

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Part 1 CONVERSATION

SHORT CONVERSATIONS

Conversation 35

M: Excuse me, but where can I renew my library card?

W: There is an office on the second floor, not far from the escalator. But it is already closed. It's after 5:00 p.m.

M: Oh, no! I really need to borrow some books for my history class!

W: You can come back tomorrow morning and try to get it renewed then.

Question 35

Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The man needs to get his library card renewed.
- b) The office on the second floor is open after 5:00 p.m.
- c) The man has already received a new library card.
- d) The woman will go to the library with the man tomorrow.

Conversation 36

M: Did you change your hairstyle? Something looks different.

W: I did, I cut about 8 centimeters off.

M: I thought so! It looked much shorter to me.

W: I tend to grow it long during winter and cut it in summer.

M: That's a smart way to think about it. Have you ever changed the color?

W: Once, back in college. I dyed it blue, but it looked terrible.

Question 36

Which one of the statements is correct about the woman?

- a) She has very long hair.
- b) She recently cut her hair.
- c) She just changed her hair color.
- d) She is a college student.

Conversation 37

W: Have you seen the new Disney movie that came out last week?

M: No, I haven't. I heard it was really boring.

W: No way! I loved it. In fact, I am going to see it again this weekend. I was wondering if you'd like to come with me.

M: Well, I wasn't planning to see it. But, if you liked it so much, I think I need to see it. I would love to go with you.

Question 37

Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The man had a boring weekend.
- b) The man saw the movie last weekend.
- c) The woman will watch the movie again.
- d) The woman wants to watch the movie alone.

Conversation 38

W: I think we're lost. Can we stop and look at the map?

M: It's fine. We're almost there. It will only be 5 more minutes.

W: Are you sure? I feel like we've been driving for a long time.

M: Yes. We need to turn right when we see a supermarket.

W: Um, I think we just passed a supermarket...

M: What, oh no! We'll be late for the movie!

Question 38

Where are the speakers?

- a) In a supermarket
- b) In a car
- c) At the movie theatre
- d) At the mall

Conversation 39

W: I can't believe we're finally starting college!

M: I know, it's so exciting! New friends, new classes...

W: And new opportunities to explore.

M: I'm a little nervous though. It's a big change.

W: Don't worry, we'll figure it out together. It's the beginning of a new chapter!

Question 39

Which one of the statements is correct about the woman?

- a) She thinks that new opportunities are exciting.
- b) She cannot believe the man is a college student.
- c) She is mainly concerned about making new friends.
- d) She suggests the man read a new chapter in a book.

Conversation 40

M: I'm going to visit my mom next week.

W: How exciting for you. Where does she live?

M: Australia. Can you believe I haven't been back for 4 years?

W: 4 years? Wow, that's crazy. Why has it been so long?

M: Well, you know, COVID-19 made it hard for me to travel. I just couldn't afford it until now.

Question 40

Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The woman is excited about her upcoming trip.
- b) The man is going to visit family in Australia.
- c) The woman had COVID-19 four years ago.
- d) The man had a lot of money until recently.

Conversation 41

W: I heard that you have a blog.

M: Yeah, I do. I usually upload pictures of my school life. Look, here's a picture of my classmates and me during brass band practice.

W: That looks like so much fun. What other kinds of photos do you take?

M: It depends. Sometimes I take cute photos of my dog when I am at home. Other times, I take photos during school trips. I don't have any special preferences.

Question 41

Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The man wants to upload pictures to the woman's blog.
- b) The woman wants to take a picture of the man and his classmates.
- c) The man takes various types of photos for his blog.
- d) The woman likes to take photos with her classmates.

Conversation 42

M: What's a good Mother's Day present? I always buy flowers.

W: How does your mom feel when she receives them? Is she really happy?

M: I guess so. I mean, she puts them in a vase on our dining room table and always says how good they smell.

W: Well, I always buy chocolate, but if I were you, I would give her the same thing again.

M: OK, and maybe I'll spend a little more money at the florist today.

Question 42

Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The woman is feeling happy.
- b) The man will go shopping.
- c) The woman is cooking dinner.
- d) The man will earn more money.

Conversation 43

W: Have you studied for the math test tomorrow?

M: Not yet, but I plan to stay up late tonight to do it. I'm not good at math.

W: I know what you mean. I hope this test is easier than the last one.

M: Me too! It was hard. I had better start studying right now!

Question 43

Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The man will take a test tonight.
- b) The woman is good at math.
- c) The last test was not difficult.
- d) The man is worried about the test.

Conversation 44

M: Did you remember to pick up a bag of rice on your way home from work?

W: Oh no, I totally forgot about that. I'll go to the store now.

M: Don't worry about it. The store is far away and you look tired. We'll just have some bread for dinner instead.

W: Sorry about that, I will remember to get some tomorrow.

Question 44

Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The woman will buy bread tomorrow.
- b) The woman went to work today.
- c) The man will go to the store now.
- d) The man forgot to buy a bag of rice.

Conversation 45

W: What time is your performance tomorrow evening?

M: I am the third pianist, so probably around 6:30?

W: Oh good, I'll definitely be able to arrive by then.

M: What do you mean? Were you thinking of not coming?

W: Oh, that's not what I meant. It's just that I'm working until 6:00 and I was worried I'd miss it.

Question 45

Which one of the statements is correct about the woman?

- a) She will miss the man's performance due to her job.
- b) She thought the man would perform at 6:00 p.m.
- c) She has a part-time job playing the piano in a cafe.
- d) She will be able to arrive in time to see the man play.

Conversation 46

W: Do you know where I can charge my laptop? I'm almost out of battery.

M: There's an outlet near the library entrance.

W: Great, thanks! I totally forgot to bring my charger this morning.

M: I know. It happens all the time.

W: I just hope it charges fast enough before my next class!

Question 46

Which one of the statements is correct about the woman?

- a) Her computer has low battery power.
- b) She will borrow a charger from the man.
- c) Her charger was found at the library entrance.
- d) She will charge her computer after the next class.

Conversation 47

M: Nancy, what do you think I could gain most from studying abroad?

W: That's a good question. I would say it can broaden your worldview and cultural understanding.

M: I see. Could you tell me about your experiences?

W: In my case, I was exposed to diverse viewpoints by interacting with locals and fellow international students.

M: Sounds very interesting!

Question 47

What is the conversation mainly about?

- a) Different cultures around the world
- b) The importance of asking questions
- c) The benefits of studying abroad
- d) The challenges of living in a foreign country

Conversation 48

M: Mother, mother. Where are you? Mother?

W: I'm in my room getting ready. What's wrong?

M: I can't find my reading book for school. Have you seen it?

W: No, but my guess is that it's under all the stuff on your desk.

Question 48

Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The woman needs help to get ready.
- b) The man has quite a messy desk.
- c) The man is reading in the woman's room.
- d) The woman cleaned the man's desk.

Conversation 49

M: Congratulations! You just won 2 free airline tickets for any destination in Asia.

W: Thank you for the prize. I'm excited to travel.

M: Where do you think you will go?

W: Well, I've always wanted to visit South Korea or Singapore. I'm not sure yet.

M: Those are both excellent choices. Good luck making a decision!

Question 49

Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The man recently won a wonderful prize.
- b) The man and woman will take a trip together.
- c) The woman has been to Singapore before.
- d) The woman has not decided where to go.

Conversation 50

M: I'm having trouble staying motivated with my current fitness schedule.

W: Have you tried setting specific goals for yourself?

M: Not really. What kind of goals do you suggest?

W: Maybe start with small, achievable goals like slowly increasing your workout time. Also, working out with a friend may help with your motivation.

Question 50

Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The woman suggests that the man quickly increase his workout time.
- b) The man is motivated with his current fitness schedule.
- c) The woman will work out with her friend in the future.
- d) The man has not set any clear fitness goals for himself.

LONG CONVERSATIONS

Long Conversation 1

M: Did you say you have an older brother?

W: Yeah. He's three years older than me.

M: So he's a university student?

W: Yes. He formed a band with his college friends, and he is the lead singer.

M: What kind of music do they play?

W: Mainly rock and some punk. They're really good. They're called The Sick Dogs.

M: Aren't they going to perform at a school festival or something?

W: Sometimes they stream videos on the Internet, so you might want to listen to them.

Question 51

What are the speakers mainly talking about?

- a) A band at a university
- b) The health of their pets
- c) A new music class at school
- d) Their favorite TV program

Question 52

What does the man learn about the woman?

- a) Her parents like to sing.
- b) She has a younger brother.
- c) She wants to go to a music school.
- d) Her family member is in a band.

Long Conversation 2

M: Have you ever been to New York?

W: No, I haven't, but my parents used to live there before I was born. Why do you ask?

M: I'm interested in joining my school's summer program there next year, but I'm worried about how safe it is.

W: I see. Maybe you could search on the internet?

M: I did that already and that's why I'm so scared! I read about a lot of crime.

W: Hmmm. I guess it's important to remember that the news mostly tells us bad stories.

M: I guess so. New York might not really be so bad. Thanks for your help.

W: Anytime. I look forward to hearing all about your trip if you go.

Question 53

What is the conversation mainly about?

- a) Concerns about safety in New York
- b) The best places to visit in New York
- c) Personal experiences living in New York
- d) The impact of crime on tourism in New York

Question 54

Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The woman was born in New York.
- b) The man thinks watching the news is bad.
- c) The woman is happy to give the man advice.
- d) The man is determined to go to New York.

Long Conversation 3

W: If you could have dinner with three people, who would they be?

M: Why are you asking?

W: It's an essay assignment in my English class.

M: Great question. Any nationality?

W: Yes, and I think that they can also be imaginary like a comic book character, and you all eat dinner together.

M: I would choose three famous baseball players – Shohei Ohtani, Ichiro Suzuki, and Yu Darvish.

W: Why those three? Do you want to improve your pitching or batting?

M: No, it's not that. I'm planning to study abroad in the U.S., and I want to get their advice on communicating in English. Now, I'm wondering what they would say.

W: You could ask ChatGPT to tell you. I guess that ChatGPT could also help me think about who I would invite to dinner.

Question 55

What are the speakers mainly talking about?

- a) Professional sports
- b) A homework assignment
- c) American comic books
- d) ChatGPT

Question 56

Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The woman is inviting guests.
- b) The man is reading a comic book.
- c) The woman is studying English.
- d) The man is writing an essay.

Long Conversation 4

M: Only one more week until vacation. It's not long now.

W: I can't wait. What are your plans?

M: Not much. I will just relax and catch up on housework.

W: I'm going to visit my grandmother in Saitama.

M: That sounds much more fun than my plans. Cleaning is so boring.

W: I have to agree. I love visiting her. She is a great cook.

M: I just wish the vacation was longer than a week.

W: I know. It's really not long enough to do much.

Question 57

What is the conversation mainly about?

- a) Plans for the upcoming vacation
- b) The best places to visit in Saitama
- c) The importance of doing housework
- d) The benefits of visiting grandparents

Question 58

According to the conversation, which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The vacation time is too long.
- b) The man will clean his house.
- c) The woman will work in Saitama.
- d) The woman is a very good cook.

Part 2 MONOLOGUES

Monologue 1

When was the last time you ate food at an outdoor festival? In Japan, they are often held in summer or when the weather is pleasant. However, in many countries, street food like this is part of daily life all year round. It is common to visit such markets instead of restaurants, so they are filled with locals and tourists. In Thailand, you can buy fried noodles or fresh coconut juice very cheaply. Taiwan's night market is well-known for many types of grilled meat on sticks – beef, chicken, squid, even snake, and deer! In the African country of Tanzania, you can enjoy several types of fried bread and fresh fruit that you will want to eat for all three meals in a day! In Belgium, it's quite common to see people eating a packet of French fries or a small waffle as they walk around town. Food is a wonderful way to explore and learn about different world cultures.

Question 59

According to the monologue, which one of the statements is correct?

- a) Japanese street food is available anytime in the year.
- b) Fried noodles in Thailand are an expensive street food.
- c) Grilled sticks of meat in Taiwan are very famous.
- d) Street food in Belgium is only common in summer.

Question 60

Which of these is NOT introduced as a popular street food?

- a) Fresh coconut juice
- b) Spiced fruit cakes
- c) Fried bread
- d) French fries

Monologue 2

Atlantic puffins are sea birds. They are a similar color to penguins, but they have a colorful beak, the outer part of the bird's mouth, which is why some people call them the "sea parrot." The beak fades to a gray color during the winter and becomes colorful again in the spring, suggesting that this colorful beak may make them attractive to other puffins.

Puffins live most of their lives at sea and they rest on the waves when they are not swimming. They are excellent swimmers that use their wings to make a flying movement underwater. Their webbed feet help them to change directions. They can dive to depths of 60 meters; however, they usually stay underwater for only 20 or 30 seconds.

Puffins hunt different kinds of small fish like herring or sand eels. In the air, puffins are surprisingly fast flyers. By flapping their wings up to 400 times per minute they can fly about 90 kilometers an hour.

Adapted from "Atlantic Puffin", National Geographic
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/facts/atlantic-puffin>

Question 61

According to the monologue, which one of the statements is correct?

- a) Puffins and penguins both have very colorful beaks.
- b) Puffins' beaks turn gray as they get older.
- c) Puffins use their webbed feet to help them swim quickly.
- d) Puffins are good at both swimming and flying.

Question 62

Which one of the statements is correct about puffins?

- a) They are a type of parrot that lives on the ocean.
- b) They spend more time on land than on the sea.
- c) They often stay underwater for long periods of time.
- d) They eat various kinds of small fish such as sand eels.

Monologue 3

Many small communities in some countries suffer from health problems caused by working with plastic waste. For example, when plastic waste is sent from rich countries in Europe and North America to Indonesia and Malaysia, it is burnt and recycled in factories. The reason why this international waste trade is a problem is that when this waste is dumped into local communities, people's health and well-being can be affected.

There are several examples of the effects of plastic waste. One factory worker named Ali from Indonesia said that even though he wore a mask, he developed breathing problems due to the smoke coming from the burnt plastic. Another worker from Malaysia named Chang said that some of her co-workers would become very sick and have to travel very far to see a doctor. Even though there is more global awareness about this issue, something must be done to improve the working conditions and health of those affected by plastic waste.

Source: Devayani Khare, Pui Yi Wong "“We are now plastic farmers” – the human cost of waste colonialism” Rethink Plastic. Aug. 12, 2022.
<https://rethinkplasticalliance.eu/news/we-are-now-plastic-farmers/>

Question 63

What is the monologue mainly about?

- a) Harmful effects of plastic waste
- b) Working in factories in the U.S.
- c) Recycling plastic bottles in Europe
- d) Wearing masks to prevent becoming sick

Question 64

According to the monologue, which one of the statements is correct about Ali and Chang?

- a) They both work in plastic waste factories in Europe.
- b) Their masks can protect them from the smell of plastic.
- c) They both have to work in very difficult conditions.
- d) They are treated by doctors in the factories where they work.