

GA LEVEL 2 (C1) CERTIFICATE IN ESOL INTERNATIONAL LISTENING RECORDING TRANSCRIPTS: Version – Sample 1

Listening Task 1:

SPEAKER	MALE / FEMALE	ACCENT
Dave Trainor (Radio Interviewer)	Male	None
Dr Pauline Jones (Snake Expert)	Female	None

Dave Trainor: Today on Radio Newtown Gold we're speaking to local naturalist Dr Pauline Jones about the amphibians and reptiles that can be found in the UK and other European countries. Hello and welcome... Dr Jones, what's the aim of your visit today then?

Dr. Pauline Jones: Well, David, I want to dispel a few myths about amphibians and reptiles; snakes in particular, as people have all sorts of misconceptions about them.

DT: Like what? I think it's fairly clear what snakes are like: large, slimy, cold-blooded killers!

Dr. PJ: Well, not exactly Dave. In fact, not at all! All reptiles are ectothermic, that is to say they can't generate their heat internally. Perhaps this is why some people refer to them as "cold-blooded"... but they aren't 'slimy' or 'killers' in the sense that you think.

DT: That sounds complicated. So how do they generate heat then? Is it from killing and eating lots of high calorie food?

Dr. PJ: Well, they rely on the external environment for heat. They don't need to eat very often, so you rarely spot them out and about.

DT: So... tell us about British snakes... Are they bigger or smaller than elsewhere? Do we get some big ones? Over 2 metres, say? The ones I've seen are massive!

Dr. PJ: I think that was only in the zoo... or in your imagination. The largest we have in the UK is the grass snake, which is about a metre long. They're dark olive in colour, giving them some camouflage. It's sometimes called the ringed snake or occasionally the water snake, because it lives near rivers... it feeds almost exclusively on small amphibians, so that's where you'll find it. It's non-venomous. It lays up to 100 eggs, which hatch between August and September. These are brooded in rotting vegetation to create a warm environment. Also grass snakes hibernate from October to March, so again this causes them to disappear from the landscape for a while. Then, there's also the non-venomous smooth snake, which... is a close relative but lives only in the south.

DT: Really? Never heard of that one. Is it a monster sized one?

Dr. PJ: Not really, no... both sexes grow to an average length of about 60 to 75 cm. Two specimens measuring 83 cm have been recorded in Sweden, as well as one in Poland that was 92 cm. It feeds on smaller animals, especially reptiles and amphibians.

DT: In Sweden? So it can cope with the cold then?!

Dr. PJ: Yes, but so can other snakes... in fact, the adder is exceptionally tolerant of cold climates and is the holder of the title of most northerly snake. They hibernate, but exactly when varies with the location. Adders also have the most highly developed venom-injecting mechanism of all snakes.

DT: And... I think I remember this about adders... they don't lay eggs, like most reptiles, do they?

Dr. PJ: That's right, Dave. They give birth to live young, usually around August, often having as many as 12 babies at once!

DT: Interesting! Are there any other snakes? I need to know more as I'm beginning to change my mind about snakes. I think I just believed all the stereotypes. So, any more 'cold-blooded monsters' to tell us about?

Dr. PJ: Well, slow worms are... similar to... but not strictly a snake. They're actually a type of lizard. They have ear openings, which snakes don't have. They also have eyelids, which snakes don't possess. So slow worms blink and snakes don't. Adult slow worms grow to be about half a metre long, and are known to be exceptionally long lived; the slow worm may be the longest-living lizard, living about 30 years in the wild... and one in Denmark lived in captivity for 54 years.

DT: They sound fascinating rather than repulsive. Some excellent information for us all to remember. So, what other animals are good to look out for?

Listening Task 2:

SPEAKER	MALE / FEMALE	ACCENT
Presenter	Female	Standard English

Good morning everyone and welcome. Today I'm going to be talking to you all about how to give a good speech (*laughter*). Most of us will need to make a speech, or a presentation, at some point in our lives, and your most important aim is to get the attention of your audience... make them interested in what you've got to say. Your challenge is not only to engage the audience, but to help them understand, remember, and act on the information or ideas you share.

One of the most powerful things you can do is to show your own commitment and enthusiasm for the topic - this will get your audience's attention. But audience attention and interest naturally drops during a presentation. It's greatest at the beginning and end of a presentation in fact... Your challenge is to continue to engage and re-engage attention and interest throughout. Today, I'm going to share a few tips on how to achieve that.

Firstly, people learn through repetition, so do repeat key points throughout your presentation. However, a skilful presenter looks for creative ways to revisit the same point - simply saying the same thing over and over again can be frustrating for audience members.

The second thing that will help is to use descriptions of first-hand experience. This makes you more credible to the audience, and also proves your knowledge of the subject. So do include examples from your own life whenever you can to support the points you're making.

Now, here's an interesting fact for you: did you know that your audience will remember less than 30 percent of the sentences they hear during your presentation? But they will remember more than 85 percent of the questions you ask. By asking questions, you deepen audience understanding. The best questions are ones that get your audience thinking, shock them to attention or... get their agreement.

Rhetorical questions, unlike direct question, are questions you don't expect anyone to answer, and these work as well as questions that require a response. By asking questions you simply turn your listeners' brains from passive to active, which of course encourages engagement in what you're saying.

Using stories is also a great trick. It'll help you get your point across in less time and also help your audience remember it for longer. Stories are so effective that people will sometimes remember them forever... and this is because they engage people's feelings and emotions as well as their brains. Stories are effective because everyone has their own story and can imagine themselves being part of the story they are hearing.

Be careful with numbers and statistics though - they can lose your audience quicker than anything else. But by handling them carefully you can not only prove your point, but also

surprise your audience. Present only the numbers and statistics that are necessary to make your point, or ones that people will find surprising – it'll help to engage their attention. Where possible, round to the nearest whole number. If you decide to use graphs and charts, they should be kept simple.

My next piece of advice is about humour. Humour can be one of the most effective attention-getting techniques when used naturally and appropriately. It keeps the audience alert and awake. Laughter triggers the release of adrenaline and increases our ability to remember things in the long term. Humour also makes audiences more relaxed, responsive and creative.

And finally a few words about handouts. They are a tool to provide your audience with complex or additional information to support your talk. In some instances, you may choose to distribute your handout before you present, if you want your audience to be able to take notes on the handout as you go through your slides. But the benefit in allowing note taking on the handouts is usually outweighed by loss of your audience's attention. So, in most cases, you're better off keeping hold of the handouts until you've finished presenting.

Listening Task 3:

SPEAKER	MALE / FEMALE	ACCENT
Speaker 1	Male	Standard English
Speaker 2	Female	Standard English
Speaker 3	Male	Standard English
Speaker 4	Female	Standard English

Speaker 1:

Taking a risk? Personally, I never gamble with anything. In all these on-line casinos, someone is making money and it isn't the people doing the betting. My dad wisely told me that you never see a betting shop owner begging and... well, he was dead right. People can be very desperate when they gamble and they don't see anything wrong with betting what little they have. It's the same as these crazy people who do extreme sports. Risking everything for 15 seconds of excitement? 10 seconds bungee jumping for a life time of injury? They're completely insane pastimes. My advice is... avoid short-term thrill seeking and... you'll go a long way in life.

Speaker 2:

Risk? I just love it. I get my kicks through sport and the more extreme, the better. I am addicted to bungee jumping. Standing on top of a bridge with a bit of rope tied round your ankles facing certain death in a canyon below and then throwing yourself off? You can't beat it for the adrenalin rush. Nothing competes with bungee jumping. I really love all that... risk... And, I suppose that includes my money as well, because come on, what's wrong with staking everything on a poker game every now and then? You can't beat winning or losing on the completely random turn of a card. My family always said to play it safe. Clearly that was advice not to follow. Families, eh? What do they know?

Speaker 3:

Whenever there's a high stakes horse race in Dubai or America, it makes it really exciting to have a bet on the race and I guess you could say I am totally obsessed with gambling. It's the same with football or any sport. I have to bet on which team will be champions. I get a real kick out of betting as the excitement is second to none and

that's all I need for thrills. None of that extreme sports rubbish. I can't imagine why anyone wants to chase round a city and throw themselves off tall buildings without a safety net. Just stick to the excitement of winning a big race from the safety of your own home, with all the benefits and none of the injuries, is what I say.

Speaker 4:

Be a wise owl with your money. Don't gamble. Keep it all safe in the bank and you'll profit from the interest on your money. I wouldn't ever gamble, though card games are a different proposition, because they aren't just luck - there's real skill in playing card games. I suppose I take some risks playing cards, but poker, for example, is all about hiding your thoughts, keeping a blank face, and not showing your emotions. Sure, you might be unlucky in the short term but in the long term the best player will always win. And... as for all these risky sports, they are actually quite harmless, because they have all the right gear; harnesses, helmets and such like, so ironically they're not even as dangerous as crossing the road.