A2 Key · Listening Parts 1–3: pictures, notes and conversations

A2 Key strategy notes; invented examples, not official Cambridge items.

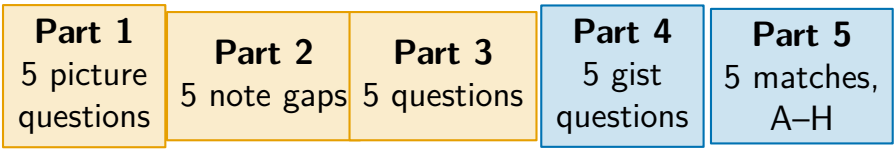
A movie played twice

Listening is **a movie played twice**: the first watch is for the story; the second is for the answers.

- Part 1: picture questions. Part 2: note gaps. Part 3: a conversation.
- The pause before each part is reading time — **preview** the questions, always.

The A2 Key Listening paper

about 30 minutes, 25 questions, every recording played twice



Every recording plays twice

All three are mentioned

1. **Name the difference** Three clocks: eight, half past, nine — before the recording starts.
2. **Hear all three** "I usually get the half past eight. Today I wanted the eight o'clock train, but I missed it, so I took the nine one."
3. **Take the decision** The answer is nine — the one he took.

Decision

The recording is a rumour; the question is the truth.

Your turn: the bait

Your turn

"I usually get the half past eight. Today I wanted the eight o'clock train, but I missed it, so I took the nine one." — which train did he take?

A. the eight o'clock train
B. the nine o'clock train
C. he walked
D. half past eight

The picture question

What time did the man's train leave?

A



eight o'clock
(wanted, but missed)

B



half past eight
(usual, not today)

C



nine o'clock
(took it: the answer)

> The correction is the answer

The note gaps are predictable

Gap type	What to listen for	Trap
name	spelled aloud: M-A-R-I-A	write the letters as they come
number / price	the corrected figure	thirteen vs thirty; the first number is bait
time / date	the final **agreement**	8:15 vs 8:50
place	the chosen one	one word, number, date or time per gap

Use the evidence

The notes tell you what to listen for before the voice says a word.

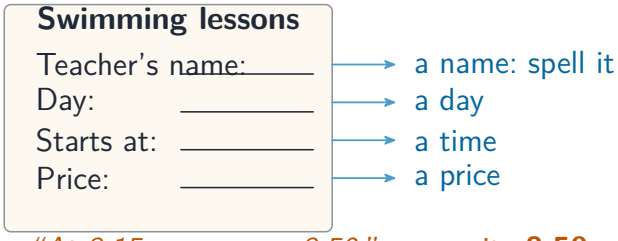
Your turn: the correction

Your turn

"The museum opens at nine, but on Sundays it's half past nine." — Sunday opening time?

A. 9:00
B. 9:30
C. 6:00
D. closed

Predict the note gaps



Then listen for that kind of word

Changed minds

the suggestion

"Shall we meet at six?"

The first offer, not the answer.

the agreement

"Six is too early. Seven?" — "Fine, seven."

The answer is what they decide.

Your turn: the decision

Your turn

"Shall we meet at six?" — "Six is too early. Seven?" — "Fine, seven." — They meet at…

A. six
B. seven
C. six thirty
D. they never meet

Hold it in English

The reflexes

Don't translate while listening — the recording doesn't wait.

Numbers, days and months are the free marks: drill thirteen/thirty until they are reflexes.

Try it

1. **No recording** Teacher-read **rehearsal**: your teacher reads the text aloud twice, like the exam.
2. **The voice** "The museum opens at nine, but on Sundays it's half past nine. Tickets are five pounds, or three for students."
3. **The notes** Museum — Sunday opening time: ____ · student ticket: £____
4. **The answers** 9.30 · 3 — the corrections, not the bait.

Decision

First numbers are bait; corrections are answers.

Check yourself

- Every recording plays twice — story first, check second.
- Name the picture difference before listening.
- The first number is bait; wait for the correction.
- A guess costs nothing; an empty gap costs a mark.