

# LanguageCert

## Mastery C2

### Level 3

## International ESOL (Listening, Reading, Writing)

### Practice Paper 3

#### Listening Script

#### Listening part one.

You will hear some sentences. You will hear each sentence twice. Choose the best reply to each sentence.

Number one. Number one. (6 seconds)

*[slightly amused]* Why on earth did she create such a fuss?

*[slightly amused]* Why on earth did she create such a fuss?

(10 seconds)

Number two. Number two. (6 seconds)

*[pleased – expecting confirmation]* So you shook on it, then?

*[pleased – expecting confirmation]* So you shook on it, then?

(10 seconds)

Number three. Number three. (6 seconds)

*[conciliatory]* Perhaps we **should** just let bygones be bygones. Agreed?

*[conciliatory]* Perhaps we **should** just let bygones be bygones. Agreed?

(10 seconds)

Number four. Number four. (6 seconds)

*[bit deflated]* So, basically, my work's just not up to scratch. Is that it?

*[bit deflated]* So, basically, my work's just not up to scratch. Is that it?

(10 seconds)

Number five. Number five. (6 seconds)

*[bit giggled – interrupting]* So..., if I **could** just get a word in edgeways?

*[bit giggled – interrupting]* So..., if I **could** just get a word in edgeways?

(10 seconds)

Number six. Number six. (6 seconds)

*[uncertain]* You **are** following my argument, aren't you?

*[uncertain]* You **are** following my argument, aren't you?

(10 seconds)

That is the end of Part One.

### Listening part two.

You will hear some conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answers for each conversation. (10 seconds.)

#### Conversation One

- F: *[enthusiastic]* So, anything tickle your fancy? There's certainly plenty here to make **my** mouth water.
- M: *[unenthusiastic]* D'you know what? I'm not too sure. Nothing really jumps up and grabs me, if y'know what I mean.
- F: Oh, come **on!** Fussy or **what!** What **is** it with you? I really would like to know what **would** appeal to you.
- M: *[apologetic]* Sorry, am I being awkward? Don't mean to be. Just not my scene really – all this nouvelle stuff. Suppose I'm just a guy with simple tastes!
- F: *[taking umbrage]* Thanks a lot!
- M: Oh, sorry. I didn't mean **you!** Oh, I just can't win, can I? Look, you have whatever you want – don't worry about me – I'm fine – I just want **you** to have a good time.
- F: Bit hard with you sitting there looking as if you'd rather be somewhere else!

*(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)*

*(Wait 10 seconds before going onto the next conversation.)*

Now, look at the questions for Conversation Two. (10 seconds.)

## Conversation Two

M:	OK – well, I've got your results here...
F:	And... ?
M:	Well, I'll be <b>blunt</b> – carry on like this and you won't make the <b>third</b> year – let alone last the course.
F:	<b>That</b> bad? I wasn't too well you know – on the day.
M:	Yes, well, I rather think the time leading up to it is where the problem lies – too many nights on the tiles, not enough sleep so not enough hours spent with your nose in a book – generally all a bit immature, wouldn't you say?
F:	<i>[trying to laugh it off a bit]</i> You know what they say, all work and no play... ?
M:	<i>[serious]</i> Look – it's up to you. I know you're up to it academically, but if you don't buck your ideas up a bit sharpish, you'll be out on your ear. Do I make myself clear?

*(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)*

*(Wait 10 seconds before going onto the next conversation.)*

Now, look at the questions for Conversation Three. *(10 seconds.)*

## Conversation Three

F:	So you do think it's a possibility, then?
M:	<i>[unsure]</i> Well, perhaps. I mean, I'm not ruling it out totally, but it's not really what I had in mind, either.
F:	Oh – I know you had your heart set on something a bit more sporty but, well, we do have the school run to consider. And I <b>have</b> just said I'd take Katie and Tom in it as well, so...
M:	Wish you <b>hadn't</b> .
F:	Well, I have. They're only next door and their mum's not as <b>lucky</b> as me – <b>she</b> has to work full time – she couldn't manage if I didn't offer. But, as well as that, the extra room'll be very handy when we go on our family hols, and <i>[searching]</i> ... things.
M:	<i>[dejected]</i> S'pose so. Won't exactly do my street cred much good though, will it?
F:	Oh, come on, you don't <b>really</b> mind that, do you? We'll get it then, shall we?
M:	<i>[resigned]</i> Yeah – OK. Doesn't look as if I've got much say in the matter really, does it?

*(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)*

*(10 seconds.)*

That is the end of Part Two.

### Listening part three.

You will hear someone talking. You will hear the person twice. Complete the information. Write short answers of one to five words. (20 seconds.)

[beep]

[note for actor: a rather highbrow Radio 4 programme for gardeners and botanists]

...and now I'd like to talk to you about a fascinating plant, good old Ribes [*pronunciation: rye-bees*] *nigrum*, (to give it its botanical name), or, as she's commonly called, the blackcurrant bush. It's a relatively small shrub growing from one to two metres tall. The leaves are alternate, simple, three to five centimetres long and broad, palmately lobed with five lobes, and with a serrated margin. The flowers are four to six millimetres in diameter, with five kind of reddish-green to brownish petals.

When not in fruit, the plant looks sort of similar to the redcurrant shrub, and is distinguished by a strong fragrance from the attractive-looking leaves. The fruit's an edible berry, a centimetre in diameter, very dark purple in colour, so dark it's almost black, with a glossy skin and a persistent calyx at the apex, and containing several seeds which are very heavy in nutrients so that birds love them. An established bush can produce an amazing five kilos of berries during a single summer.

It's easily grown in a moisture retentive but well-drained loamy soil of fair to middlin' quality, but I think it's best grown on a deep sandy soil. It dislikes very heavy clay, chalky soils and thin dry soils, but it can succeed on most soil types if plenty of manure's dug in before planting. They prefer a pH in the range six point seven to seven which means they'll be no good at all in very acidic soils. So I must stress – it's essential to add lots of nitrogen.

They are quite tolerant of shade but they do not fruit as well as they would in a sunny position. Also, being in a windy situation will harm your fruit yield. Blackcurrant bushes are hardy to about minus twenty degrees centigrade, though flowers'll suffer some damage with even a slight frost.

Blackcurrants are cultivated all over the temperate world for their fruit, and there're lots of named varieties. Most fruit's produced on one-year-old wood. As to pruning, I usually cut back about a third of all the stems from just above ground level in the autumn. If the plants are well fed, the new growth will be very vigorous and will fruit heavily the following year.

The flowers can self-fertilise but mostly fruit better with insect pollination, I mean bees and butterflies. Blackcurrants can harbour a stage of 'white pine blister rust', so they should not be grown anywhere near pine trees. Blackcurrants are, I'm afraid, highly susceptible to our old enemy, honey fungus.

To propagate the plant from seed, you're best to sow as soon as the seeds are ripe in the autumn in a cold frame. Stored seed requires three months' cold storage, perhaps in the fridge, at between zero and five degrees centigrade and should then be sown as early in the year as humanly possible. If kept in the fridge, the seed can remain viable for seventeen years or more! Prick out the seedlings into individual pots when they are large enough to handle, and grow them on in a cold frame for their first winter, planting them out in late spring of the following year.

Well, good luck with your blackcurrants. Now, let's go back to see what Bunty's getting up to in her shed...

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(10 seconds.)

You now have thirty seconds to read through and check your answers.

(30 seconds.)

[beep]

That is the end of Part Three.

**Listening part four.**

You will hear a conversation. You will hear the conversation twice. Choose the correct answers.

You have one minute to look at the task below. (1 minute.)

[beep]

- F: ...OK, moving on... item four on our agenda, this request from the Nature Conservancy Council to seek Monkton Village Parish Council's views on the re-introduction of the Sea Eagle, or, er, to give it its Latin name, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, [pronounced Hal-e-atus albi-silla] into the local vicinity.
- M1: Audrey, Madam Chairwoman, this is absolute madness! I've been a member of this Parish council since you were a schoolgirl...
- F: [curtly] Thanks, Mick, we'll all have a chance to air our views by and by. Meanwhile, you've all read the letter from the NCC? [murmurs of assent] I could summarise it by saying the plan is to introduce several pairs of these birds across the northeast England region, one of them perhaps in this area, the intention being that they'll breed and **re**-colonise the area. Apparently, they were common here until a couple of hundred years ago... er...
- M2: Audrey? Chair?
- F: Yes, Raymond, do you have anything to say, as the Council's Secretary?
- M2: Well, **I'm** very excited by this. But apparently Mick here...
- M1: [glad to be heard] Thank you. We **must** tell the Nature Conservancy busybodies to mind their own business. Do you realise how big these blessed birds are? Wingspan's **two and half metres**. They'll eat anything they can fly away with, a piglet, a lamb, a small dog. **Even. A. Baby!**
- M2: Oh, Mick, please, let's not get into the realm of horror films...!
- M1: Horror films...! [splutters]
- M2: ...This is a very well thought out proposal. **We** made these birds extinct centuries ago. Reintroducing them will have a marvellous effect on our parish in all sorts of ways. Ecologically, these big raptors help to manage the gene pools of their prey by eliminating sickly specimens. [with emotion and emphasis, like a politician] But the spin-offs for tourism, for our local hotels and pubs'll be very... lucrative. I've been looking into this and the reintroduction of Sea Eagles up in northwest Scotland has proved to be a great boon to their local businesses, with twitchers from around the world queuing up...
- M1: With all due respect, you haven't got a clue, have you, Raymond? What about my pigs? What about my hens? And I'm **not** saying I can't afford to lose the occasional piglet or chicken, that's to be expected. But just a **glimpse** of these big predators can send some sows into a panic, trampling piglets and fences and goodness knows what! [becoming agitated] When chickens see these big birds, they all flee for the henhouse; it's called 'smothering' because they all pile in there, hundreds of birds suffocated, and oh my...

- F: *[raised voice to interrupt Mick]* Well, obviously, this is an important matter with feelings running high. *[more quietly]* What would you say to Mick, and of course his many farming colleagues in the local community, Raymond?
- M2: I just wonder if Mick's been in touch with the farmers in Scotland about this...?
- M1: *[strong emphasis on first word, drawn out]* **If** I had... they'd only say...
- M2: *[scornful]* I thought so. Typically ignorant panic mongering from the farming community. Blanket assertions and scare stories without a shred of evidence to back them up! No doubt gimlet eyes on future compensation claims, hmm...?
- M1: *[splutters]*
- M2: ...I say we do the best thing for our parish and for the environment and write to the NCC giving our wholehearted support to this project.
- M1: *[overwrought]* I hope that this is all being minuted, so that when a baby's taken from its pram by one of these flying... death monsters, it's on record that I was a lone voice, crying in the wilderness... !
- M2: Idiotic hyperbole!
- M1: *[splutters again]*
- F: *[raised voice, with authority]* I think we can say... *[quieter]* I think we **can** say that we are unable to reach agreement on this matter at this time, and that we ought to respond to the NCC in writing, stating that whilst some members of the council welcome the proposal, the farming community, in particular, have grave reservations...
- M2: But that's...
- M1: Absolutely no idea...
- F: *[raised voice]* And now if we could move on, please... *[quieter]*. Item five on the agenda, dog fouling on the village green...

*(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)*

*(10 seconds.)*

That is the end of Part Four.

**You now have two hours and forty minutes to complete the rest of the paper.**