't help. I mean, the roads were busy although the cars were moving. But the directions I had took me down a strange route and I had no idea where I was! I was really worried about my car breaking down again, but at least it kept going.
- M:** Oh, the parade's already finished, I'm afraid – you would've loved it. But don't worry – I've made a video of it on my phone, so we can watch that together. I just assumed you'd been held up at work. Anyway, you're here now! **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 You will hear a man talking about a poem on trees that he's recently read.

Now look at Questions 11 and 12.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
15 seconds	19 seconds	23 seconds	30 seconds

M: male, mid twenties, UK accent

M: * I've recently read a wonderful poem about some beautiful trees. I could really picture the trees moving in the wind. That's what made it for me – even though the poet didn't include much about how they looked. He also invented some of the vocabulary in the poem, which seemed to add to the atmosphere.

After reading the poem, I just couldn't stop thinking about it. I knew there was little point in my trying to produce anything like it – but I did start paying much greater attention to the woods surrounding my village. And my cousin then lent me a book of poetry written at a similar time – it's currently lying by my bed unopened, but won't be for long! **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 You will hear two friends talking about their recent trips to the coast.

Now look at Questions 13 and 14.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
15 seconds	19 seconds	23 seconds	30 seconds

F: female, thirties, UK accent

M: male, thirties, UK accent

M: * How was your trip to the coast the other day?

F: It was great! The sunshine actually made everything look lovely – apart from the beach itself! There wasn't much sand – it was mainly stones. There were a few dark clouds in the sky, but the sun was shining on the water, making it look like diamonds. I took some incredible photos.

M: That sounds wonderful. Well, on my last trip to the coast, it rained a bit, but I just walked for miles, as usual. And after lunch, I had a look around the beachside stores. I didn't think they'd be very interesting, but I was pleasantly surprised! Then the rain stopped so I carried on walking. **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 You will hear two friends talking about friendships.**Now look at Questions 15 and 16.**

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
15 seconds	19 seconds	23 seconds	30 seconds

*F: female, late forties, mild US accent**M: male, late forties, mild US accent***F:** * I'm meeting my friend Maria tonight.**M:** What's she like?

F: Well, if she says she's going to do something for me, I know she'll definitely do it! And she'll usually share stuff with me – apart from her favourite chocolate and cake, that is! If I ask for her opinion about a new dress or something, though, she'll be completely honest – which is hard to take sometimes!

M: Mm ... I'm trying to widen my friendship group – my usual friends are often too busy to meet up. I mean, when we were at school, there were loads of classmates to get to know, but that's not the case anymore. Not everyone tends to share my interests either – although the members of my new walking group do. **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 You will hear a woman talking about her country's football team taking part in an international competition.

Now look at Questions 17 and 18.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
15 seconds	19 seconds	23 seconds	30 seconds

F: female, thirties, UK accent

F: * I've just been watching TV – my country's playing football in a big international competition. I've no idea whether they'll get to the final – I'm no football expert. But I really hadn't expected some of the stuff that's happened during their matches, like missing very easy goals – pretty bad. They'd probably say the weather's too hot – but they've played in far worse!

Anyway, I could've gone to the stadium to watch one of the matches – some friends had tickets and invited me to go too. It's been busy in the office, though, so it would've been difficult – and anyway, I wasn't bothered. It would've taken hours to get there, and at least I could watch it in the comfort of my own home! **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 That is the end of Exercise 2. Now turn to Exercise 3.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 Exercise 3

You will hear a woman called Sarah giving a talk about swifts – small birds that migrate to the UK every summer to spend the season there. For each question, choose the correct answer, A, B or C and put a tick in the appropriate box.

You will hear the talk twice. Now look at questions 19–26.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
40 seconds	50 seconds	60 seconds	90 seconds

F: female, late twenties, UK accent

- F:** * I'm Sarah, here to talk about swifts – small, wonderful birds that visit the UK every summer from hot countries, as the weather's milder here then.

I lived in the countryside as a child, and heard swifts flying around our house, calling loudly in the evenings, although it wasn't until I spotted them flying in circles around a tower in our village that my fascination began! My father often noticed them on a farm not far away.

Then some years ago, I found a young swift lying on the lawn in my garden. I had no idea how it'd got there, so thought I'd lay it in some longer grass to keep it safe. But then I realised it might be better if I put it on a high stone wall so that's what I did. I knew there was little chance of returning it to its nest.

Anyway, I later learned that swifts that accidentally land on the ground find it hard to take off. So to help them do that, they should ideally be held up in the air. But if they're hurt, that's obviously impossible. Anyway, I then contacted someone who knew all about swifts to find out more.

An interesting thing about swifts is that they tend to arrive at the same time each year. One year, I noticed they were late and became concerned, especially when local birdwatchers reported storms along their route. But despite my internet search, there seemed no way of knowing exactly where they were. So I decided to be patient – and of course, they eventually turned up!

I also checked how many pairs of swifts there were in the UK last year. Estimates varied from 111 000 right down to 63 000. Then I came across an estimate of 87 000 from an international bird organisation, which sounded the safest figure, based on reliable research.

Research also suggests that swift populations are falling in the UK. Swifts used to build nests in areas with trees, like woods, catching insects in the air for food, but slowly moved into buildings, living inside holes in roofs. Recently, though, it's become harder for swifts to do that because of changes in the way many houses are constructed. This could be contributing to their decline.

Last month, while walking in the hills, I came across a huge group of swifts, flying way up above me – so many that it was impossible to clearly identify one single swift from among them all. Then suddenly they flew off down the hillside – amazing!

I love every moment the swifts are with us. There's the incredible flying around at speed they display, calling to each other. But nothing beats what for me is their evident delight in flying. It's a memory of summer that stays with me throughout the long winter. **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
10 seconds	13 seconds	15 seconds	20 seconds

R1 Now you will hear the talk again.

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
10 seconds	13 seconds	15 seconds	20 seconds

R1 That is the end of Exercise 3. Now turn to Exercise 4.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 Exercise 4

You will hear six people talking about the most recent novel they've read.

For questions 27–32, choose from the list (A–H) which idea each speaker expresses. Write the correct letter (A–H) on the answer line. Use each letter only once. There are two extra letters which you do not need to use.

You will hear the recordings twice. Now read statements A–H.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
30 seconds	38 seconds	45 seconds	60 seconds

R1 Speaker 1

M: male, thirties, mild Australian accent

- M:** * I got my last novel from the library and I didn't put it down until I'd finished it! As in many novels, the people in it weren't always very kind to each other, but then that's true to life – and it was an essential part of the storyline. And *that* was sometimes slightly difficult to follow as it jumped around in time – but I like a challenge!

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
10 seconds	13 seconds	15 seconds	20 seconds

R1 Speaker 2

F: female, late twenties, UK accent

- F:** I've always felt you shouldn't try to finish a novel if it's not for you. That wasn't the case with the most recent novel I read – though the picture on the cover did put me off initially! It didn't look like my usual choice, so my hopes of a good read weren't high – but I was wrong! And I was impressed by the way the author described people – so I'll definitely be reading more of his stuff!

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
10 seconds	13 seconds	15 seconds	20 seconds

R1 Speaker 3

M: male, late teens, mild US accent

- M:** My favourite novel ever was one in which images from it kept coming back to me ages after I'd finished it. Sadly, I haven't experienced that since! But the novel I've just read came close in terms of enjoyment – even though I thought the central figure was pretty nasty – not my type at all. But that made the story more readable, and I was actually a bit sad when I'd finished it, even though I was reading other novels at the same time.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
10 seconds	13 seconds	15 seconds	20 seconds

R1 Speaker 4

F: female, late teens, UK accent

- F:** The last novel I read seemed exactly like something my favourite author would write, and initially it seemed just like her style – although once I'd read more, I realised it was nothing like it. For one thing, there were loads of unexpected events in the story. Then halfway through, the story suddenly became quite predictable. I had to make myself carry on reading, but it was without much enjoyment, so I was really relieved when I reached the final page.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
10 seconds	13 seconds	15 seconds	20 seconds

R1 Speaker 5

M: male, late twenties, mild Australian accent

- M:** I've read a few novels recently, and the last one was something a friend recommended. She knows the kind of things I enjoy reading, and this book was no exception. The story really raced along, so I got to the end quite quickly, even though I was reading other stuff as well. The thing was, though, that although it was an interesting plot, there was always the feeling that what was described could never really happen.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
10 seconds	13 seconds	15 seconds	20 seconds

R1 Speaker 6

F: female, early forties, mild US accent

- F:** I love novels where the storyline isn't straightforward, and the one I've just read was definitely in that category! Sometimes I need to make notes when I'm reading, but not this time. And I did stop reading it occasionally and start something else. But this novel was special because the story was typical of how my favourite writer describes real life. There was a different name on the cover, but I just knew it was her – and discovered later I was right! **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
10 seconds	13 seconds	15 seconds	20 seconds

R1 Now you will hear the six speakers again.

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
10 seconds	13 seconds	15 seconds	20 seconds

R1 That is the end of Exercise 4. Now turn to Exercise 5.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
10 seconds	13 seconds	15 seconds	20 seconds

R1 Exercise 5

You will hear an interview with Jamie Frost, a stunt actor who replaces film actors in difficult action scenes. For each question, choose the correct answer, A, B or C, and put a tick in the appropriate box.

You will hear the interview twice. Now look at questions 33–40.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
45 seconds	56 seconds	68 seconds	90 seconds

F: female, late twenties, UK accent

M: male, forties, UK accent

- F:** * I'm talking to Jamie Frost, who is what's called a 'stunt actor' – he replaces film actors in difficult action scenes. Jamie, what first attracted you to working in film?
- M:** Well, my dad was an actor, and often played supporting roles in films, although he didn't become famous. And he did have a go at doing some stunts, but he wasn't much good. But when I was young, my older brother, also an actor – and more successful than our dad – used to take me to where he was filming, and I started to feel a real attraction to the world of film.
- F:** What made you eventually think you'd be good at stunt work?
- M:** Well, I was brought up on a farm, so I was always around horses – my mum wasn't keen on me riding them when I was so young, but my dad says I could ride a horse pretty well and as a result, I grew up not feeling scared of anything much – which is what later drew me to the job!
- F:** But before that, your first job was a dancer?
- M:** Well, yes – and moving from that to becoming a stunt actor was less of a change than you might imagine. Dancing is hard, physical work, but I was more than ready for that. You also need to be very precise in your movements – so not that different to being a stunt actor in these respects, because the same skills and determination are needed. I just had to get used to dealing with heights!

F: And when did you get your first stunt acting role in a film?

M: When I was 22. I was at my local gym talking to some actor friends when one mentioned there were some auditions they were going to, being held in our city. It was for action scenes, so I looked on the website at what was required and knew I was a perfect fit. Since then, I've done the action scenes for several well-known actors.

F: So tell us about one scene you've appeared in.

M: Well, probably one of the best ones was when I was supposed to be driving a car at great speed down an icy track – with a film crew travelling just ahead of me, filming the whole thing. It was made to look dangerous for the film, but the crew had made sure everything was OK and I knew I could have total faith in them. In any case, the car wasn't moving as fast as it appeared to in the film.

F: And there's one actor you've worked with a lot, right?

M: Yes – he's appeared in lots of action films. On our first film together, we immediately got on well – same sense of humour and attitude to life, and roughly the same age and height, although he's far better-looking than me! Anyway, he's since asked for me to work with him on other films he's done, which is great.

F: Do you rehearse the action parts before filming begins?

M: Yes, weeks before. And we rehearse those in full costume, which helps the director, as it allows them to get an idea of how everything will finally look on screen, while there's still time to make any changes if needed.

F: And I understand there's an organisation that stunt actors are encouraged to join?

M: Yes, that's right. Years ago, the profession was nothing like it is today. There are far more jobs available, for one thing, and it's also better controlled. But people used to turn up claiming they could do all sorts of things that they actually couldn't, which was unsafe. Then an organisation was set up to make sure people complete proper training – which can take years of hard work – and can do what they've promised. It's definitely a huge change for the better. **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
10 seconds	13 seconds	15 seconds	20 seconds

R1 Now you will hear the interview again.

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
10 seconds	13 seconds	15 seconds	20 seconds

R1 That is the end of Exercise 5.

You now have six minutes to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. I will remind you when there is one minute left.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
300 seconds	375 seconds	450 seconds	600 seconds

R1 You have one more minute left.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
60 seconds	75 seconds	90 seconds	120 seconds

R1 That is the end of the examination.

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