



# OXFORD TEST OF ENGLISH

## B2 Practice Test 3

### Audioscript

#### Speaking Part 1 Interview

▶ 3.01

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. Try to speak for the full amount of time.

- 1: What's your name?
- 2: Which country do you come from?
- 3: I'm going to ask you some questions about learning languages. Tell me about your English teacher.
- 4: For you, what is the best way to learn new words?
- 5: How well do tourists visiting your country speak your language?
- 6: I'm going to ask you some questions about families. Tell me about the person you are closest to in your family.
- 7: What was the last celebration you had with your relatives?
- 8: When do you prefer to be with your family and when do you prefer to be with friends?

#### Speaking Part 2 Voice message 1

▶ 3.02

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

Your friend is doing an evening class to learn to paint. You want to join the class, but the class is full. Leave a voice message for the teacher of the class. In your message, you should:

- explain who you are
- describe why you want to join the class
- say what you want the teacher to do.

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

#### Speaking Part 2 Voice message 2

▶ 3.03

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

Listen to the message from your friend about moving house. Then, leave a voice message for your friend. In your message, you should:

- congratulate your friend
- explain why you cannot help
- say what you think your friend should do.

Now listen to the message.

**M** Hi. Jim here. How are you? Guess what? I've bought a new house! I'm moving next week. I really need some people to help me move all of my furniture. Are you available to help next Thursday?

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

## Speaking Part 3 Talk

▶3.04

**You are going to give a talk. Read and listen to the task. You have 60 seconds to give your talk. Start speaking when you hear the tone.**

You are going to give a talk to your English class about different ways of enjoying music. Choose two photographs. Tell your class the advantages and disadvantages of enjoying music in these two ways.

**You now have 30 seconds to think about what you want to say.**

## Speaking Part 4 Follow-up questions

▶3.05

**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.**

- 1: Your talk was about music. What is a good age to start learning an instrument?
- 2: What are the problems of teaching music at school?
- 3: The music that some people like changes as they get older. Why do you think this is?
- 4: In the future, do you think all music will be free to listen to?
- 5: Why do you think people like watching live music?
- 6: How easy is it to make a career out of playing music?

## Listening Part 1

▶3.06

**1: A man is talking to his cousin about an exhibition. What was the most popular painting at the exhibition?**

**M** How was the art exhibition?

**F** Unbelievably busy – it turns out I was very lucky to get a ticket. But I had my favourite painting – you know, the one of the deer in the forest virtually to myself.

**M** How come?

**F** Maybe it lacks instant appeal. Unlike the one of the leopard in the snow which was an absolute nightmare to get anywhere near to.

**M** That's social media for you.

**F** Maybe. Actually, the one with the eagle was almost as bad – people seem to love that one, for some reason.

**M** To be fair, it is pretty special.

**Now listen again.**

**2: A man is talking to his cousin about her holiday. What problem has she had in the past?**

**M** How was your trip to Costa Rica?

**F** Brilliant, thanks – apart from the start. The queues at the airport were terrible. I made it with only minutes to spare.

**M** Just as well – or that would have cost you even more than having too much baggage – which I hope you didn't.

**F** Fortunately, I remembered you telling me about that – but I hardly take anything anyway.

**M** Same here, actually. So, no other problems like a passport being out of date?

**F** No need to remind me of that – it's not the kind of thing you'd ever do twice.

**M** Only joking.

**Now listen again.**

**3: A woman and her brother are planning an outing. Where do they decide to take their aunt and uncle?**

**M** Where shall we take John and Anne for dinner?

**F** Well, she's into Chinese food; he's into French.

**M** The street market I went to last week might suit. They've got stalls from practically every country in the world.

**F** Wouldn't it be more fun for you to go somewhere new – like that Chinese restaurant by the river? Or that French place at the top of Canary Tower – it's had amazing reviews.

**M** I'd rather go somewhere that ticks both boxes.

**F** OK, well, as you wish ... as long as you don't mind.

**M** No, and I needn't have the same thing.

**Now listen again.**

**4: A man is talking about his career options. What is he going to focus on?**

**M** Career-wise, I think I'd prefer to be my own boss, so I am tempted by training to be something like an electrician, which would eventually pay well and would be a safe option. That would mean giving up my cookery channel on social media, which is massively successful now, but I suppose the stress is on currently. Of course, there's still a lot of parental pressure to go into something with a steady career path like teaching, but if I don't take a few risks now, I can't help feeling I'll regret it.

**Now listen again.**

**5: A man is talking to his old personal trainer. What current activity does she approve of most?**

**W** How's the exercise going?

**M** I do an hour's walk every morning, swim every Friday, and I'm currently hiring an amazing bike to commute to work – just trying it out.

**W** It's great to start the day like that. Isn't your office just round the corner from you, though?

**M** Well, yeah.

**W** But swimming's good too, especially lane swimming.

**M** I remember you saying. Though I can only get to sessions where the pool's filled with kids jumping around. Mind you, it's still expensive.

**W** It strikes me, the more you're paying, the less you're getting back.

**Now listen again.**

## Listening Part 2

03.07

**Listen to a woman talking about an archaeological summer camp. Choose the correct answers to complete the notes. The first one has been done for you. You now have 30 seconds to look at the task.**

**F** Welcome to Neolithic Village, your home for the next two weeks. I'm looking forward to hearing more about the various universities you're from.

First, I'll tell you your groups. We've distributed the handful of you who have extensive experience among the five groups we have – you'll be helping those who have little or none – who are the majority. The remainder will be evenly spread out, but please see me if you'd like to make a change.

Our programme is based on extensive studies about what daily life was like in the Neolithic Period some 6,000 years ago, and to provide you with a genuine taste of it. Ultimately, you're here to develop a deeper understanding of ancient societies than would be possible by reading, and the information you gather will hopefully be helpful to those of you who have essays and assignments to complete.

I noticed a few questioning looks when I described the Neolithic period as starting 6,000 years ago. The more commonly accepted date is ten or eleven thousand years ago, but that date refers to the Neolithic societies that were developing in modern day Türkiye, Syria and Iraq, growing crops and tending animals. People from these areas moved westwards into southern Europe and then northwards and across to Britain, but only gradually, as the weather here was more challenging.

Life in the Neolithic period would have been a struggle, and we'll be re-creating that experience for you. Over this period, agriculture gradually replaced hunting and collecting fruit as the main source of food, so in your first week, you'll live on what you can identify, collect and cook from the woods and the river; in the second week, you can use what previous groups have planted for you, you'll then plant crops that can be used by the next group.

We'll be introducing you to some of the skills that were essential in Neolithic times, which had in fact been discovered thousands of years earlier. These include making fire from two sticks, making string from plant fibres and producing a range of stone tools. Despite having no written records of these techniques, the archaeological data, although limited, has always provided us with clues on which we can make reasonable assumptions.

I'd just like to mention a couple of extra sessions given by visiting speakers – a story-telling evening on the 19th and a shoe-making afternoon on the 23rd. Unlike our standard activities, which are for you alone, you need to book these as they are popular with visitors from the town and beyond. And finally, should you find yourself in this area again, there are some excellent trips to other tourist sites, but obviously you'll be confined here for the next fortnight.

OK, well ...

**Now listen again.**

## Listening Part 3

▶ 3.08

**Listen to two environmental campaigners discussing the work that they do. Match the people (the woman, the man, 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 know both our organizations have a different focus – yours is on protecting wildlife and ours is about pollution in the oceans, but we have a great deal in common, don't we?

**M** Well, yes, there's raising money for a start.

**F** And working hard to change public perceptions.

**M** I'd say raising awareness is absolutely at the heart of what we do, isn't it?

**F** Not just us – it's the same for any of the organizations concerned with climate change as well.

**M** Yes, and they've really made people sit up and take notice. I mean thirty years ago if you talked about climate change I'm not sure anyone would've listened.

**F** Whereas now it's an accepted fact. I think it's because they have made the most of social media for their campaigning.

**M** Mmm ... I'm not so sure about that. I'd say it's more the result of using the mass media well – and producing nature documentaries for TV has been particularly effective.

**F** So would you say you've been influenced by climate change experts?

**M** I suppose I must've been. Mind you, I don't always follow their suggestions. They say you should only be using public transport for example, but not everyone can afford to live near a station, can they? Sometimes I have to use my car, you know, it's the sensible choice.

**F** I do too, sometimes, but I don't feel good about it.

**M** Perhaps because we're the generation who've been saying how important these things are. But I think you just have to be practical sometimes and not let it bother you.

**F** I think it depends. Different people have different principles they want us to follow. OK, your organization's all about protecting wildlife, not worrying about climate change, so you using a private car is no big deal.

**M** You could argue there is a connection.

**F** Not a really obvious one. But if you were photographed treating an animal badly, that'd be a different matter.

**M** You can imagine what the press would say about that – and quite rightly so.

**F** They'd really give you a hard time.

**M** Anyway, what do you think of using celebrities in your advertising or other material? Is that a sensible idea?

**F** Well, if there were a famous round the world sailor who wanted to work with us, that'd be fine. The connection with pollution in the oceans would be obvious.

**M** But not a footballer.

**F** Exactly – no.

**M** I guess it's a question of whether there's a real link that people can see.

**F** Anyway does your organization have any other favourite ways of getting support?

**M** Well, we've started being much more positive, stressing the good news stories, and showing that we're making progress.

**F** I wish I could share your optimism.

**M** We've got wild tiger populations growing in India, black rhinos making a comeback, and sea eagles being re-introduced here. It's not perfect, but people like hearing about the wins.

**F** Well, you need to have some before you can talk about them. But I guess marine pollution is a relatively new concern, whereas animal conservation has been around for decades ...

**M** Yes, I suppose a lot of it is just a matter of time. But you'll get there.

**F** I hope so.

**Now listen again.**

## Listening Part 4

03.09

**1: A man and a woman are talking about an app. Why do they agree the man's app is better?**

A: It is good value for money.

B: It gives very accurate directions.

C: It shows information about traffic conditions.

**M** You're not still using that old app for your GPS are you?

**F** Well, yes, it's very reliable, and always chooses the most direct route.

**M** That's fairly standard, but not much use if you end up at the back of a massive queue when the motorway's blocked.

**F** Well no, but it's free.

**M** So is mine, if you're Ok with the version with ads. But I'd pay for it even if it wasn't. The only thing is it takes a bit of getting used to.

**F** Maybe it's worth putting up with that if it does what you say.

**Now listen again.**

**2: Two cousins are discussing a night-time excursion. What did they find most impressive?**

A: the silence of the location

B: the brightness of the stars

C: the power of the equipment

**M** That was so good – going to the hills last night to try Oliver's telescope.

**F** Oh wow – wasn't it amazing up there?

**M** Yes, and absolutely still and quiet – just that owl calling from time to time. And seeing the planets up close was incredible.

**F** I'd like to have seen the moon.

**M** Yea, maybe next time – even so, everything was so clear you almost didn't need a torch. I could've stayed there for hours staring up at the night sky.

**F** Yea, living in a town you have no idea what you're missing, do you?

**Now listen again.**

**3: A woman and her cousin are talking about his sister. Who do they blame for his sister quitting her job?**

A: his sister

B: his sister's boss

C: his sister's interviewer

**F** I hear your sister's given up her job again.

**M** Yeah, she lasted less than a week this time.

**F** Why does she just keep giving up so quickly?

**M** Well, I can understand it this time. They'd painted a completely unrealistic picture of what the job would actually be like.

**F** You'd think that'd be top of the list of what not to do, wouldn't you?

**M** And it's a shame really, because this time it looked as if she might have been able to get on with her manager.

**F** That would have made a change.

**Now listen again.**

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**4: Two professors are talking about a student. What does the man want to talk to the student about?**

A: The topics she is going to study next.

B: The quality of her current work.

C: The number of assignments she has to do.

**M** You teach Amara Gibbs, don't you?

**F** Yes, I had her for 19th century American History. Very bright.

**M** Absolutely. And I would have said very hard working. But I was wondering, is she doing a lot of extra essays for you?

**F** No, I haven't got her again until we do the module on the French Revolution, and that's not until next month.

**M** And as far as you know, she hasn't been ill or anything?

**F** No.

**M** I'd better have a word with her then and see if we can get to the bottom of what's going on.

**Now listen again.**

**5: Two colleagues are discussing a company's decision to move. What do they think of the idea?**

A: It will be difficult to replace qualified staff.

B: The company will fail to make any overall savings.

C: Employees will need higher salaries to cover travel costs.

**M** Have you heard the news about Mark's company?

**F** No, what's up?

**M** They're leaving London and moving to Birmingham.

**F** Wow. That's like .. a hundred miles away.

**M** I know. Mark's OK with it actually because he's got family there, but pretty much everyone else is looking around.

**F** Not surprised – think of the train fares they'll have to pay. Anyway, what's the point of moving?

**M** Apparently the company reckon they'll save a fortune on rent.

**F** Someone clearly hasn't done their homework on what it costs to hire new people.

**M** No, they haven't. Anyway, what's new with ...

**Now listen again.**