

[pause]

Speaker Four: I felt I was taking a risk staying where I was. Opportunities for young journalists had vanished really. One or two colleagues I knew had gone to Europe and prospered, so why not join them? Before leaving, I imagined my new life, sipping coffee in a beautiful sunlit old flat, or popping to the stores or travelling around by effortlessly hopping on the bus. It turns out old flats aren't very nice. Even the more expensive ones. Instead, my sunlit living room was built in 2007, the shops are two bus rides away ... and as for the buses ... slow, no climate control, and diversions mean it's less "effortless" than I'd reckoned.

[pause]

Speaker Five: From the minute we arrived and climbed into the taxi, on what felt like the wrong side of the road, the differences kept coming. I'd say most of the ones we've encountered here, we've accepted with good humour. I live with the fact that 50% of the time I'll have no idea what someone is saying to me – which is still something of a shock as we're both speaking English – and I smile even more at strangers than I did back home. It's been harder for my husband – he was learning the new job that had dragged us here in the first place. But if I'm honest with myself, I'm already longing for another change.

[pause]

Now you'll hear Part Four again.

tone

[The recording is repeated.]

[pause]

That's the end of Part Four.

There'll now be a pause of five minutes for you to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. Be sure to follow the numbering of all the questions. I'll remind you when there's one minute left, so that you're sure to finish in time.

[Teacher, pause the recording here for five minutes. Remind students when they have one minute left.]

That's the end of the test. Please stop now. Your supervisor will now collect all the question papers and answer sheets.

Test 2 Key

Reading and Use of English (1 hour 30 minutes)

Part 1

1 B 2 D 3 A 4 C 5 B 6 B 7 A 8 D

Part 2

9 as 10 Since / From 11 the 12 is 13 before 14 What 15 If 16 in

Part 3

17 intolerable 18 alongside 19 responsibility 20 carving 21 distinctive
22 assembly / assembling 23 resistant 24 descendant(s)

Part 4

25 are not / aren't | MEANT to; were not / weren't | MEANT to

26 the only student / one | to BE

27 sure / convinced / certain of / about | the (historical) ACCURACY of

28 have no IDEA | how to

29 there was | no POINT (in) (his / her)

30 for you / your GIVING | me a lift / ride

Part 5

31 A 32 C 33 B 34 B 35 D 36 A

Part 6

37 D 38 C 39 C 40 A

Part 7

41 B 42 F 43 G 44 A 45 E 46 C

Part 8

47 C 48 D 49 B 50 A 51 B 52 C 53 A 54 B 55 C 56 D

Writing (1 hour 30 minutes)

Candidate responses are marked using the assessment scale on pages 108–109.

Listening (approximately 40 minutes)

Part 1

1 A 2 B 3 A 4 B 5 A 6 C

Part 2

7 (playing) tennis 8 schools / a school 9 (an) emerging (field)
10 cooking / cookery workshops 11 journalism 12 scientific papers
13 hardware 14 hospitality tickets

Part 3

15 B 16 B 17 A 18 C 19 A 20 D

Part 4

21 H 22 G 23 F 24 B 25 A 26 G 27 H 28 C 29 B 30 E

Transcript

This is the Cambridge English Advanced Listening Test. Test Two.

I'm going to give you the instructions for this test.

I'll introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions.

At the start of each piece you'll hear this sound:

tone

You'll hear each piece twice.

Remember, while you're listening, write your answers on the question paper. You'll have five minutes at the end of the test to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet.

There'll now be a pause. Please ask any questions now because you must not speak during the test.

[pause]

Now open your question paper and look at Part One.

[pause]

PART 1

You'll hear three different extracts. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B, or C) which fits best according to what you hear. There are two questions for each extract.

Extract One

You hear two friends talking about people who were once famous but who are now relatively unknown.

Now look at questions one and two.

[pause]

tone

Man: Have you read this magazine article? It's about people that were once internationally famous, like astronauts and sports people, but who now live in relative obscurity, having retired or just given up doing whatever made them famous.

Woman: I imagine that can be really tough – having to recreate a completely new existence away from the spotlight.

Man: Well, in people's minds, they had their metaphorical 15 minutes of fame but after that they sort of cease to exist. I mean, we have this odd approach, we reduce famous people to being identified only through the most pivotal thing they ever did. But that may have occurred very early in their life. But when they're recognised much later on, and that happens all the time, it means they can't forget that thing – and settle into a 'normal life' and that's hard.

Woman: Mmm, I read about one dancer who suffered a profound sense of anti-climax after her career was over, but amazingly set about channelling her energies into other activities, refusing to accept that her life would be defined only by her work – which I guess is a lesson we could all take on board.

Man: Absolutely.

[pause]

tone

[The recording is repeated.]

[pause]

Extract Two

You hear two friends talking about swimming in rivers and lakes, a practice known as wild swimming.

Now look at questions three and four.

[pause]

tone

Man: Hey, Sarah – how've you found your first year in our wild swimming group? What got you started, anyway?

Woman: Well, I've been into water sports since I was a kid, but when I first heard about your group, it struck me as mad, if I'm honest – just too daring. I reckoned it'd push my boundaries too far. The thought of untried environments was irresistible, though – all those rivers and lakes out there, just waiting to be discovered. And the unexpected bonus is the fresh dimension it brings to the activity itself – swimming feels much more exciting, and I love doing it with others.

Man: Yeah – it's great for morale, swimming as a group. You positively feel others urging you on. And I also love the fact that it attracts people who wouldn't normally get together – we're a real mix, aren't we? The power of a joint passion, I guess.