

**ESB Level 2 Certificate in ESOL  
International All Modes – (C1)  
500/3648/8**

## **C1 – Listening Test Transcript**

**In the unlikely event that both the Listening CD and the spare CD should fail, this transcript may be read out to the candidates.**

## TRACK 1

Narrator's text is in boxes.

Highlighted words in *italics* with square brackets **[example]** should not be spoken.

Female Narrator:	<p><b>This is the ESB Level 2 Certificate in ESOL Examination C1.</b></p> <p><b>Section One Listening.</b></p> <p><b>I am going to give you the instructions for this part of the test. You will hear this sound <b>[BLEEP]</b> at the start of each piece. Remember to transfer your answers to the optical mark form before the end of the exam. Now open your question paper and look at Part One Section A.</b></p> <p><b>Listening Part One Section A.</b></p> <p><b>You will hear Jane Simms, a radio presenter, interviewing Tom Jenkins, an interpreter, about his work.</b></p> <p><b>For questions 1 – 5, choose the correct answer A, B or C.</b></p> <p><b>You will hear Section A <u>TWICE</u>.</b></p> <p><b>You have one minute to read the questions for Section A.</b></p>
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**[Wait one minute]**

## TRACK 2

**[BLEEP]**

Female Narrator:	<p><b>Part One. Section A.</b></p>
Jane:	<p>Good morning everyone. I'm Jane Simms and this is my regular morning slot talking to you about people with unusual jobs and careers. This week we're going to visit the world of interpreters. Today we have with us in the studio, Tom Jenkins, who works as an interpreter for the United Nations, or the UN as it's usually called. So, welcome Tom. Tell us how you became an interpreter.</p>
Tom:	<p>Good morning Jane. Well, really it's something that I never thought I'd do. I was always pretty good at languages at school, useless at maths and science, and quite a few other things too! But good at languages. Plus, my mother is Italian, so we spoke a lot of Italian at home. Then, of course, at school we did French and German, which I also took at college, so by the time I was sixteen, I could speak three languages quite fluently, as well as English.</p>
Jane:	<p>That sounds good, and then presumably you went on to university and continued to study languages?</p>

- Tom:** Yes, well at that stage of my life, I still didn't know what I wanted to do, but I decided to stick with the things that I knew I was good at. I wanted to try something different so I moved away from European languages. I had a friend at school whose father was from the Middle East, and he had taught me some basic Arabic vocabulary. I was really fascinated by this, and so looked round for a university that did Arabic at degree level.
- Jane:** Right, I wouldn't think that many universities teach Arabic. Was it difficult to find one?
- Tom:** Yes, you're right. Very difficult, no one did a single degree in Arabic so I had to mix it with another subject. I thought that after my studies I could take my languages into the business world, so I took International Business along with the Arabic. I didn't know it at the time, but it was a good decision for me.
- Jane:** Why was that?
- Tom:** Well, during my studies I had to do a year on placement, and fortunately, I got a position with British Aerocraft, who sell aircraft and aircraft parts to many Arab countries. It gave me the opportunity to mix with Arabic speakers from all around the Middle East. This had the added advantage of exposing me to different Arabic dialects and cultures.
- Jane:** So you got lots of trips to the Middle East?
- Tom:** Yes, it was great. It was also during my placement that I went to a United Nations conference in Geneva where I met some official UN interpreters. It was this visit, and talking to them, that sowed the seed in my mind for the future. By the end of my placement year, I was very fluent in Italian and Arabic and quite fluent in French and German, and so I decided to try and get a job with the United Nations.
- Jane:** Well, that sounds really good. I suppose...**[fade]**

**[Pause three seconds]**

### TRACK 3

**Female Narrator:** **Now Listen Again.**

**[Replay Part One Section A]**

**[Pause three seconds]**

**Female Narrator:** **That is the end of Part One Section A of the Listening test. Now turn**

to Part One Section B.

**[Pause five seconds]**

**TRACK 4**

**Female Narrator:**

**Listening Part One Section B.**

You will hear the second part of a radio programme about working as an interpreter for the United Nations.

For questions 6 – 10, choose the correct answer A, B or C.

You will hear Section B TWICE.

You have one minute to read the questions for Section B.

**[Wait one minute]**

**[BLEEP]**

**Jane:**

We now have some emails from our listeners about Tom's job as an interpreter for the United Nations. The first one is from Susan. Tom, Susan wants to know if you ever get the languages mixed up when you're interpreting, and start using the wrong language.

**Tom:**

**[laughs]** It's the interpreter's biggest nightmare! Fortunately it's never happened to me, touch wood, but I know a couple of colleagues that it has happened to. It's very embarrassing, and you just have to carry on, and hope no one's realised. But probably the hardest part of the job is having to concentrate so hard on the actual language you're speaking. After a while, it comes naturally, but at first the constant thinking in one language and speaking in another is really difficult.

**Jane:**

I suppose everything happens so quickly; you can't go back and change it later on.

**Tom:**

Not when you're doing simultaneous translations you can't. We do usually have an agenda, so we know roughly what the speaker is going to talk about before they start, but of course this doesn't help us when the different representatives get involved in long arguments or move away from the topic as they frequently do.

**Jane:**

Ok. We have an email now from Douglas. Douglas wants to know if all United Nations interpreters need to speak English. He's heard that the official language of the United Nations is English.

**Tom:**

No, that's not true. The United Nations has six official languages, English, Chinese, Arabic, Russian, French and Spanish. So at any one time, there are usually at least fourteen interpreters working in an assembly meeting. These meetings can go on for long periods of time, sometimes overnight, so you do get tired as you have to concentrate so

much. It is a very complicated set-up.

- Jane:** Where do you sit when the meetings are in progress?
- Tom:** Well, we work in enclosed areas called booths **[stress]**, where we can see all the speakers and the proceedings. Usually there are two or three of us sitting together in the booth, and, of course, we also have to be at meetings for the different committees etc., which is less stressful as we're able to clarify something that we've not quite understood.
- Jane:** Ok, we'll have just one last email from Estelle. She wants to know which city the United Nations headquarters are in and if you live there permanently, or just travel there when there are meetings?
- Tom:** The United Nations has various assemblies throughout the world. The main headquarters is, of course, in New York, but I work in Geneva in Switzerland, which is the main assembly in Europe.
- Jane:** Did you get to choose where you could work, Tom?
- Tom:** No, not really, we sort of just got sent there after our initial training, but I was quite happy with Geneva, that would have been my first choice. Geneva is a beautiful city, and I am happy living there. Also the work is less stressful.
- Jane:** Thanks Tom, I'm afraid we've run out of time, so thank you very much for joining us... **[fade]**

**[Pause three seconds]**

## TRACK 5

Female Narrator: **Now Listen Again.**

**[Replay Part One Section B]**

**[Pause three seconds]**

Female Narrator: **That is the end of Part One Section B of the Listening test. Now turn to Part Two.**

## TRACK 6

Female Narrator: **Listening Part Two.**  
**Listen to three conversations and for questions 11 – 20, choose the**

correct answer A, B or C. You will hear each conversation TWICE.  
You have two minutes to read the questions for Part Two.

**[Wait two minutes]**

**[BLEEP]**

**Female Narrator:** **Conversation One.**

- Heather:** We'd better start planning our day now that we've got our tickets for United's game on Saturday.
- Alan:** Yeah, I think we should. I'd like to get to the stadium in good time so we can get some of the big match atmosphere before the game starts. Is that all right with you?
- Heather:** Not quite sure about that. I'd really like to spend some time around the town first. Let's get there early, have a walk round and perhaps some lunch in town before we go to the stadium.
- Alan:** I'm ok with that, as long as we don't arrive at the stadium just minutes before the kick-off. We need time to find our seats. It's a cup game, so there'll be masses of people there. I hate rushing but we're going by train so at least we don't have to worry about parking.
- Heather:** No, that's ok, we can get to the ground in plenty of time. If we catch the early train, we can grab a coffee in town, have a walk round and still have time for lunch before the match. The stadium is only 15 minutes' walk from the town centre. We could go to that new place in the High Street to eat if you like.
- Alan:** Great! Fine by me. I've heard some good reports about it, so I think we'll try it out. It should be a good game. I just hope the weather doesn't spoil it. Have you seen the forecast for the weekend?
- Heather:** No, but I am taking a warm coat with me, just in case. Remember last time we went? We both sat there freezing because you said the weather was going to be good!
- Alan:** Yeah, sorry about that, but this time we've better seats, so even if it rains, we should be dry. We'll also get a better view of the game, being

higher up. It's going to be a great game, and we should have a fantastic day out! I'm really looking forward to seeing the new player they've signed from Juventus.

**Heather:** Me too! I hope he's worth all the money they paid for him!

**[Pause three seconds]**

## **TRACK 7**

**Female Narrator:** **Now Listen Again.**

**[Replay Conversation One]**

**[Pause three seconds]**

## **TRACK 8**

**[BLEEP]**

**Female Narrator:** **Conversation Two.**

**[Telephone conversation]**

**[Phone rings]**

**Receptionist:**  
**(Female)** Good morning. Happy Days Play Centre. Can I help you?

**Jason:** Yes, I'd like to book your party room for my son's birthday.

**Receptionist:** All right, just let me get the diary...Now, what date were you thinking about?

**Jason:** Well, my son's birthday is on the 21<sup>st</sup> of next month, which falls on a Friday, so we're looking at Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, morning or afternoon depending on availability.

**Receptionist:** Right, well, the afternoon's fully booked but we have availability in the morning, so I just need a few details from you: how many children will be attending, their age and if you want us to provide food and drinks. We also have a children's entertainer that we can book for you.

**Jason:** Right, ok, well Saturday morning would be good, and around twenty children and their parents are coming to the party. My son's going to be

eight so all the kids will all be around that age. Oh, and one of the children has a physical disability and he's in a wheelchair. Is this a problem for you?

**Receptionist:** Not at all, Sir. We have wheelchair access and our staff have all been trained in this area, so there's no need to worry about that. What about food and drink? We can provide the usual type of things, sandwiches, cakes, sweets etc.

**Jason:** Yes I'd like you to provide all the food and drinks, and perhaps you could arrange for a birthday cake with 'James' written on it. Don't worry about the entertainer; we'll do our own games for the children. Can you let me know how much it will be? Will you want a deposit, or full payment before the day?

**Receptionist:** Have a look at our website and if you decide to go ahead with the booking, Sir, we will require a ten percent deposit immediately, and then you can pay the final amount on the day of the party. We usually provide the birthday cake free of charge for customers, so we can arrange that for you. If you just give me your email address, Sir, we'll let you know in the next couple of days.

**Jason:** That sounds good, thank you, I'll wait to hear from you. Bye.

**[Pause three seconds]**

## **TRACK 9**

**Female Narrator:** Now Listen Again.

**[Replay Conversation Two]**

**[Pause three seconds]**

## **TRACK 10**

**[BLEEP]**

**Female Narrator:** Conversation Three.

**Mary:** Morning Alex, how are you? Did you have a good weekend?

**Alex:** Hi Mary. Yes, Ok I suppose. Just relaxed really, didn't do very much at all. How about you?

**Mary:** Well, my boyfriend and I went down to London for the weekend to see a



show.

**Alex:** Wow, that sounds great. I've only been to London once, it must be two or three years ago now. What show did you see?

**Mary:** Well, we hadn't booked anything in advance, as it was a last minute decision to go. We wanted to see The Phantom of The Opera, but it was fully booked, so we went to see Cats the Musical. But, it was good and we really enjoyed it, plus the tickets were a little cheaper as well.

**Alex:** Yeah, the important thing is that you enjoyed the show whatever it was. I've never seen a London show. Did you have time to see some of the other sights of London? One of the places I've always wanted to go to is the Tower of London. Did you go there?

**Mary:** No, we just spent the rest of the weekend relaxing and doing some shopping. We've been to London quite a few times, and seen most of the sights, like the Tower of London and Buckingham Palace. We did take a boat trip on the River Thames, which was good. It's surprising what you can see from the river.

**Alex:** Yes it is. That's one of the things we did when I went with my wife. Only problem was, it was in the winter, and it was freezing! It's definitely a thing to do in the summer.

**Mary:** **[laughs]** Well that's true. Better be going now. Maybe see you at lunch time, bye.

**Alex:** OK, bye.

**[Pause three seconds]**

## TRACK 11

**Female Narrator:** Now Listen Again.

**[Replay Conversation Three]**

**[Pause three seconds]**

**Female Narrator:** That is the end of the Listening test. Do not forget to transfer your answers to the optical mark form before the end of the examination. You will not be given extra time to do this. You may now continue with the rest of the exam.