

English for Life: Listening (A2)

Unit	Topic	Getting started	Key phrases	Language	Listening exercises	Listening tips	Audio
1	Family life	Do you have brothers and sisters? / Who is the oldest and the youngest in your family? / Where does your family live? / Do have similar personalities?	Do you have brothers and sisters? / Who is the oldest and the youngest in your family? / We try and meet up when we can. / We get on really well together. / Claire and I got on very well as children, but now we're different. / I don't get on with my father. / She's quite funny. / She makes me laugh.	Vocabulary related to the family / Clear usage: 'tray and' + verb / COBUILD check: getting on / Vocabulary and phrases for describing personality / Clear usage: 'quite'	Circle the correct image / Map exercise / General comprehension exercise / Fill in the gaps / True and false exercise	Hearing repeated words: repeated words are often articles and pronouns and help the speaker to stop and think / Preparing for a true/false question	3 tracks
2	Daily life	What time do you get up in the morning? / What do you usually do? / What do you do in the evening? / What time do you go to bed?	I get up at seven o'clock. / I get up at ten to eight. / Usually I get up at six thirty a.m. / I normally get up at seven for work. / I sometimes sit out in the garden and read. / I put the kettle on and make a cup of coffee. / Then I jump in the shower. / After that I head off to the station. / I usually catch the train. / I have a bit of breakfast.	Clear usage: 'getting up' in the morning / Clear usage: 'usually', 'normally' and 'sometimes' / Clear usage: everyday activities / Clear usage: 'catching a train'	Choose the correct time / Number each picture / Fill in the gaps / True and false exercise / Match actions with correct time / General comprehension questions	Using images: Photos can really help to understand the context of what you listening to / Listen out for how speakers put stress on important words	4 tracks
3	Childhood	What is your earliest childhood memory? / What activities did you enjoy? / How would you describe your childhood? / Did you do things with your parents or on your own?	I was brought up in the countryside. / When I was five years old I learned to ride a bike. / The house I grew up in was ... / During my childhood I would spend every weekend on the beach. / I really loved it! / Was Hong Kong big? It was really big. / It's a big city. The city is big. / The weather was just beautiful.	Clear usage: 'really' / Vocabulary related to childhood activities / Expressions for talking about childhood	Number the pictures in order / Fill in the gaps / Identify the words used in the audio / General comprehension questions / Find antonyms in recording / Picture vocabulary exercise / True and false statements / Find the adjectives	Adjectives are usually placed before the noun / But placing an adjective after the noun emphasizes its importance	3 tracks
4	Life changes	Think of an experience that changed your life/ How did your life change? / What did you learn? / Was the change good or bad?	It would be unwise to make a change at this time. / People, I'm asking you to please make a change for the better. / In a changing world, we must give our workers the education and skills that they need. / Sometimes we have life-changing choices to make. / I found the job a lot of hard work. / I found I enjoyed it more and more. / My work was still very important to me. / Now I try to put things in balance.	Clear usage: 'before', 'when', 'still', 'as', and 'now' / COBUILD check: 'change' / Vocabulary and phrases related to working hours	Number the pictures in order / True and false exercise / Fill in the gaps / Complete the phrases / Put the phrases in order / Comprehension questions / Find the synonym of the phrases listed	How to answer picture questions / Look at the pictures first / Think of associated vocabulary / Think of how the picture relates to the question asked	3 tracks
5	Your friends	Who are your friends? Do you have a large group of friends? / Do you meet regularly or keep in touch online?	We looked at each other in silence. / Maybe we can see each other later this week. / Old friends always talk to each other like that. / I Skype and Tweet a lot, really. / I try to spend time with my friends. / People come and go in your life but there are always certain people that stay. / I feel very lucky to have such great friends.	Clear usage: social media verbs / COBUILD check: 'each other' / Vocabulary and phrases related to friendship	Tick the correct box / Complete the phrases / Number the phrases in order / Comprehension exercise / Number the information in order / Complete the sentences	Listening for your turn to speak / When a speaker pauses, that can be a signal to speak	3 tracks
6	Your house	Where do you live? Who do you live with? What chores do you do? What do you like about sharing a house?	Using the washing machine ... / Hanging out the washing ... / Doing the dishes-the washing up ... / I like having people around when you just want to hang out. / I think the best way to deal with that is communication. / He was arguing with his wife about money. / We never argue. / Ana's husband does the cooking.	Vocabulary related to housework / Clear usage: 'flat' vs 'apartment' / Clear usage: 'hang out' / COBUILD check: 'argue'	Number the pictures in order / Choose the correct answer / Tick the correct box / Fill in the gaps / Match the words and phrases / True and false questions / Underline the phrases you hear	Answering gap-fill exercises / Read the phrases before you listen / Pause the recording after you hear an answer / Listen again after you have filled in all of the gaps	3 tracks
7	Life in the city	What are the pros and cons of life in the city? / What can you do in a city? / What would be your ideal day?	There's lots of stuff to do. / There's very little green space. / There aren't many parks near where I live. / I'll never forget the noise from the crowd at the end of the game. / I can't hear you. There's too much noise! / I would go to the corner shop to buy my breakfast. / I might go to the museum. / I would listen to music all day if I could.	Clear usage: 'lots of' and 'very little' / COBUILD check: 'noise' / Clear usage: expressing possibility	Choose the correct answer / Fill in the blanks / Comprehension exercise / Tick positive and negative phrases / Tick the correct information / Complete the sentences / Number the pictures / True and false exercises	Listening to people who speak quickly / Try and find just one piece of key information / Listening to a series of events / Note the use of <i>then</i> , <i>next</i> , or <i>later</i> to introduce the next subject	4 tracks
8	Life in the countryside	What does the countryside mean to you? What countryside vocabulary do you know? / Have you ever lived in the countryside?	A 10-year-old should be able to prepare a simple meal. / The company says they're able to keep prices low. / What I like about it is that it's quieter and the air's really clean. / You have the beach, you have a river, you have the countryside ... / You get people that come on holiday. / It's sad that the area is not as quiet as it used to be. / Thinking about it now, I had a wonderful childhood.	COBUILD check: 'be able to' / Clear usage: describing a place / Clear usage: emphasizing a feeling / Clear usage: describing a place with 'you have' or 'you get' / Vocabulary related to things you miss from the past	Number the pictures in order / Tick the correct vocabulary / Find synonyms / Fill the gaps / Match the picture with the vocabulary / True and false exercise / Find the missing word and match with meaning		4 tracks
9	Living in another country	Have you ever lived abroad? What was different? What new experiences did you have? Did the experience change you?	I'm homesick! / I want to give someone a call. / I have jetlag. / I love backpacking! / I'm staying with a host family in the town. / It was very different to what I was used to. / I used to spend all my time reading. / I have lived here for two years, so I'm used to the noise. / I went around the world on my gap year.	Vocabulary and phrases related to being away from home / Clear usage: 'used to' / COBUILD check: 'gap'	Comprehension exercise / Insert the correct number / True and false exercise / Complete the sentence / Choose the correct ending / Complete the missing phrase / Fill in the gaps	Listening for numbers / Think if numbers will be spoken as cardinal or ordinal numbers / Think about words that might be said with a number and listen out for them / False starts allow a speaker to change a word or add a phrase	4 tracks
10	Getting around	Can you ask for directions? / Would you understand the answer? / Can you name common landmarks and buildings?	Go up this road here and then walk for about five minutes. / Keep on going down and then take the first left. / If you head for the tube stop, you'll see signs for the underground. / Where is the closest cinema-movie theatre here? / You're very welcome. / No worries. / No problem.	Clear usage: imperative sentences / Clear usage: 'if' sentences	Correctly label the images / Number the pictures in order / Number the places on the map / Fill in the gaps / Tick the locations mentioned / General comprehension exercise	Polite speech / Many people will reply 'no worries' or 'no problem' when you say thanks / They mean 'I'm pleased to help you'	4 tracks

11	Studying and learning	What-where have you studied previously? / What did you learn? / What advice could you give to others?	They attended college together. / Their children attend private schools. / Most universities offer the MBA as a two-year course. / She learned about History and Economics. / He is studying Music at university. / You should learn probably about six or seven chords. / We should wait a while longer.	COBUILD check: 'attend' / Clear usage: 'study' vs 'learn' / Vocabulary related to playing a musical instrument / Clear usage: 'should' + (verb)	Number the pictures in the correct order / Match the subject with the location / Choose the correct meaning / Fill in the gaps / Complete the table / True or false exercise / Match the phrase with the advice given /	Answering multiple-choice questions / Read all possible answers / Think about how they might sound / Listen carefully before choosing your answer / Listen again to check your answer	3 tracks
12	Starting work	What was your first job? / Did you like it? What skills do employers look for? Is it easy to look for a job?	What qualifications do you have? / Do you have a valid driving licence? / What experience do you have that is relevant for the role? / Are you able to work evenings and weekends? / We're recruiting at the moment. / It's a junior position within the sales team. / Dressing smartly gives a good impression. / I have to get to work before eight. / You'll have to study if you want to pass your exams.	Clear usage: present continuous + 'at the moment' / Clear usage: 'have to' + (verb)	Put the answers in the correct order / Complete the table / Number each question in order / Match the words and phrases with meanings / Tick the qualities mentioned / Circle the correct word / True and false exercise / Fill in the gaps		5 tracks
13	Working from home	Do you work from home? / What are the pros and cons of working from home?	They work from home everyday. / I make furniture because I enjoy it. / I'm going back to work as I need the money. / The book sold well thanks to an excellent translation. / I love my country. It suits me. / It was an arrangement that suits them both. / It's kind of dark in here. / I work from home because I live quite far from the office. / I'm a writer so it's quite easy for me to work from home.	COBUILD check: 'suits' / Vocabulary and phrases for giving reasons and explanations / Clear usage: 'kind of' / Clear usage: 'because' and 'so'	Number the photos in the correct order / Comprehension exercise / Fill in the table / Complete the phrases / Fill in the gaps / True or false exercise		4 tracks
14	Your career	What job do you do? Do you like it? What would you like to do in the future?	Hazel works for a supermarket. / She looks after a team of six people. / She finds her job demanding. / She has worked there for three years. / Could you deal with this customer please? / I'm not sure I can deal with that right now. / I had to deal with customers face to face on a daily basis.	COBUILD check: 'deal with' / Clear usage: 'for' and 'in' / Vocabulary and phrases used for describing jobs	General comprehension / Fill in the gaps / Identify the phrases used / Complete the table with a tick / Fill in the gaps / True and false exercise / Match the words and phrases with their meanings / Choose the correct word to complete the phrase	Matching words with similar meanings / Read all the words and phrases before you listen / Listen to how they are used / Try and use them yourself in a sentence	3 tracks
15	Your future	Where would you most like to live? What is your ideal job? Why would you like to do these things?	Oscar currently works with computers. / He would like to work near the ocean. / He'd like to create things with his hands. / The work would be very physical. / Ideally, I'd like to move away from London. / It would be really nice to work as a blacksmith.	Clear usage: conditional form / COBUILD check: 'ideally' /	General comprehension exercise / Match the words with the correct meaning / Tick the correct statements / Fill in the gaps / True and false exercise / Choose the correct word to complete the phrase / Complete the table with ticks	Matching words to meanings / Listen for each word and phrase / Listen to the whole sentence / Listen to the entire recording to see if the word or phrase is repeated	2 tracks
16	Food	What's your favourite food? / Do you like cooking? / What's your favourite type of food?	My favourite food is roast chicken. / There's a real depth of flavour there. / It will take approximately 30 minutes to cook. / I should be more or less finished by 5pm. / He reminds me of myself. / If there are words to go with that piece of music... /	COBUILD check: 'reminds me' / Clear usage: 'about', 'around' and '... Or so' / Vocabulary and phrases related to food measurements / COBUILD check: 'goes with' / Adjectives for describing tastes	Name the food or meal / Tick the ingredients mentioned / Fill in the gaps / True and false exercise / Complete the gaps	Intonation in lists / A speaker's intonation usually rises with each item on a list and falls on the last item	3 tracks
17	Games and sports	What games and sports do you like? / Why do you like them? / Do you prefer playing or watching?	The sport I most enjoy is running. / Golf is my first love. / I really love football. / Hazel plays hockey. / She likes playing in a team. / She prefers outdoor sports. / Tim's favourite sport is rugby. / The sport can be played by every kind of player. / People change their mind for a variety of reasons.	Clear usage: 'soccer' vs 'football' / Vocabulary for physical descriptions / COBUILD check: variety	Number the pictures in the correct order / Fill in the table with ticks / general comprehension / Fill in the gaps / Complete the table with a tick	Focus on the question / People often give extra information / Stay focused on the important information	3 tracks
18	Music and films	What kind of music and films do you like? / Do you like mainstream music or films? Or something more unusual?	I really like mainstream movies because they're really escapist. / I can't stand big blockbuster films. / There's too much action and it's so predictable. / I'm listening to a lot of swing music. / I like some of it but not the really hardcore stuff. / My boyfriend's really into jazz.	Clear usage: 'lose' / Using 'movie' or 'film' / Using 'underground' to describe music and films	Number the pictures in the correct order / Choose and insert the correct answer / True or false exercise / Match the phrase with its meaning / Insert the types of music mentioned / General comprehension questions / Put a tick in the correct column		3 tracks
19	Travel and tourism	Where did you go on your last trip? / Where would you like to go next? / How do you like to travel?	You have to buy a ticket before you get on the train. / You can take a taxi from the airport. / Argentina is a beautiful country. / It is expensive to fly. / Bus journeys can be very long. / There're mountains in the south. / The hotel offers guided sightseeing tours. / I also quite like having weekends away to interesting places.	Clear usage: 'have to' and 'can' / Clear usage: 'there's' vs 'there're' / COBUILD check: sightseeing / Useful vocabulary: ways to travel	Number the pictures in the correct order / Underline the names you hear / True and false exercise / Match the words with their meanings / General comprehension exercise / Fill in the gaps / Fill in the table with a tick	Repetition for emphasis / Repeating an expression places extra importance on that idea / But don't overuse this technique / I may seem like you have a limited lexicon	3 tracks
20	Shopping	What do you like to buy? Do you prefer to shop in the high street or online?	I buy most of my clothes online. / You can order tickets online. / I like shopping for books online. / I don't have time to go to the supermarket so I buy all of my groceries online. / I prefer to shop for books in the high street. / Make sure that you try on the shoes to see if they fit.	COBUILD check: online / Clear usage: 'shop for' / Useful vocabulary: clothes shopping / Clear usage: 'try on'	Number the pictures in the correct order / Fill in the gaps / Choose the correct answer / Fill in the gaps / Put a tick in the correct column	Understanding conversations / Listen out for key words / use the information in the exercises to help you	3 tracks