

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

PART 1: CONVERSATIONS

SHORT CONVERSATIONS

Conversation 35

M: Do you and your husband like baseball?

W: Yes, but why do you ask?

M: My neighbor gave me two tickets for the game tomorrow, and I don't want to waste them.

W: Why can't you go?

M: I have to work tomorrow.

35. Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The man and the woman live in the same neighborhood.
- b) The woman thinks that the man's neighbor is generous.
- c) The man is looking for somebody who will go to the baseball game with him.
- d) The woman is wondering why the man won't go to the baseball game.

Conversation 36

M: Do you know a good place to exchange my American dollars into Japanese yen? I am planning a trip to Japan over the summer.

W: How about exchanging it at the airport? That's what I usually do.

M: I heard the exchange fees are rather high, so I want to try somewhere else.

W: Oh, in that case you may want to try a bank.

36. Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The woman gave advice to the man.
- b) The woman is planning a trip overseas.
- c) The man usually exchanges money at a bank.
- d) The man exchanged money at the airport.

Conversation 37

M: Have you ever read *The Old Man and the Sea*?

W: What's that?

M: It's a novel by Ernest Hemingway.

W: I've never heard of that novel or the author.

M: Really? It's a classic book that was published in 1952.

37. What are the speakers talking about?

- a) A writer they both like
- b) A classic novel from the 1950s
- c) A science book about the ocean
- d) An old man who likes swimming

Conversation 38

M: I'm so tired. Let's go get a snack.

W: I know this is unusual, but can we get some chopped vegetables?

M: Vegetables? Really? Why do you want those?

W: I like the crunch of fresh carrots, cucumbers, and celery.

M: I guess that's smart. I wanted to suggest chocolate or candy.

38. Which one of the statements is correct about the man?

- a) He hates eating vegetables.
- b) He wanted to eat sweets.
- c) He loves to eat healthy food.
- d) He is not hungry right now.

Conversation 39

W: How do you keep up with the class? You always look so confident in class.

M: I don't know if I'm preparing well enough, but I do spend time reviewing what I learned.

W: I thought previewing what to learn next was more important than reviewing.

M: Well, both should be important, but to me reviewing is more fun.

39. Which one of the statements is correct about the man?

- a) He enjoys reviewing what he has learned in class.
- b) He thinks previewing is more important than reviewing.
- c) He knows that the woman is doing well in class.
- d) He wants to know how to preview class materials.

Conversation 40

M: I heard you'll be staying in New Zealand next summer. Are you going to do a home-stay or stay at a school dormitory?

W: I'm going to stay at the home of a family with three children. They are all girls, aged three, five, and nine.

M: Then, why don't you take *origami* paper to show them how to make something with it? The children would love it.

W: That is a good idea, but I will have to practice because I don't remember how to do it myself.

40. Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The man will take *origami* paper to New Zealand.
- b) The woman is good at doing *origami*.
- c) The man gave a suggestion to the woman.
- d) The woman asked the man for advice.

Conversation 41

M: Can I buy this book? It's from my favorite science fiction horror series.

W: Didn't you already buy two books the other day? You haven't even started reading them.

M: Well, I plan on starting one of those books this weekend.

W: I think you should finish both of them first, before getting a new one.

41. Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The woman enjoys reading science fiction horror books.
- b) The man will finish reading both of his books this weekend.
- c) The man has already started reading the two books that he bought.
- d) The woman doesn't think the man should buy a new book now.

Conversation 42

W: It took me such a long time to finish writing this report. I only slept a few hours last night.

M: What do you mean? The report is due next week, right?

W: Didn't you know that there was a mistake in the post on the class website? Professor Williams announced in class last week that the correct due date is today.

M: Oh, no! I guess I was not paying attention when he said that.

42. Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The woman couldn't complete her report.
- b) The woman noticed a mistake in her report.
- c) The man was absent from class last week.
- d) The man missed an announcement in class.

Conversation 43

M: My arms really hurt from working out.

W: Yeah, I have noticed that your arms are much more muscular now.

M: I watched a training show on TV, and it motivated me to go to the gym.

W: I've been wanting to work out more as well. Can I join you next time you go there?

43. Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The woman had pain in her arms from working out at the gym.
- b) The woman noticed the man's legs are more muscular.
- c) The man started working out after watching a TV program.
- d) The man asked the woman to work out together at the gym.

Conversation 44

M: Can you hide Mom's birthday gift really quick? It's in the car.

W: Great! What did you end up getting her? I hope it was that cute skirt we saw yesterday.

M: Actually, I ended up getting her a new vacuum cleaner, since the old one doesn't work very well.

W: Are you serious? Do you really think she wants to get a cleaning tool on her special day?

44. Which one of the statements is correct about the woman?

- a) She hoped the man bought a shirt for their mom's birthday.
- b) She didn't remember when her mom's birthday was.
- c) She asked the man to hide their mom's birthday gift.
- d) She didn't think a vacuum cleaner was a good gift for their mom.

Conversation 45

M: How was your first Linguistics class?

W: The teacher sounded strict, but the course is very interesting.

M: I took the same course last year. The final exam was quite difficult, but I managed to pass.

W: That's good to know. I guess I'll have to study very hard though.

45. Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The woman is taking a Linguistics class with the man.
- b) The woman thinks the man should study harder.
- c) The man didn't like the teacher of Linguistics.
- d) The man was able to pass the final exam in Linguistics.

Conversation 46

W: Have you tried the new cafeteria on campus that just opened last week?

M: Oh, yeah, I went there twice already. But I may not want to go back there for another couple of months.

W: Why not? You don't like the dishes they serve?

M: The variety of food is OK. It's just that the place is packed with people. I had to wait in a long line.

46. Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The man will go to the new cafeteria next week.
- b) The woman likes the dishes at the cafeteria.
- c) The man thinks that the cafeteria is crowded.
- d) The woman wants to go to the new cafeteria alone.

Conversation 47

M: Why can't I find any public places to throw away my trash in Tokyo?

W: I think it's because people here are expected to take care of their own garbage.

M: Well, back in New York City, where I'm originally from, you can find public trash cans pretty much everywhere.

W: Really? It would be great not having to carry our own trash, because right now my pockets are full of garbage.

47. Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The woman is originally from New York City.
- b) The woman is carrying a lot of trash now.
- c) The man thinks New York City needs more trash cans.
- d) The man wants people to take care of their own trash.

Conversation 48

W: Dad, could you help me out with my class project tomorrow?

M: Sure. I'll be in the office in the morning, but once I'm finished, I need to go to the supermarket, then go to Granma's house. I'll be home at about 4 in the afternoon.

W: Great! Thanks, Dad. I'm going to bed. Good night!

M: Good night.

48. Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The woman will go out with the man tomorrow.
- b) The man will be at work in the afternoon.
- c) The woman will go shopping at the supermarket tomorrow.
- d) The man is going to help the woman with her schoolwork.

Conversation 49

M: I just realized that my passport will expire in three days.

W: Oh no. Our trip to Korea is next month.

M: Don't worry. It won't take a long time to get it renewed.

W: Let's check on the Internet.

49. Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The man has to renew his passport.
- b) The woman thinks the trip should be canceled.
- c) The man's passport has already expired.
- d) The woman will get local information about Korea on the Internet.

Conversation 50

M: Why don't we study together for the Spanish test we're having next week?

W: Sure. I have time after class today. Maybe we can use a group study room in the library.

M: That sounds good. Do we need to make a reservation?

W: Well, I don't think it's necessary. The group study rooms are usually not being used on Friday afternoons.

50. Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The man did not do well on his Spanish examination.
- b) The school library is going to be closed next week.
- c) The man asked the woman to reserve a group study room.
- d) Group study rooms are likely to be available on Friday afternoons.

LONG CONVERSATIONS

Long Conversation 1

M: Did you see the flowers in our garden?
W: Are you talking about the tulips that bloomed yesterday?
M: Yes. They're beautiful. I'm surprised they're so colorful.
W: Wait until you see the lilies.
M: The lilies? I thought that lilies are white.
W: Not all lilies are white. I planted some colored ones.
M: Have they already bloomed, too?
W: Not yet. Probably next month, around the middle of May.
M: As the saying goes, "April showers bring May flowers."

51. According to the conversation, which one of the statements is correct about the speakers?

- a) They are preparing for the rain in May.
- b) They are looking at photos of plants.
- c) They are talking about their garden.
- d) They are making a flower arrangement.

52. According to the conversation, when did the tulips bloom?

- a) In March
- b) In April
- c) In May
- d) In June

Long Conversation 2

W: Where did you get that suit?
M: Actually, it's tailor made.
W: Really. It fits you just right!
M: Thanks. In Hong Kong there are many local tailors who make clothes to fit different people.
W: Didn't you buy the suit in a department store?
M: No, I didn't. When I was in Hong Kong, I went to a tailor who measured my height and measured my waist too. After that, she created a suit using cloth that I chose myself.
W: I see. So, how long did it actually take her?
M: Only eight hours. And, it was really cheap, too!

53. Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The woman traveled to Hong Kong.
- b) The man is a tailor.
- c) The woman wants to buy a suit.
- d) The man's suit was inexpensive.

54. Which one of the statements is correct about the woman?

- a) She likes how the man's suit fits him.
- b) She works in Hong Kong as a local tailor.
- c) She promised to buy the man a suit.
- d) She went shopping in Hong Kong in the morning.

Long Conversation 3

M: I want to visit beautiful places in Japan during the summer break. Do you have any suggestions?

W: There are so many. Why don't you search for them on the Internet?

M: I did, and I can't decide, so I want to get recommendations from my really close friends.

W: OK, one place I love is Engetsu Island. That's the nickname for Takashima.

M: Where is that?

W: It's off the coast of Shirahama in Wakayama Prefecture.

M: Is it famous? I've never heard of it.

W: Yes. The Japanese government considers it to be a National Place of Scenic Beauty. I'm surprised you didn't know about it.

55. What are the man and the woman talking about?

- a) The best places to go by ship
- b) The man's travel plans
- c) The woman's favorite photos
- d) The beautiful national parks in Japan

56. According to the conversation, which one of the statements is correct about the man and the woman?

- a) They will take a school trip.
- b) They have been to an island.
- c) They know each other well.
- d) They love to swim in the sea.

Long Conversation 4

M: Do you think that you get enough sleep these days?

W: I'm not sure. Why?

M: I've been trying to improve my sleeping habits. Before, I used to stay up too late. Now, I go to bed at ten o'clock every night.

W: I know what you mean. I usually don't go to bed until midnight. But even though I go to bed, I spend at least an hour reading or checking social media before I fall asleep.

M: How many hours of sleep do you usually get?

W: Actually, it depends. If I stay up too late, I only get four to six hours of sleep.

M: Ever since I changed my habits, I get closer to eight hours of sleep.

W: That sounds good. Maybe I need to get to bed earlier too.

57. Which one of the statements is correct about the woman?

- a) She doesn't like social media.
- b) She usually goes to bed at midnight.
- c) She doesn't like to read at night.
- d) She likes to go to sleep very early.

58. Which one of the statements is correct?

- a) The man has changed his sleeping habits.
- b) The man is asking the woman for advice.
- c) The man told the woman not to use social media.
- d) The woman doesn't check social media before sleeping.

PART 2: MONOLOGUES

Monologue 1

Most people use ballpoint pens these days, but some still prefer to use fountain pens. Fountain pens have tips that let you create lines with different widths depending on the pressure, speed, and the direction of the lines you write. You normally refill the pens using ink cartridges, which means you can change the color of the ink as much as you like. However, using a fountain pen requires a different technique than using ballpoint pens.

First you must hold the pen properly. It should rest comfortably in your hand. This prevents your hand from getting tired as you write. Next, you must place the tip of the pen on the paper in the proper way. Usually, it is best if you hold the pen at a 45-degree angle. Then you should write using only gentle pressure. Don't press too hard against the paper or you might damage the tip of the pen.

59. What is this monologue mainly about?

- a) The best way to properly use fountain pens
- b) The way to write beautifully with a ballpoint pen
- c) The reason why fountain pens are the best pens to use
- d) The difference between ballpoint pens and fountain pens

60. How can you create different types of lines with a fountain pen?

- a) By holding the pen at a 45-degree angle when writing
- b) By changing the type of ink cartridge you use in the pen
- c) By pressing very hard against the paper when you write
- d) By changing the pressure, speed, and direction you use to write

Monologue 2

A new research study revealed that most elementary schools in America are not giving students enough time to eat the food in their lunch boxes. Researchers have found that children need at least 15 minutes to finish their lunch, but most primary schools only give students 10 minutes before usually letting them play outside. With less time to eat, students are more likely to finish the less healthy food in their lunch boxes first, such as the desserts. This means that the healthier food is eaten last, and many times not even touched at all. A good diet is an important part of a child's ability to focus. Teachers argue that parents should pack only healthy food in their children's lunch boxes, instead of asking the teacher to extend the lunch period. On the other hand, parents think it is the teachers' responsibility to make sure their children have enough time to finish their whole lunch.

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

- a) Parents want teachers to check if their children's lunches are healthy.
- b) Teachers think that parents should pack more delicious food for their children.
- c) Students often cannot finish eating their lunch boxes at school.
- d) Students usually have another class right after they finish eating lunch.

62. According to the monologue, at least how many minutes should elementary school students have for lunch?

- a) 10
- b) 15
- c) 25
- d) 50

(Source) "Ten minutes to munch lunch not enough time to feed young minds"
by Emily Dann and Susie O'Brien, KIDSNEWS. May 3, 2022.
<https://www.kidsnews.com.au/health/ten-minutes-to-munch-lunch-not-enough-time-to-feed-young-minds/news-story/7e0a218f088f970d81ac68af85ba67b6>
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Monologue 3

Hundreds of birds fly in a sunny blue sky. The only sounds are bird calls and the soft noise made by tall grass as the water slowly moves them. Hidden in the tall grass, dark green alligators move at the edge of the water.

This is a description of the Everglades, a low, watery, partly coastal area in southern Florida that covers ten thousand square kilometers. The area is filled with a kind of grass called sawgrass that grows in sharp, thin pieces that are one to three meters tall. That's why the Everglades is sometimes called "river of grass."

The area also contains forests of palm trees and pine trees. Beautiful plants and sweet-smelling flowers grow in the Everglades, especially many kinds of orchids. Animal species are plentiful, including colorful birds and butterflies as well as snakes, foxes, frogs and even big cats, called Florida panthers. But probably the most well-known animals in the Everglades are alligators and crocodiles. No other place in the world is home to both.

63. What is this monologue mainly about?

- a) Big cats called Florida panthers
- b) A natural area in southern Florida
- c) The tall, sharp grass called sawgrass
- d) Making a home for animals and plants

64. According to the monologue, what is NOT true about the Everglades?

- a) It is called "river of alligators."
- b) It has forests of palm trees and pine trees.
- c) It is famous for both alligators and crocodiles.
- d) It has many kinds of flowers, especially orchids.

Adapted from voanews.com

"Visiting Seven of America's Natural Wonders" by Caty Weaver, VOA LEARNING ENGLISH, November 18, 2008.

<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/a-23-2008-11-18-voa1-83137772/128733.html>

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