

GA LEVEL 1 / B2 CERTIFICATE IN ESOL INTERNATIONAL LISTENING RECORDING TRANSCRIPTS: Sample Set 3

Listening Task 1:

SPEAKER	MALE / FEMALE	ACCENT
Andrew	Male	Standard English
Mum	Female	Standard English

Mum: Andrew?

Andrew: Hello Mum, how are you?

Mum: Well, your dad and I have been worried...It's been almost a week since we dropped you off at the campus... and we haven't even had as much as a voicemail message from you... You still have our telephone number, right?

A: I'm sorry mum, I know I promised to call you the following day but then forgot all about it! I've been really quite busy the last few days...

M: Busy? I thought your classes didn't start until next week.

A: Well, they don't, but I've been spending time getting to know other students, and making sure I've got everything I need before the start of the academic year....

M: Oh, I thought nowadays all you need is a laptop and Internet connection... Not even that if you have a mobile phone with enough data...

A: Very funny mum, really... There's a massive library on the campus, and believe it or not, at least half of the books I need for my course are not available in an electronic form, so am actually going to have to use it. By the way, did you know that some of the books you can only borrow for three days at a time? And you have to pay a fine if you are late?

M: Well, what did you expect?

A: I'm not going to have time to read a book in three days if I have my lecturers to attend, am I? You should be able to get them for as long as you want...

M: Don't be silly Andrew, you've got to think about other people. But anyway, how are you? Are you eating well?

A: Well, I'm eating three meals a day, but I'm not sure if they'd meet your standards! I was wondering if I should maybe get a cookbook to learn, what do you think? Maybe the same one as you use at home?

M: Yes, it is a good cookbook for beginners like you, but I'm sure you can get some of the recipes online, and then you could borrow my book when you next come home. Have you thought about when that's going to be? Maybe next weekend?

A: I'm not sure mum, I'm only just beginning to settle into my new flat, and when the academic year starts I'll probably have to spend a lot of time studying... I heard the first term can be quite demanding...

M: Yeah, I know. But you will be home for your sister's birthday at the end of October, won't you?

A: I'll try my best, I promise. Do you have any idea what she'd like?

M: You know Lisa, she's very much into music...So an MP3 player, perhaps? We're going to throw her a party and invite all her friends from school.

A: Well, in that case I'm not so sure I should come. I don't want to spend the afternoon with a bunch of 13 year old girls. But I will get her a MP3 player, good idea. I could always post it if I can't make it...

M: Andrew, your sister will be very disappointed if you're not there. And so will I. You've got to promise me that you're going to come.

A: We'll see mum, I promise I'll think about it. I understand it's important for you, but I'm not sure Lisa would be that bothered. As long as her friends are there and she gets her party and the presents...

M: Andrew, I'm not going to argue with you about it. I've already told you what I think, and I trust you will do what's right. Listen, your dad and I have been thinking about getting Lisa a kitten for her birthday. Do you think she'd like that?

A: Wow, mum, of course she'd like that...in fact, she'll probably think it's the best present ever, but I'm not too sure it's such a great idea...

M: Why not? Lisa is old enough to look after it, isn't she?

A: She is old enough, yes, but I'm not sure she's responsible enough...Remember that hamster that ran away and Lisa didn't notice that it was gone from its cage for over a week?

M: Hmm... You might be right there, Andrew. Perhaps I should just get her a goldfish now, and a cat for her eighteenth birthday (laughing...)

Listening Task 2:

SPEAKER	MALE / FEMALE	ACCENT
Jason, holiday representative	Male	Standard English

Hello everyone. My name is Jason. On behalf of Sunny Break Holidays I'd like to welcome you all to Riviera Maya. The coach ride to your hotel will take about a quarter of an hour. Right now, I'd like to take a minute to familiarise you with the area and discuss some brief safety precautions. Firstly, I ask that you remain seated until we reach our destination and that you keep your seatbelts fastened, the traffic here in Mexico can be a little bit crazy and unpredictable so the driver might brake suddenly. Secondly, please refrain from consuming any alcoholic drinks on the coach. Please also note that it is against the law to get drunk in public. Enjoy your vacation, but do drink responsibly and, if you decide to hire a car for a part of your stay, do not drink and drive.

I promise you are going to enjoy your stay here in Tulum on Riviera Maya. This is a beautiful, quiet city where you can relax, sit by the beach, enjoy great meals and feel very safe. You can walk into the historic town centre, or take a walk on the beach. If you are planning to swim in the ocean, please check with our resident lifeguards first as on some days there is a strong undertow on the hotel's beach. If you see a black flag on the beach, it means you should stay out of the ocean on that day and enjoy one of the three swimming pools instead.

Sunny Break Holidays offers a variety of special discounts which you can enjoy as part of your holiday. We have golf packages, as well as whale-watching boat tours, and pony trekking. There will be a short information session at 1pm in the lobby of the hotel tomorrow where you can learn all about these offers. Please do not purchase trips or activities from street vendors or local tourist offices as they often charge more than the advertised prices. Your holiday insurance also only covers any trips organised by Sunny Break Holidays, so please take my advice and let us book everything for you whilst you're here.

If you need to exchange your dollars into pesos, please use a bank or money exchange. We don't recommend exchanging your money at the hotel because you won't get a fair rate. Some restaurants will accept American dollars, but you are better off to exchange your money and pay with pesos. If you prefer, you can always use your credit cards. Also, if you want to get around the city, or travel to any of the neighbouring sites, we recommend that you take the local bus rather than a taxi. The bus costs about two American dollars, and the driver can give you change if you don't have the exact amount. If you do decide to take a taxi make sure that you negotiate a price before you go to avoid being overcharged.

We're going to be pulling up to the hotel in just a few minutes. When we arrive, your main luggage will be taken care of by the hotel staff and transferred directly to your room, but please remember to ensure you take all your hand luggage off the coach. On behalf of Sunny Break Holidays, have a wonderful vacation on Riviera Maya and I hope to see you tomorrow at the information session.

Listening Task 3:

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

Speaker 1:

I was talking to my friend the other day, and she really couldn't understand why I'm considering moving to a tiny village... But it's always been my dream, and I think I'm finally at a stage in my life when I can do it. My husband and I are both retired, so the work commute is no longer a problem. We can find a house with a big garden, and move away from the pollution and the constant noise of the city, and enjoy the fresh air and beautiful landscapes. Another thing I don't like about city living is the anonymity: you're surrounded by strangers most of the time. I would like to become a part of a community, where your neighbours become your close friends...

Speaker 2:

I've spent my whole life living in the city and I love it. There are so many things to do: cinemas, theatres, restaurants... And you don't have to have a car; you can simply rely on public transport, or even walk or cycle... If I had to get a car to get to my workplace, it would leave me with very little money to do fun things in my spare time. Also, I think living in the city saves you a lot of time and you don't have a long exhausting commute to work, or need to travel long distances to see your friends. The only thing I don't like about living in the city is the noise: my house is quite near to a main road, and you can hear the traffic passing late at night. But in my opinion, it's a small price to pay for all the conveniences of city living.

Speaker 3:

I'm not sure I have a preference... I spent my childhood living in the countryside and it was amazing. We lived in a beautiful small village, and my best friend lived in the house on the other side of the road. We used to walk to and from school every day, and spend all our free time playing outside, regardless of the weather. I first moved to a city when I started my university degree. I didn't like it at first, but after the first year it got easier. I started to appreciate and enjoy certain advantages, for example being able to just pop out to the shop when I'd run out of milk, or meet my friends in one of the many cafés. When you live in the countryside, if you fancy a nice coffee you have to make it in your kitchen (laughter). And it's easy to get a job in the city! My job is the main reason I never returned to the countryside...