



OXFORD TEST OF ENGLISH *for Schools*

B2 Practice Test 1

Audioscript

▶1.01

Interview

You are going to answer eight questions. You have 10 seconds per question for questions 1 and 2, and 20 seconds per question for questions 3–8. Start speaking when you hear this tone.

Question 1: What's your name?

Question 2: Which country do you come from?

Question 3: I'm going to ask you some questions about technology. How often do you use technology like cameras or phones?

Question 4: Do you use any technology at school?

Question 5: Tell me about a time when you used the Internet to find information.

Question 6: I'm going to ask you some questions about cooking. Who usually cooks in your family?

Question 7: When was the last time you cooked something?

Question 8: What food would you like to learn to cook?

▶1.02

Voicemail 1

You are going to leave a voicemail message. First read and listen to the task, then decide what you want to say. You have 40 seconds to leave your voicemail. Start speaking when you hear the tone.

You went to a party at your friend's house yesterday. You left something there. Leave a voicemail message for your friend. In your message, you should:

- explain who you are
- describe the problem
- say what you want your friend to do.

You now have 20 seconds to think about what you want to say.

▶1.03

Voicemail 2

You are going to reply to a voicemail message. First read and listen to the task, then decide what you want to say. You have 40 seconds to leave your voicemail. Start speaking when you hear the tone.

Listen to the message from your friend about a competition. Then, leave a voicemail message for your friend. In your message, you should:

- congratulate your friend
- ask some questions about the competition
- suggest what your friend could do to celebrate.

Now listen to the message.

M Hi, it's Josh. You won't believe this, but I just won a writing competition! I want to celebrate with you and some other friends. The thing is, I'm not sure what to do. Do you have any ideas?

You now have 20 seconds to think about what you want to say.

1.04

Talk

You are going to give a talk. Read and listen to the task, and start speaking when you hear the tone.

You are going to give a talk to your English class about different types of holidays.

Choose two photographs. Tell your class what the advantages and disadvantages of these two types of holidays might be.

You now have 30 seconds to think about what you want to say. You now have one minute to give your talk.

1.05

Follow-up questions

You are going to answer six questions about your talk. You have 30 seconds to answer each question. Start speaking when you hear the tone.

Question 1: Your talk was about different types of holidays. Tell me about a holiday you have been on recently.

Question 2: Why do people go on holiday?

Question 3: Do you prefer holidays in busy places, or do you prefer holidays in quiet places?

Question 4: When is the best time of the year to travel?

Question 5: What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in a place with a lot of tourists?

Question 6: How do you think holidays will be different in the future?

1.06

Listening Part 1

Listen and choose the correct picture (A, B, or C).

Question 1: A teenage boy is leaving a voicemail for a friend. Why can't he go to the birthday party?

M Hi Jake! I'm afraid I won't be able to make it to your sister's birthday party this evening. It's just that I promised Mum I'd get the garage sorted out, and I know I won't be able to do it any time this week with all the exams we've got coming up. By the way, I need to fix my bike – it's a real pain getting anywhere without it. I don't know if you could give me a hand some time ... Anyway, let me know.

Now listen again.

Question 2: A girl is showing some photos to a classmate. Which photo did they both like?

F Have a look at the photos I took at the park yesterday. This is you racing Josh – and losing!

M Is that me? You can hardly tell – it's really far and from behind.

F That's your best side! Then, here's a group selfie with our snacks. Not bad, eh?

M Not at all. Send that one to me, will you?

F But this one's my favourite: when you were trying to catch the frisbee and tripped over.

M Very funny! Delete that one now.

F Only after I post it online.

M Please don't!

Now listen again.

Question 3: A radio presenter is talking about a survey. Which activity are most people going to start next year?

M Yes, it's that time of the year again: with December coming to an end, we asked people at home what changes they have in mind for the new year, and I've got your top three here in my hand. Not much difference from last year, apart from helping others out, which just got into the top three. Leading for the second year in a row, we have getting in shape, followed closely by one of my own top priorities this coming year: cooking more healthy food!

Now listen again.

Question 4: A girl is talking to her father about holiday arrangements. Where would the girl prefer to go?

M Where do you fancy going for the holidays next summer? Same as last year?

F That place on the coast was really nice, but I was thinking of something a bit more adventurous this time.

M We could pitch our tents near the river, do some fishing.

F I do like fishing, but I'm a bit fed up with going to the same places. What I had in mind was somewhere more remote and much less tropical!

Now listen again.

Question 5: A teacher is talking to a student about possible jobs. What job does she think would be suitable for him?

F What are you thinking of doing with your life, Thomas?

M I've always dreamed of being a professional football player.

F I'm not sure that's a great idea. You're very good, but you know how hard it is. Your interpersonal skills are really strong. Have you considered a career in education?

M I can see myself in a classroom, but I'm not sure my parents would approve. My dad wants me to take over his business.

F I can talk to them. You can give it a go and, if you don't like it, take over your dad's company later.

Now listen again.

▶1.07

Listening Part 2

Listen to a young actress giving a talk in a drama class. Choose the correct answer (A, B, or C) for each gap (1–5). The first one has been done for you. You now have 30 seconds to look at the task.

F Hello everyone. My name's Millie and I'm an actress. I was a student in this class a while ago, so your teacher, Mrs Henswood, invited me to talk to you a little bit about my career and give you some advice. I actually remember my first lesson here. I was only eight years old and I had begged my mother to bring me because I wanted to be like my favourite character in a children's series I watched all the time.

I soon got offered minor roles. I was still very young, and I had to miss lessons to travel with my mother for performances in other cities. We certainly couldn't afford one-to-one lessons, but I was always in touch with my classmates. My teachers from school would tell them what I needed to focus on.

I only did small productions until I was 12, when my big role came along. It's a funny story actually: I got a phone call from my uncle saying that the main actress in a play was too unwell to perform. He knew the director and assured him I could replace her because I had done that play before. The director must have been quite desperate, considering we didn't even have time for rehearsals!

It was only for a few days, but after that, loads of roles came – not all fantastic parts, though. I remember a production when I had to lie still on stage for half of the play! The audience was mostly kids, and they were so noisy! Nowadays I can choose, so I usually go for the classic tragedies. Having said that, I've been taking singing classes for a short production that starts next month. Let's see how that goes.

I've had a few invitations to try out for some movie roles, but I want to put that off until I get my degree. College doesn't start for a few months, so Mrs Henswood here has just suggested that I start a blog about my acting career in the meantime. I don't think I have enough experience for that yet, though. Maybe later on, when I'm more famous.

In terms of advice, the most important thing is to always put your education first – here on the course and at school. Then you have to realize that, at the beginning, you won't be able to pick what roles you want to do. But it's with the small parts you gain experience so that you are ready to grab the big opportunities when they come. So, even if you've got one line, make sure you work hard in the rehearsals.

Now listen again.

▶1.08

Listening Part 3

Listen to two cousins talking about taking photos on holiday. Match the people (the girl, the boy, or both) to the opinions below. The first one has been done for you. You now have 30 seconds to look at the task.

F I read this article the other day about a touristy city that launched an online campaign called '#unhashtag' to encourage people to post fewer photos when they were on holiday there, and just enjoy themselves instead.

M It's about time somebody did something about it. Nowadays, it's all about posting where you've been on your social media, rather than actually having a good time when you're away.

F It can be a bit too much. It's as if you have to show what you've done, otherwise it doesn't count. Having said that, I do like to take some pics when I go anywhere.

M So do I. I'm not saying you shouldn't take photos, but some people just take it too far. The main problem for me is that they don't just ruin it for themselves – it also affects people around them.

F What do you mean?

M On my last holiday, for instance, there were so many people taking photos at a museum I went to, I had to wait for hours just to get a good look at some paintings.

F Famous museums have always been crowded. You can't really blame that on social media. For me, it's more to do with the number of tourists in a place, whether they love taking photos or not. Besides, there are also a few good things about this trend.

M Of course. Don't get me wrong: I really like photos, and they're the best way to have a record of the places you visited, too.

F Maybe that was the case in the old days, when people printed photos. My parents love going through their holiday albums. Nowadays, people take so many photos, but hardly ever go back to look at them. I was talking about something else.

M What's that?

F You can get great ideas of places to visit by looking at other people's profiles. I spend hours browsing social media, especially checking out people's holiday pics.

M That's exactly what I used to do, until I went to this beach and saw it was completely different from the photos I had seen online. Pictures can be edited so heavily these days.

F Let's not forget a lot of people depend on tourism. Numbers of visitors must shoot up when a place becomes popular online. Imagine how many jobs it creates. That's got to be good for any touristy city, right?

M Just for a short time. The way I see it, too many tourists ruin a place, especially areas of natural beauty. Even then, I'm not convinced they spend much money either – I reckon a lot of tourists just want to take a picture and move on.

F There's another issue with this social media trend that I had forgotten: nowadays, people just go about taking photos of everything and everyone, without even asking for permission. It's so rude!

M More than that, there's a privacy principle involved. I mean, what if those people don't want their faces all over the Internet?

F True. Anyway, where have you been recently?

M Let me get my phone, I can show you!

Now listen again.

1.09

Listening Part 4

Listen and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

Question 1: You will hear two classmates talking about an online course. What is the problem with the course?

- A a lack of opportunities for communication
- B limited online resources to control progress
- C the complexity of subjects

F Are you still doing that course on the Internet?

M Yes, but to be honest, I'm just about to quit.

F I know what you mean. I'm definitely not organized enough to study at home.

M It's actually got a few interesting features to make sure you don't fall behind. There isn't a chat room or anything like that, though. It's important to have the chance to discuss the content with others.

F You mean if you don't understand it?

M Not really. The topics are usually simple enough to get your head round. It's more about having a debate.

Now listen again.

Question 2: A boy is leaving a voicemail message for his friend. Why is the boy leaving the message?

- A to reschedule an arrangement
- B to reject an invitation
- C to resolve a misunderstanding

M Hi James. Just getting back to you about the movie next week. I must say that I was a bit put off by some reviews I read, so I think I'll pass this time. Don't get me wrong, I'm sure you'll love it; it just isn't my kind of thing. Thanks again for thinking of me, and let me know if there's anything else you'd like to see. I'd be happy to go along. Talk to you soon!

Now listen again.

Question 3: You will hear two cousins talking about a series. What does the girl say about the latest episode?

A It has a fast pace from the beginning.

B The ending is very unexpected.

C It is better than the previous episode.

F Did you watch the new episode of that series we're watching that came out yesterday?

M Not yet! What did you make of it? But don't spoil anything!

F To be honest, it was a bit of a let-down. But, let's face it, it would have been hard to beat last week's.

M True.

F I mean, it was OK. It took a while for the action to start, but there was a late surprise that I never saw coming. I can't say any more.

M Oh, now I can't wait to get home!

Now listen again.

Question 4: You will hear a girl leaving a voicemail. How does she feel about her performance?

A disappointed

B confused

C satisfied

F Hi Jessica. Sorry I missed your call. You asked about my stand-up gig for the school talent show. Well, it started off in the worst possible way: I was telling my first joke and I couldn't quite get why people were making funny faces. Only then I realized my microphone was off! I was so nervous I hadn't even noticed. But in the end, it actually worked out well. I'm not thrilled with my performance, but it could have been way worse. I really hope I get through to the finals. Fingers crossed!

Now listen again.

Question 5: You will hear two cousins playing a computer game. What is the main objective of the game?

A to get as many points as possible

B to finish the race before the other teams

C to help team members

M Where are you?

F I've just crossed the bridge.

M Ha! I'm way ahead!

F But you aren't collecting the coins as you go along, so our score is going to be much lower than the other team's.

M Who cares? I just want us to win the race.

F But that isn't the point! We still aren't going to make it to the next level.

M Oh no, I've run out of petrol.

F Oh, you didn't stop to fill the tank! You're doing this all wrong. You're lucky we're in the same team, so I can give you a bit of mine.

Now listen again.