A2 Key · Listening Parts 4–5: gist and matching

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

So what?

> Parts 1–3 ask what exactly? Parts 4–5 ask so what? The answer is the meaning, not the words.

- Part 4: one gist question per short talk — job, feeling, purpose.
- Part 5: a matching task — five people, eight choices (A–H); one is the example and two are never used.

The bakery trick

The detail words are bait

"I start at four, before the shop opens, and the first loaves are ready by six. I still love the smell of fresh bread."

What is her job? — She is a baker. The early start and the loaves tell you; any customer could love the smell.

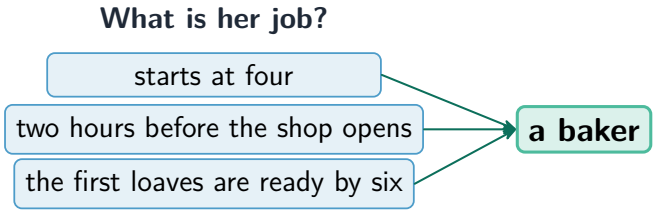
Your turn: the feeling

Your turn

"Oh no, not again..." — the speaker feels...

A. delighted
B. surprised and pleased
C. annoyed
D. hungry

The gist question



The clues point to a baker

Ticks and crosses

1. **The task** Five friends, eight activities (A–H) — match them; the example uses one and two are left over.
2. **While listening** A tick for chosen, a cross for rejected, next to each person's options.
3. **At the end** Write the final letters only when the person finishes speaking.

Decision

The rejected options are the answer list's traps.

Your turn: the rejected dish

Your turn

"Tom wanted the pasta, but they're out of it, so the fish." — Tom has...

A. the pasta
B. the fish
C. nothing
D. both

Notes for the matching task

“Tom wanted the pasta, but they're out of it, so the fish. Anna never eats fish; she'll have the salad.”

your notes for Tom

	A chicken	✗ B	pasta
✓	C fish	D	soup
	E salad	F	pizza
	G rice	H	curry

at the end: Tom → C

your notes for Anna

	A chicken	B	pasta
✗	C fish	D	soup
✓	E salad	F	pizza
	G rice	H	curry

at the end: Anna → E

The crossed option stays in the list. It is the trap, not the answer.

> Write letters only at the end

One mark, not a disaster

The recovery rule

Missed a gist question? It is one mark, not a disaster.

The next recording starts fresh — so should you.

Try it

1. **No recording** Teacher-read **rehearsal**: your teacher reads the call aloud twice, like the exam.
2. **The call** "Hi Dad, I'm at the station. The six o'clock train was **cancelled**, so I'm taking the seven one. Don't wait for me for dinner."
3. **The question** Why is she calling? A) to buy a ticket B) to give news about her journey C) to invite her father to dinner.
4. **The answer** B — dinner is mentioned but nobody is invited; the purpose is the news.

Decision

Purpose verbs and decisions, never the bait.

Check yourself

- How does she feel? — adjectives and **tone**, not events.
- I'm calling to apologise — the purpose verb is the answer.
- Ticks and crosses while listening; letters at the end.
- A missed gist question is one mark, not a disaster.