

Supported focus – English listening and reading inference

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Language B · HL

Scope and prerequisites

IB Language B first assessment 2020; English B focus. This supplementary reference covers only the outcomes listed below. Your school’s text choices, the full guide’s procedures and any required live or recorded performance are handled separately.

- Identify stated details, speaker purpose and supported inference
- Use context to resolve unfamiliar vocabulary and distinguish fact from opinion

Prerequisites: Stated detail versus opinion; contrast markers; contextual vocabulary.

Explain and choose the method

Read or listen for the whole message before isolating a word. Contrast markers such as *but* can change the interpretation of a sentence.

An inference must be supported by the text; plausible outside knowledge is not enough.

Read for the whole message before selecting a detail. A contrast marker can qualify a positive evaluation. Teacher-read rehearsal : close the script while a teacher reads it twice. Then answer from listening before inspecting the transcript. This provides a complete script, but no verified recording or listening-delivery claim.

Wait longer than wanted



Explanation helps next decision



Qualified positive attitude

Worked steps: Wait longer than wanted → Explanation helps next decision → Qualified positive attitude

Worked example. Longer than expected signals an inconvenience. Made it worthwhile then gives a positive overall evaluation of the view. A suitable answer preserves both parts rather than selecting only the negative clause.

Practice material

Original teacher-read script – Sana’s library visit: “I expected the new repair session to be noisy, but the meeting room was calmer than I imagined. I took a battery-powered clock, not my old electric kettle, because the notice excluded mains-powered items. A volunteer checked the clock while I stayed at the table. She found a loose part, but could not promise that replacing it would solve every problem. I thought her explanation was reassuring: it helped me understand what to do next. I waited twenty minutes, which was longer than I wanted. Even so, I would attend again because I learned how to describe the fault clearly. Next month I plan to book an earlier arrival window.”

Practice with reasoning

■ Practice 1

What did Sana bring, why did she not bring the kettle, and how long did she wait?

Reasoning. A battery-powered clock; the notice excluded mains-powered items such as the kettle; twenty minutes. The script does not say the kettle was repaired or that the wait was short.

■ Practice 2

Explain reassuring in context and distinguish two stated observations from Sana’s opinions.

Reasoning. Reassuring means reducing concern by clarifying the next step; the following explanation supplies the clue. Bringing the clock and waiting twenty minutes are reported events. Calling the explanation reassuring and wanting a shorter wait are personal evaluations. The calmer room is Sana’s comparison with her expectation, not a measured noise study.

■ Practice 3

State Sana’s overall attitude, preserving both positive and negative evidence . What can typed answers certify about listening or pronunciation?

Reasoning. Qualified positive: the wait was unwelcome, but the explanation and learning make another visit worthwhile. She plans to book earlier. Typed answers can show textual understanding; they do not certify that the learner heard the audio unaided or performed pronunciation.

Limits and next use

A transcript is useful for analysis but does not replace listening practice with real audio. This package needs school-recorded or licensed listening material before receptive-skill parity can be claimed.

These are original practice tasks written for this course, not official exam questions.

Worked listen, twice. First pass: stance only – is the speaker returning or not? Second pass: the two details that decide it, one against and one for. The answer preserves both – “a qualified positive” – and remembers what typed answers certify: the reading, never the hearing; the credit sits in the method, which is why the rehearsal is closed-script.