

9.1 Listening for specific information

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **listening for specific information** 听取具体信息 — catching a detail that is said once, at normal speed.

You must be able to:

- use the pause before each part to predict what to listen for
- write answers in the short form the mark scheme accepts
- recover when you miss something instead of losing the next answer too

1 Worked examples

■ Use the pause

Before each recording you are given time to read the questions. Use it to predict the **shape** of each answer:

Question: What time does the tour begin? → a **time** is coming.

Question: How much is a family ticket? → a **price**.

Question: Name two things visitors must bring. → **two nouns**.

Knowing the shape means you recognise the answer the moment it is said, instead of translating the whole sentence.

■ Distractors are deliberate

Recordings often give a wrong value first and correct it:

“The tour starts at ten — sorry, from April it’s half past nine.”

The answer is **9.30**. Listen to the end of the sentence. Words that signal a correction: *actually, sorry, in fact, but from..., that’s changed to...*

■ Write short

Answers are usually one to three words, or a number. Write only what is asked. A long sentence risks contradicting itself, and a contradiction cancels a correct answer.

■ **If you miss one**

Leave it and move to the next question immediately. Chasing a missed answer costs the following one as well — and the recording is played twice, so the second listening is when you fill gaps.

2 Practice

Read this transcript extract, then answer as though you had heard it.

“Good morning, everyone. The museum opens at nine, though the café doesn’t start serving until half past. Entry is eight dollars for adults, and children under twelve go free — sorry, that’s under ten from this month. Please leave large bags at the desk; you may keep cameras, but flash photography isn’t allowed anywhere in the building.”

2.1 What time does the café begin serving? [1]

2.2 Which children enter free? [1]

2.3 Name **two** rules visitors must follow. [2]

2.4 In 2.2, why would “under twelve” be wrong? [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 For each question, predict the shape of the answer before listening. [3]

(a) “How long does the journey take?”

(b) “Where should passengers wait?”

(c) “Give two items included in the price.”

3.2 A student writes this answer: “The museum opens at nine o’clock in the morning and the café opens later than that.” The question asked what time the café begins serving. Explain why this scores zero. [2]

3.3 Explain what a student should do if they miss an answer during the first listening. [2]

Solutions

2.1 9.30 / half past nine.

2.2 Children under ten.

2.3 Any two of: leave large bags at the desk; no flash photography. *Cameras are allowed, so “no cameras” is wrong.*

2.4 The speaker corrects themselves — “sorry, that’s under ten from this month” — so twelve is the distractor and ten is the answer.

3.1 (a) a length of time. (b) a place. (c) two nouns, things.

3.2 It does not answer the question asked: it gives the museum’s opening time and then only says the café is later, without a time. It is also too long — the extra information creates a chance to contradict the answer, and an answer containing both a wrong and a right value cannot be credited.

3.3 Leave it blank and move immediately to the next question, because the recording continues and chasing the missed answer loses the following one as well; fill the gap during the second playing.