

Exercise walk-through

9.3

Inference in listening

IGCSE English

Original task 3: can the friend attend?

A friend asks whether the speaker can attend a film tonight. What does the reply suggest?

A: they cannot commit until checking a responsibility.

B: they have bought a ticket.

C: they dislike films.

Choose from teacher-read script 3 before the text reveal.

Transcript 3: an answer with a condition

“I’d like to come, but I’m looking after my little brother. If my aunt can arrive early, I might make it. I’ll message you when I know.”

Which conclusion follows? Which would add an unsupported fact?

Wanting to attend and being certain of attending are different.

Task 3: infer only what is supported

A: supported

The condition and later confirmation show uncertainty about availability.

No ticket purchase is mentioned.

B: unsupported

The speaker says they would like to come.

C: contradicted

Meaning

The reply suggests an uncertain commitment, not dislike or a confirmed booking.

Implied meaning needs evidence

A speaker **suggests** something when context supports it without a direct statement.

Infer the smallest justified conclusion. Avoid invented motives, promises and extreme feelings.

Tone, hesitation and emphasis can add evidence in real audio. These written scripts do not establish a particular delivery or replace real-audio practice.

Contrast task: which event and which time?

“The match was planned for Saturday, but it has moved to Sunday. Training is on Monday.”

When is the match now?

When was it originally planned?

What happens on Monday?

Answer all three before reviewing the diagram.

Exercises 2.1·2.3

2.1 “Would you like to come to the concert on Friday?” – “Friday... I’ve got quite a lot to finish this week.” [1]

2.2 “How was the film?” – “Well, the cinema was comfortable.” [1]

2.3 “Do you think we should ask Marco to lead it?” – “He’s certainly keen.” [1]

Exercises 2.1-2.3

2.1 “Would you like to come to the concert on Friday?” – “Friday... I’ve got quite a lot to finish this week.” [1]

2.1

- they are **refusing politely** / do not want to go

2.2 “How was the film?” – “Well, the cinema was comfortable.” [1]

2.2

- they did **not** like the film – praising the cinema instead implies there was nothing good to say about it

2.3 “Do you think we should ask Marco to lead it?” – “He’s certainly keen.” [1]

2.3

- they have **doubts** about Marco – “certainly keen” praises enthusiasm and **not** ability

Exercises 2.4·3.1

2.4 “The new system is much faster – once you’ve spent a week learning it.”

[2]

3.1 What does the speaker think of the restaurant?

“It’s very reasonably priced, and the staff couldn’t be friendlier. We waited fifty minutes for a sandwich.”

☐

A It is good value.

B The staff are rude.

C The service is too slow.

D She will go back often.

Exercises 2.4·3.1

2.4 “The new system is much faster – once you’ve spent a week learning it.” [2]

2.4

- the speaker thinks the system is **fast**
- the week of learning is a real cost, so the improvement is **not as straightforward** as it sounds

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☐

- A It is good value.
- B The staff are rude.
- C The service is too slow.
- D She will go back often.

3.1 C

- the last sentence – a fifty-minute wait for a sandwich – is the speaker’s real point

Exercise 3.2

3.2 Explain how you chose your answer to 3.1, and why option A is a trap. [2]

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3.2

- the first two clauses are praise, but the **final sentence undercuts** them
- A is a trap because “very reasonably priced” appears **literally**

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 Write an indirect way of saying each of the following.

[3]

(a) “I don’t want to help with this.”

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[3]

(a) “I don’t want to help with this.”

(a)

- e.g. “I could, I suppose, if nobody else is free.”

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 Write an indirect way of saying each of the following.

[3]

(b) “Your idea will not work.”

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 Write an indirect way of saying each of the following. [3]

(b) “Your idea will not work.”

(b)

- e.g. “That’s certainly one approach – how would it handle the busy period?”

Exercise 3.3 (c)

3.3 Write an indirect way of saying each of the following.

[3]

(c) “I did not enjoy the meal.”

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[3]

(c) “I did not enjoy the meal.”

(c)

- e.g. “**The portions were generous.**”