

## Answer Key

### LISTENING COMPREHENSION TEST

**Общее количество баллов – 40.**

**Каждый пункт теста оценивается в 2 балла.**

**За каждую орфографическую ошибку/ пропущенное слово снимается 0,5 балла.**

1 - B	2 - D	3 - F	4 - A	5 - E
-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

6 - E	7 - B	8 - F	9 - A	10 - C
-------	-------	-------	-------	--------

#### Text 1. Tapescript

**Speaker 1:** Some people think, when they look at a map, that somehow it's warmer and sunnier here. But in fact it rains just as much and *it's even colder in winter than back in my home country.* No, *what attracted me was the chance to make a better life for myself and the kids,* and in my line of work that means being somewhere they put a proper value on the skills I have. Here I don't have to borrow to survive because I'm making enough to cover all the basics like food, rent and electricity bills, with a little left over for holidays and the occasional luxury item.

**Speaker 2:** *The place I grew up in was great for kids, with the beach nearby and also forests and rivers to explore,* but it was quite a small town and *by the time I reached my late teens I felt I'd done everything there was to do round there, and that it was time to go somewhere more interesting.* So when I was offered a job as a tourist guide, working in Mediterranean and Middle-Eastern countries, I accepted straight away. Actually, I was quite surprised they chose me as I don't speak any foreign languages, but they explained that all their clients were from English-speaking countries so it wouldn't be necessary. That was a relief!

**Speaker 3:** Several of my university friends went to places like the USA and Canada, mainly for the much bigger salaries they pay there, and at one point I was considering joining them, especially when my elder brother moved to New York. In fact I'd already started applying for jobs in North America, but then I met an old friend who'd been in Argentina for a year and she was telling me how much she enjoyed the challenge of living and working in a non-English-speaking country, picking up Spanish from colleagues and neighbours. *So I made up my mind to do the same, and two months later - dictionary in hand - I arrived here in Buenos Aires.*

**Speaker 4:** Quite honestly, *the heat gets me down in this country* and I doubt whether I would've come here at all if it hadn't been for the economic crisis at home. I was quite happy there, really, until the firm announced it was closing down its local office and *the manager called me in one day to say that he was going to have to let me go.* And it's not as if my standard of living is any higher, either. In fact, the pay's probably worse here and the hours are definitely longer. I'll stay for another six months, but certainly no more than that.

**Speaker 5:** *If you really want to know what made me come here, just have a look around at everyone sitting outside eating their evening meals, dressed in shorts and T-shirts, and remember it's mid-January.* My sister and her family have since moved here too, partly because doing that in winter would be impossible back home, *but also because her husband was made unemployed recently and they felt it was time for a fresh start.* I suppose the one thing I didn't realise before I arrived here, though, is just how important it is to learn the local language, so we're all having lessons five days a week now.

### Text 2

- |                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| 11. good fun                          | 16. T |
| 12. adds a footnote                   | 17. F |
| 13. online (these days)               | 18. T |
| 14. her place of work / working place | 19. T |
| 15. context                           | 20. F |

### Text 2. Tapescript

**L:** Sophie, you're a native English speaker and you've been working as a translator for some time now. How did your career begin?

**S:** Well, most people in this line of work did degrees in modern languages, but not me – I did business studies. In fact, I'd never considered working with languages at all until a friend of mine, who was already doing translations, noticed that *I often read books and magazines in Spanish or Italian. It was my favourite hobby and I was out of work at the time so she said, 'Why not try doing some translating?' So I did, and I found it good fun and fairly easy, at least in subjects I knew something about.*

**L:** And what kind of language gives you the most problems?

**S:** *What's still quite tricky, though, is when someone mentions a person or an event, perhaps, in their country's history, that has a particular importance to them but may mean nothing to people who speak another language. In those cases I sometimes add a footnote with some background information, but it takes time to research that, and you have to be careful what you say – people can be very sensitive about these things!*

**L:** Yes, I can imagine. So, do you normally deal with big private firms or with state institutions like local government? **S:** Well, I was once contacted by an insurance company and I did a job for them, and on another occasion I did some work for the United Nations, but *nearly always it's a case of an agency asking if I'd be willing to do a particular text by a certain date for an agreed fee. It's all done online these days, of course.*

**L:** That must speed things up a lot. **S:** Yes, but it can still be a very long working day. Sometimes you're busy from early morning until late in the evening. Though of course on other days you've got little or nothing to do, which isn't so good either, and constantly going from one extreme to the other can really get you down. I don't mind which part of the day I'm working, though – that's one of the advantages of working from home.

**L:** Yes, I'm sure a lot of people wish they could do that. But don't you have higher costs as a result? I mean, you have to pay for heating and lighting all day, and a computer ...

**S:** That's true, yes, and these firms can sometimes be late paying. Whereas your electricity bills and so on all have to be paid on time. But *as my home is my place of work, I can use the cost of all those expenses, plus things like paper and printer ink, to reduce my tax bill. Which is great. And that's just as well because my income has dropped recently. Not a lot, but I've noticed the difference.*

**L:** Why's that? **S:** Mainly because of the economic slowdown. I'm hoping it'll recover before long.

**L:** And how do you see the long-term future of translating? Will it continue to be a good area to work in?

**S:** Oh, I think so. Professional standards are higher than they've ever been, and the *increasingly wide range of languages used internationally means that the demand for high-quality translation will keep growing for many years to come.* Some people say that one day translators will all be replaced by machines, but I doubt it – *language is a human activity which always takes place in context, and only a real person can fully understand that context.*