

Answer Key

LISTENING COMPREHENSION TEST

Общее количество баллов – 40.

Каждый пункт оценивается в 2 балла.

За орфографическую ошибку / пропущенное слово снимается 1 балл.

Text 1. Tapescript

R = Radio presenter; P = Penelope

R: So, Penelope, how difficult is it to get started?

P: Well, the golden rule when choosing your subject is to find them fascinating, never mind whether they're historically important or – much worse – fashionable. Then concentrate on the key moments in their life and begin your research by focusing on the details surrounding them. Remember, you've got to win the reader over too, and the scandalous and shocking will attract more than the everyday.

R: What about when the subject's a famous historical figure? Isn't there a danger that it's all been written already?

P: The trick there is to uncover new information or to approach your subject from an original angle. Otherwise, your book will only be of interest to academics rather than booksellers or the general public. This is particularly challenging since you will need to present a different interpretation of what may be already well-documented facts.

R: So, what are the difficulties involved in researching someone's life?

P: Well, the main worry is organization, although getting funding and especially time are also big concerns! You've got to plan or you'll never succeed. As soon as you can, create digital files of different periods of their life and – sorry, even before that – make a timeline. It's amazing how difficult it is to keep events in order! Finally, sort out any hard copy into similar periods.

R: Hard copy? Do you mean other biographies, history books and the like?

P: No... sorry! This can mean books, of course, but also things such as letters, diaries – especially those if there are any, photographs, newspaper clippings, and so on. It may be accompanied by transcripts of interviews with people who knew your subject.

R: Ah, I imagine that's very exciting.

P: It can be, yes. But it's also tricky. You'd expect interviewees to feel excited too, or enthusiastic, yet they're actually often very reserved initially, becoming friendlier later. They may not like being recorded and so won't say much during the official interview. You need to be prepared for what they may say afterwards, once they relax. Then they often come out with the really interesting titbits. It's vital to show

them respect for their feelings and also gratitude for their time. Remember, you may need to come back to them for more information or to corroborate another person's testimony. It can be a long process!

R: So, what's special about your work, then, Penelope?

P: There's something wonderful about entering the world of an historical great, you know, like Napoleon, Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan. For a while, you are privy to part of the power these great leaders and politicians wielded, and that can be awe-inspiring. Another aspect is the thrill of the chase, as it were. It's almost like you're a detective hunting an elusive suspect, especially when you don't know if he's guilty or not. You might suddenly uncover information about him that completely changes your view and forces you to follow another line of research altogether. I get a real buzz out of that.

R: Penelope Fowles, fascinating, thank you...

1. D
2. A
3. E
4. C
5. G
6. B
7. A
8. B
9. C
10. C

Text 2. Tapescript

In the mid 90s, there were 400 million hearing-impaired people globally, of which 70 million belonged to the 700 million strong European population, and 25 million to the 300 million people in North America. The European figures are thought to rise to 95 million within the next decade.

Remarkably, only one in five hearing-impaired Europeans uses an aid. There are a number of reasons for this: people may underestimate the severity of their own problem, or they worry that aids will look ugly – this is the biggest issue for newer generations – or perhaps they simply don't realise that help is available.

Hear-It runs an international website that aims to increase public awareness of hearing problems and help those who need it. We regularly publish articles about new products, and allow users to post their own comments about equipment they've used. We also give directions to online shops where people can purchase the products. The main message we try to convey is that, in most cases, problems can be improved by the right equipment.

Let me tell you about Ashkan Tehrani. An Iranian engineer, Ashkan suffered his hearing loss in silence for many years. After coming across our website, he realised it didn't have to be that way. Now, fully kitted out in the latest aids fitted with wi-fi technology, Ashkan not only works in engineering, but also teaches in the subject – and his confidence has taken off, too. Obviously, we can't work miracles – Ashkan needs to use special recording equipment and transmitters in lectures. But this is a comparatively small inconvenience when compared to the gains. You can read more about Ashkan on our homepage. His story is quite inspiring.

Of course, scientists are making breakthroughs in the field of hearing all the time. If you visit our site, you can read about some fascinating new developments in America. There, scientists have discovered that our skin also helps us to listen, by picking up vibrations in sounds. They realised that the full listening process actually involves sight and touch as well as hearing, in order to provide the brain with a full impression of what sounds are being produced. So, in the future, we may be able to look forward to a very different range of products developed in response to these findings.

This is just a small selection of the kind of information you can find on our site. It's likely that either you or someone close to you will experience hearing loss at some point, so I'm sure you'll find it an invaluable resource. Now, if I may take a few questions ...

11. small inconvenience

- 12. underestimate the severity**
- 13. picking up vibrations**
- 14. hearing-impaired Europeans**
- 15. transmitters**
- 16. F**
- 17. T**
- 18. F**
- 19. F**
- 20. F**