

Script of the Listening Test

Now, we will start the listening test. This test has two parts: Dialogue and Passage. All of the questions in these two parts are multiple-choice questions. For each question, choose the best answer from among the four choices. The choices are NOT written in your test. You may take notes during the test.

(2 seconds)

Part 1 Dialogue In this part, you will listen to two dialogues. The first dialogue has one question, and the second dialogue has two questions. The four choices will be read out after each question. The dialogues, the questions and the choices will be read out only ONCE. Now, let's start.

(2 seconds)

Dialogue 1. After listening to this dialogue, you will be asked one question. *(3 seconds)*

Sara: Hi Mark! I didn't know you walked this way, too.

Mark: Oh, hi Sara! Yes, I came this way to look at the new skyscraper being constructed over there.

Sara: I remember now. You want to become an architect!

Mark: Exactly. Hey, look! It's going to have over 50 floors. Can you imagine living or working that high up?

Sara: Hmm, I'm not sure I'd like it much, I get nervous about heights. How do they categorize which buildings become skyscrapers?

Mark: I think they have to be over a hundred meters tall to be classed as skyscrapers. The cityscape is really changing. It was quite rare in the past but now more and more buildings are meeting the skyscraper criteria. Before, buildings looked more like boxes but now, I see many innovative designs and interesting uses of materials. Personally, I like it.

Sara: Well, my grandfather is an architect for a firm and he's worked on some large projects in the city. I did a day of work experience there last summer. What really amazed me was how they can incorporate industrial materials such as bare concrete into a really beautiful design.

Mark: I am interested in using the latest materials in buildings, such as transparent aluminum or bendable concrete to create amazing shapes that are pleasing to the eye.

Sara: If you'd like, I could ask my grandfather and then invite you to his workplace. You could look at some designs and ask questions!

Mark: Oh Yes, please! That would be great.

(245 words)

(3 seconds)

Question

According to the dialogue, which statement is true about Mark's interest in skyscrapers?

(3 seconds)

- A** He is interested in skyscrapers because they are rare in the city.
- B** His interest in skyscrapers is due to their traditional shape and design.
- C** His interest in skyscrapers developed because his grandfather is an architect.
- D** He is interested in skyscrapers because they use the newest materials.

(8 seconds)

Dialogue 2. After listening to this dialogue, you will be asked two questions. (3 seconds)

- Michelle: Dad, is this a photo of you when you were a child?
- Dad: Ah yes, Michelle. I think I might have been about four or five years old at the time.
- Michelle: Oh dad! You were such a cute little boy. And what's that behind you? It looks like a table with a screen.
- Dad: Ah, it's an old-style television from way back. It was my grandparents' very first color television.
- Michelle: Wow! It even had its own legs built in, so you didn't need a TV stand.
- Dad: That's right. It looks like a big cube and needs more space when compared to modern flat-screen TVs but in the 1970s they were novel and everyone wanted this new technology.
- Michelle: What's the big, round, silver knob for?
- Dad: That knob is called a dial. It's how we changed the channels.
- Michelle: I can't see a remote control in this photo, but I bet it was also huge, right dad?
- Dad: No, there were no remotes. In fact, I was my grandmother's remote. I was the one who turned the TV on and off for her, or adjusted the volume if that was needed.
- Michelle: That's so funny. Does this mean you had to get up and sit down every time it was time to watch TV? That doesn't sound very relaxing.
- Dad: It wasn't very difficult actually. There were not many channels to watch in the countryside where my family lived. They only had 2 or 3 channels. Since there weren't many sources of entertainment, our family would often gather around and watch TV together.
- Michelle: Well, I'm happy technology has improved the TV design so that modern TVs have remotes. The only thing I want to get up for, is more snacks.

(282 words)

(3 seconds)

Questions

1. According to the dialogue, which statement is true about the television in the photo?

(3 seconds)

- A** Michelle thinks it looks like a modern television.
- B** It is the first color TV that Michelle's father bought.
- C** It is equipped with built-in legs like a television stand.
- D** It takes up less space than modern flat screen TVs.

(8 seconds)

2. According to the dialogue, what does Michelle learn from the conversation with her father?

(3 seconds)

- A** Every television was equipped with a remote control.
- B** Her father was usually asked to turn the TV on and off by his grandmother.
- C** The area where her father lived had many TV channels.
- D** Her father hardly watched TV as there was nothing on that he liked.

(8 seconds)

Part 2 Passage In this part, you will listen to one passage. The passage has two questions. The four choices will be read out after each question. The passage, the questions and the choices will be read out only ONCE. Now, let's start.

(2 seconds)

After listening to this passage, you will be asked two questions. *(3 seconds)*

In the dense jungle of New Guinea is nature's most absurd theater, the special mating game of the birds of paradise. To attract females, males' feathers resemble costumes worthy of the stage. The bright reds, yellows, and blues stand out sharply against the green of the forest. It seems that the more extreme the male's costume and colors, the better his chance of attracting a mate.

The male red bird of paradise shows off his red and yellow feathers in a display called a "butterfly dance." He spreads and moves his wings intensely, like a giant butterfly. The male Carola's parotia, however, is the dance king of the birds of paradise; he has serious dance moves! These include one in which he spreads out his feathers like a dress, in a move called the "ballerina dance." While some birds of paradise perform alone, others perform in groups, creating an eye-catching performance that female birds find impossible to resist. Hanging from nearby branches, male Goldie's birds prominently display the soft red feathers that rise from their backs as they flap their wings. Excited females soon choose the one that pleased them the most.

These brilliantly colored birds of paradise have developed over millions of years from ancient birds whose feathers were dark and boring in comparison. Of today's 45 brightly colored birds of paradise species, most live only on New Guinea. These birds of paradise invite us to solve a mystery of nature. It seems to be a contradiction that such extreme feathers and colors could have been favored by the process of evolution. After all, these same brightly colored feathers that attract mates also make the birds much more noticeable to predators. The answer lies in the safe environment in which the birds live, and a process of evolution.

(299 words)

Adapted from Paul Macintyre, David Bohlke
Reading Explorer 4 Third Edition (National Geographic Learning)

Questions

1. According to the passage, which is a correct description of how the male bird dances?

(3 seconds)

- A** He expresses himself with his red and yellow feet.
- B** He spreads and moves his wings calmly.
- C** He spreads out his feathers like a dress.
- D** He creates a performance that rarely attracts female birds.

(8 seconds)

2. According to the passage, which statement is true about colored birds?

(3 seconds)

- A** The vivid colors of the birds have gradually turned dark over a long period.
- B** New Guinea is the habitat of all species of the colored birds of paradise.
- C** Evolution never favors brightly colored birds with extreme feathers and colors.
- D** The vivid colors make them attractive to mates as well as obvious to hunters.

(8 seconds)

This is the end of the listening test. Start to answer the reading and writing tests in the time remaining.