

## English for Life: Listening (B2)

Unit	Topic	Accents	Key phrases	Language	Listening tips	Listening exercises	Audio
1	Everyday travel	English / Indian	Quite often you will get bus drivers who act aggressively to cyclists. / We pay for the road, you don't. / We're all paying, it's not just the car driver who pays. / I didn't want to commute 60 miles a day. / Cycle lanes improve safety for cyclists. / She took the underground to Earl's Court. / Japan has a fast, efficient public transport system.	Clear usage: emphasizing a point / COBUILD check: everyday travel / Clear usage: expressing a point tentatively		Comprehension questions / Choose the correct meaning / Complete the gaps / Match the definition to the phrase / Complete the table with the missing adjective /	2 tracks
2	Living with animals	English / Saudi Arabian	I went to America for a month. / The longest I've been away is two weeks. / He had lost two stone in weight. / You're not sulking about that job interview, are you? / Anna had been moody and unapproachable for the past week. / Be aware that some people ... / Make sure that ... / Don't be afraid to ... / If people want to keep exotic pets, they should get some advice about looking after them. She walks the dog for at least an hour every day.	Useful vocabulary and phrases: horses and ponies / Clear usage: using a range of past and perfect tenses / COBUILD check: moods and being moody / Clear usage: offering constructive advice / COBUILD check: pets		Comprehension questions / Tick the phrases you hear / Fill in the gaps / Tick the correct answers / Match the idiom with the meaning	2 tracks
3	Diet	Scottish / English	I turned to vegetarianism about nine years ago for moral reasons. / Many people have to follow special diets for medical reasons. / 15 years ago he converted to veganism. / We can eat cheaply if we eat plenty of vegetables. / He walked slowly. / The cheese had an odd, wet, crumbly texture. / I found the chickpea dip too grainy and bland. / If you have a brown bread sandwich, then you're going to be getting fibre.	COBUILD check: vegetarianism / Useful vocabulary and phrases: food and lifestyles / Clear usage: adjectives and adverbs / COBUILD check: taste and texture / Clear usage: 'if' clauses relating to possible future change	Explain unfamiliar terms to the listener / Translate technical terms into everyday language	Tick the correct statement / Match the adjectives with their opposites / True or false exercises / Write down interjections / Fill in the gaps	3 tracks
4	Eating habits	Turkish / French	All of the family should be together. / If they finish early, no one leaves the table. / Please help yourselves to salad. / Sorry, I'm not used to eating with a knife and fork. / Let me serve you some more rice. / I can't really say whether I agree or disagree. / I guess it depends on what you mean. / The restaurant offers traditional English and Welsh dishes. / They have set meals - 9 a.m. and noon.	Clear usage: expressing strong opinions / Useful vocabulary and phrases: table manners / Clear usage: hedging / COBUILD check: meals and dishes		Number the photos in order / True or false exercises / Match the word with its definition / Comprehension questions / Complete the gaps / Rewrite sentences in 'standard' English	2 tracks
5	Making arrangements and changes	Irish / English	I've actually just returned from Mexico. / I would say that would be the best way to do it. / How do you relax after training? / She loves the peace and quiet of the island. / Kate and Alistair had a hectic Christmas. / Let me give you that booking reference. / I'll just recap everything for you. / We will need your credit card number and its expiry date. / You should never disclose your PIN number to anyone. / I wanted to check the dates. / I was wondering if you could help.	Clear usage: establishing empathy / COBUILD check: peaceful or hectic / Useful vocabulary and phrases: language of confirmation / COBUILD check: credit card language / Clear usage: asking polite questions using past forms	Note that native speakers sometimes miss out words that you would expect to hear	True and false questions / Tick the phrase / Complete the table / Complete the phrases / Put the words in the correct column	1 track
6	Technical help	Scottish / English	If you bring it back next week, I'll give you your new phone. / If you fail to bring it back, we charge you. / If I pay for the phone today, will you give me a discount? / Sorry, I didn't understand that. / Sorry, I didn't catch that. / How does a warranty differ from a guarantee? / Did you get the car fixed? / So give us a minute ... / Happy to go with that? / Can you repeat that? / A green light should be showing.	Useful vocabulary and phrases: Internet and broadband / Clear usage: non-standard grammar forms / COBUILD check: repair / Clear usage: first and zero conditional forms	Use terms such as 'okay', 'Yeah' and 'That's great' to indicate that you understand / When you don't understand ask appropriate questions	Listening comprehension exercise / Complete the gaps / Tick the statements you hear / Write down key information	2 tracks
7	Voicemails	American / Irish / English / Slovakian / Sri Lankan / American	I just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed the party. / I wanted to mention that I'll be in Prague next weekend. / I was wondering if you could let me borrow your car this week? / Hi Elle, John here. I hope you're well. / I'm just calling because ... / Sorry I couldn't talk earlier. / Can you call me back when you get this? / I just got your message. / Sorry we got cut off. / I'm free now - can you call me back?	Clear usage: I just wanted to ask ... / Useful vocabulary and phrases: starting a voicemail / Useful vocabulary and phrases: returning voicemail messages		Number the voicemails correctly / Complete the gaps / Comprehension questions / Shorten the sentences / Comprehension questions / Match the sentences	8 tracks
8	Registration and induction	Polish / English / Kenyan / British-Asian	You can just give Carl a buzz. / If you need your documents to be bound ... / The post room can be contacted ... / Do you mind awfully? / If you could complete that form for me, please. / Okay, if you'd like to pop that on there. / There we go ...	Useful vocabulary and phrases: workplace inductions / Clear usage: passive forms / Useful vocabulary and phrases: registering at a health centre / Clear usage: colloquial expressions / COBUILD check: register / Informal English		Comprehension questions and exercises / True or false exercise / Match the verbs to the word and phrase / Complete the gaps	3 tracks
9	Getting along	English / Scottish	This is my home. I won't tolerate such rudeness. / His grovelling manner was intolerable at times. / He had been washing up my dishes. / He had been putting up with all of the noise that I made. / He would be very upset if I damaged his car. / No one would believe it if I started piano lessons. / You're sure he actually wrote it? / Oh really? / And so what about you and Andy?	COBUILD check: tolerate / Clear usage: past perfect continuous / Clear usage: speculation	Interacting sympathetically / Note the phrases used to make the conversation flow and the speakers respond sympathetically	Circle the correct word / Number the phrases in order / Match the verbs with the correct words / Complete the table / General comprehension questions / Fill in the gaps /	2 tracks
10	Cultural observations	German / American / Saudi Arabian	Companies are losing international business because they lack language skills and cultural awareness. / The US has become more of a multicultural society than ever before. / It would have been difficult. / You might have called me. / I don't think we could have done things differently. / In many cases ... / You would normally see ... / As you can imagine ... / He was always dirty and badly dressed. / He had a wicked sense of humour and great dress sense. / She may be asked to change her clothes. / We must be made aware of the laws.	COBUILD check: shared culture and cultural differences / Clear usage: modal verbs referring to the past / Clear usage: expressing tentative opinions / COBUILD check: dress code / Clear usage: modals with infinitive form		True or false exercises / Tick the correct statements / Identify synonyms / Complete the sentences / Rewrite sentences in standard English / Rewrite sentences in the passive	3 tracks
11	Social media	English / Austrian	If you were someone with loads of followers, you would have to ... / When do you check your phone then? / When I have nothing else to do. / Do not post rude or abusive messages! / His posts are entertaining and informative. / It's just really boring, mundane stuff. / I mean, who wants to know all that? / Is your phone not always buzzing?	Clear usage: non-standard use of conditionals / COBUILD check: social media / Clear usage: disapproval /	Be aware that many speakers don't finish their sentences	Complete the sentences / Tick the correct box / Complete the grid / Match the phrases with the definitions / Comprehension questions / Fill the gaps	3 tracks
12	Attitudes to work	English / Austrian	He worked long hours at a stressful job and rarely exercised. / I was in a mentally demanding job doing computer programming. / We'd generally go out and party until 3 a.m. / I would try and be home by 6 p.m. / Avoiding the daily commute would greatly enhance the quality of people's lives. / He does a ten-hour shift four days per week.	COBUILD check: work pressures / Clear usage: 'would' to express habits in the past / COBUILD check: work routines	Non-standard use of present tenses / The continuous form of the present is sometimes used in place of the simple present	True or false exercises / Tick the box / Complete the grid / Complete the sentences / Comprehension questions /	2 tracks

13	Charities	Spanish / English	Profits from the sale of these prints will go to his favourite charity. / He regularly donates large sums of money to local charities. / Paul never charges clients but asks them to make a donation to charity instead. / This donation is understood to be the last charitable act by the trust, which is soon to be dismantled. / Worthwhile charities ... / A limited income. / Sob stories ... / Glamorous charities ...	COBUILD check: giving to charity / Useful vocabulary and phrases: charities /	Understanding variations in vowel sounds amongst native and non-native speakers	General comprehension questions / Complete the sentences / Match the phrases with their synonyms / True or false exercises / Match the phrase to the speaker /	2 tracks
14	Collecting	English / French / American	The jewellery is incredibly glamorous and very collectible. / Over the years, Harold amassed a considerable collection of paintings. / My son is obsessed with money - by how much things cost and how rich people are. / I could see that he was so obsessive about his work. / I started off relatively simply. / I didn't intend it to be a collection.	COBUILD check: collect and collection / COBUILD check: obsession / Clear usage: developing a narrative		Underline the items mentioned / Complete the gaps / Complete the grid / Tick the correct statement / Identify standard and colloquial English / General comprehension questions /	3 tracks
15	Music	Chinese / Indian	The music ranges from rock to classical. / She liked clothes, dancing, pop music, and sports. / He introduced mainstream country music to a lot of music fans. / I haven't listened to that since I was ten years old. / The last time I listened to it was ten years ago. / He's like to get introduced to to some music producers. / Did you get invited to the party? / The Irish music festival, now in its fourth year, will have three stages and feature several new bands.	COBUILD check: music genres / Clear usage: use of 'since' and 'ago' / Clear usage: use of 'get' instead of 'be' in passive sentences / COBUILD check: the music industry	Accents and non-standard English / Familiarize yourself with the different accent and language of non-native English speakers	True or false exercises / Fill the gaps / Complete the table / Tick the correct statement / Find the synonyms and complete the sentences	2 tracks
16	Environment	English / Korean	It is used in fishing nets. / They use it in fishing nets. / A conservation charity. / A really exciting initiative ... / Today, world marine life is under threat from pollution. / Carbon dioxide emissions, mainly from burning fossil fuels, are thought to be a principle cause of global warming. / All of the packaging is made from recyclable materials. / Companies have adopted waste disposal methods which reduce pollution levels. / If we keep making this kind of effort, maybe the environment can get better. / You need to separate your waste; otherwise the refuse collectors will not take it.	Clear usage: passive and active simple-present forms / Useful vocabulary and phrases: Net-Works / COBUILD CHECK: protecting the environment / COBUILD CHECK: recycling and waste / Clear usage: consequences of action and inaction		Comprehension questions / Complete the gaps / Match the sentence halves / Number the phrases	2 tracks
17	Weddings	Indian / Scottish	The cost of the average British wedding has exceeded £10,000. / They could not afford a holiday that year. / The traditional tavernas offer much better value for money. / A lot of money is being wasted. / Very expensive gifts are being exchanged. / Bride and groom. / Best man and the maid of honour. / We're having the wedding in Scotland. / We're not having one of those. / He is going to wear a kilt.	COBUILD CHECK: spending money / Clear usage: present continuous passive / Useful vocabulary and phrases: weddings / Clear usage: describing future events		Comprehension questions / Fill the gaps / Complete the sentences / Find standard equivalent phrases	2 tracks
18	Rising to a challenge	American / English	She has no idea why she finds flying so terrifying. / She could clear a dance floor with her hysterical 'River Dance' impersonation. / He has become crippled by fear as a result of one alarming experience. / We wish we knew that from the beginning. / Wish I could afford to go to the Seychelles on holiday. / So it was sort of like, "this is the trail, this is where you go ..." / They didn't tell us to watch out for the animals. / She seized the opportunity to work at the festival.	COBUILD CHECK: hilarious or terrifying? / Clear usage: wish / Clear usage: avoiding reported speech	Many UK speakers drop 't's and pronounce 't's as if they are 'w's at the end of words / This is common particularly in the south of England	General comprehension questions / Match the phrases / Complete the phrases / Find the colloquial phrases / Find meanings of phrases	2 tracks
19	Holiday destinations	English / Japanese	That can't have been a good experience. / That must have been very disappointing. / I wouldn't recommend going in August - it is very hot then. / The best time to go would be during the Obon festival. / It was cooler than the day before. / August is usually hot and muggy, with 95% humidity. / It was a boiling hot day but the windows were shut.	Useful vocabulary and phrases: Australia / Clear usage: making recommendations / COBUILD CHECK: describing the weather	Using so-called 'modals of deduction' is an excellent way of demonstrating empathy	Tick the phrases / Complete the gaps / Comprehension questions / Rewrite the non-standard sentences	2 tracks
20	Life-changing events	English	It would have been used if the weather had turned bad. / It could have been used. / We would have used it if the weather had turned bad. / The following year he was admitted to hospital suffering from inflammation of the large intestine. / The operation can usually be performed as a day case, or at the most needs an overnight stay.	Clear usage: talking about past possibilities / COBUILD CHECK: in hospital	Focus on how contracted forms are used in standard spoken English / These shortened forms are often the cause of difficulties	Comprehension questions / Fill the gaps / Match the words and phrases / Summarize what Rachael says	3 tracks