



# Oxford Test of English

## B2 Practice Test 4

### Audioscript

#### Speaking Part 1 Interview

⏮1.01

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 the 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 entertainment. Which do you prefer: watching films in the cinema or at home?
- 4 Tell me something you have recently enjoyed watching.
- 5 Describe a type of entertainment that you don't enjoy.
- 6 I'm going to ask you some questions about being happy. What kind of things make you feel happy?
- 7 Tell me about a time when you made someone else feel happy.
- 8 What do you do to make yourself feel better if you are unhappy?

#### Speaking Part 2 Voice message 1

⏮1.02

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

You missed your English lesson today. In the lesson, your teacher told the students about a presentation you need to give next week. Leave a voice message for your classmate. In your message, you should:

- say why you missed the lesson
- ask your classmate some questions about the presentation
- suggest a time to meet.

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

#### Speaking Part 2 Voice message 2

⏮1.03

You are going to reply to a voice message. First, read and listen to the task and 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 college friend about her bike. Then, leave a voice message for your college friend. In your message, you should:

- say how you feel about your friend's news
- ask some questions about what happened
- say why you cannot help your friend.

Now listen to the message.

**F:** Hey, it's Emma. You'll never believe it ... My bike just got stolen. I'm so upset. I won't get to college in time for class. I need someone to find my teacher and tell them I won't be there. Can you help?

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

## Speaking Part 3 Talk

Ⓛ1.04

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.

Your town or city wants to encourage more tourists to visit. You are going to give a talk to your English class about different ways of attracting tourists.

Choose two photographs. Tell your class how these two ideas can attract more visitors to your town or city.

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

## Speaking Part 4 Follow-up questions

Ⓛ1.05

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 attracting more tourists to your town or city. What kind of things do you like to experience as a tourist?
- 2 What are the benefits of travelling abroad on holiday?
- 3 Are there any advantages to travelling alone, rather than with other people?
- 4 What negative impact can tourism have on a town, city or village?
- 5 Why do some people prefer to take their holiday in their own country?
- 6 How do you think tourism might change in the next ten years?

## Listening Part 1

Ⓛ2.01

### 1 A boy is phoning his mother. What is the problem?

**M:** Hi Mum. I've hurt myself in school again. Just when you thought I was over the incident with my forehead last week, I've now done something to injure my elbow. At least it wasn't because I did something stupid like walking into a shelf. It was while we were playing rugby. You should see what happened to one of the other boys. If that was my wrist, I wouldn't be able to write for weeks! Good news, though – my team won!

Now listen again.

### 2 Two friends are preparing dinner. What should be done with the food?

**F:** So, instead of making any dinner tonight, we've still got that leftover pasta from yesterday. Otherwise, we'd have to get rid of it, which would be a shame.

**M:** It would, wouldn't it? OK, so we just need to flavour it a bit.

**F:** Why would you want to do that? It's already got plenty of salt and pepper on it. I'd just warm it up if I were you.

**M:** Sure, OK.

Now listen again.

### 3 A pilot is making an announcement on an aeroplane. What will the weather be like at the plane's destination?

**F:** This is your captain speaking. We're currently flying at 34,000 feet and I hope you're enjoying the cloudless views over the ocean. As we approach our destination, I want to give you a quick update on the conditions there, which are currently foggy. As we come in to land, don't expect to see much. Thankfully, the stormy weather which had been predicted for today seems to have passed. I'll keep you informed if anything changes, but it seems unlikely right now.

Now listen again.

#### 4 Two colleagues are discussing weekend plans. Where does the woman intend to go?

**M:** Are you going for your usual walk along the shore this weekend? The weather is predicted to be pretty bad. Wet and windy, in fact.

**F:** The weather doesn't bother me that much. I mean, walking along a clifftop in those conditions is something I'd probably avoid. Anyway, there's a cave I was thinking about exploring.

**M:** Is that near the coast?

**F:** I wouldn't say it's particularly close. It'll mean a hike up a hill, but at least I'll be protected from the weather.

**Now listen again.**

#### 5 A woman is leaving a voice message. What was the reason the woman went to the shop?

**F:** I've just popped out to the shop. The reason I'm calling is because I can't remember if we need more printer ink, so can you find out and message me as soon as you can? I'm in the shop where you can buy phone chargers and batteries and stuff like that, which is why I'm here. I noticed that the ones in our TV remote control had run out, which is no good!

**Now listen again.**

## Listening Part 2

**02.02**

**Listen to a college tutor telling students about an upcoming assignment. 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:** Hello everyone. As many of you weren't here yesterday, I'm just going to briefly explain this term's assignment again, which will be to conduct a survey – it's worth a quarter of your final grade. Obviously, that's more than for last term's presentation. You might think that because I'm not going to grade you as highly as in the extended essay, you'll need to complete later this year, that this survey isn't important. That would be wrong, of course. All the details are in the email I sent earlier, but here are the main points.

It's important to decide the topic of your survey first. Make it too complex, for example, attitudes of local people towards environmental policies – as one student did last year – and you might find it tough to design questions. Something like opinions towards local transport options would be a lot more achievable. Whatever you do, choose a topic that most people will have opinions about. Seeking people's views on childcare services might be unsuitable, for very good reasons.

Then, think about how you want to design your questions. Compared to, for example, getting people to rank options on a scale of one to five, asking people *yes/no* questions might generate responses that are rather simple. You might think that open-ended questions are good, but recording people's answers then becomes a serious challenge.

The more people are included in your survey, the more interesting it will be, and the more likely you are to be awarded high marks. A good survey should cover an appropriate variety of people, of different ages and backgrounds. Conducting it among a group of your friends is, of course, an easy option, but risks having a narrow focus. Asking a relatively small amount of people from different backgrounds is less likely to cause problems than over a hundred people who probably have similar points of view.

You'll be pleased to know that giving a presentation after you've written up your results will not be necessary. You will be expected to create a report, however. It shouldn't include any recordings you have made of anyone's voices in the course of your survey, but it will be a written version.

I'm sure that for most of you this will be the first time you've done anything of this kind. I'd like to set up the kind of one-to-one sessions we had when you did your presentations last term, but we're unlikely to have time for that kind of individual help, so I'm hoping to organise a workshop. Anyway, please make sure you check the email I sent you – I will be sending another one with extra information later – and let me know if you haven't received it.

**Now listen again.**

## Listening Part 3

02.03

Listen to two people talking about learning languages. 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.

**M:** Hey Sara, are you still trying to learn Japanese, or have you given up? I was almost at that stage with my German lessons, but I've decided to keep on, even though I feel like I haven't been getting anywhere for a few months.

**F:** No, I'm still trying! It does take effort and time, though, doesn't it? Learning a language is a real commitment.

**M:** Well, there's no way you could convince me of anything else, and I've never thought differently. It's just that there have been some periods when I find it hard to spare the time for language learning.

**F:** I know what you mean. Plus, neither of us are children in school anymore. We have busy lives and jobs, and I do think the older you get, the harder it is to learn a new language.

**M:** That's something I've heard a lot, and I can see the logic in it, except that I'm probably smarter now than when I was a kid! I wouldn't say that learning as an adult is easy, but I'm a better student, if you know what I mean.

**F:** I actually didn't learn any languages in school. I don't know if that's something I should regret. To be honest, I doubt if I'd been able to choose Japanese, which is what I'm really interested in right now.

**M:** It wouldn't be a bad idea if it was compulsory for school children to learn a language. Even if it was a 'dead' language like ancient Latin, which I'm sure some people would find boring, it would get kids used to the idea of learning grammar rules and so on.

**F:** I didn't know you studied Latin at school!

**M:** I didn't! I'm just saying it as an example. The problem with studying Latin, of course, is that it hasn't been spoken for hundreds of years, not that I'm aware of. You can't exactly go to the place where it's spoken, hear it all around you and immerse yourself in the culture.

**F:** I guess not. I do find myself agreeing with people who say that's the best way to really master a foreign language. I'd definitely be up for living in Japan for a while.

**M:** I'd say so too, if it weren't for the fact that you can achieve something similar at home, thanks to the internet. There's no shortage of videos to watch, websites to read and so on. But expecting yourself to completely master a language is setting yourself up for failure. I'd be happy to just be 'pretty good' in German.

**F:** I'm not sure I've managed to master English yet, and that's my own language! So, getting to that point in Japanese isn't particularly realistic!

**M:** Exactly. I meant to ask you if you've been using any apps to help you study. I'm using this one which sends me reminders every day if I forget to use it.

**F:** Don't you find that annoying? That was my experience. I might give it another try one day.

**M:** I imagined I would find it quite irritating, but it's what's motivated me to keep going!

Now listen again.

## Listening Part 4

02.04

1 A man is leaving a message for a friend. Why is he leaving the message?

- A to show regret for doing something wrong
- B to criticize the friend for not giving enough information
- C to express how grateful he is for being involved

**M:** Hello Ana, this is about yesterday's party and why I left considerably earlier than expected. I guess I should say how delighted I was to be invited, and I must confess to having a nice time in the end. However, couldn't you have informed me that you'd intended everyone to come in formal clothes? I can't say I felt particularly comfortable in a T-shirt and jeans. No one stared at me or anything, but I'm quite sure everyone was secretly speculating on whether I had the slightest idea how to dress.

Now listen again.

**2 Two friends are talking about a TV series. How does the woman feel about the information the man tells her?**

- A** She is pessimistic.
- B** She is irritated.
- C** She is relieved.

**M:** Hey, have you seen the final episode? I just caught it!

**F:** Well, don't say another word! I don't want any spoilers. Not after last time, remember? You said three words that completely gave away the entire plot!

**M:** Yeah, sorry. That must have been annoying.

**F:** I didn't think I'd be looking forward to this finale, but after last week's episode ...

**M:** Let me just say, the finale's even better!

**F:** That's good to know. Some final episodes can be quite disappointing, in my experience. But don't say anything else!

**Now listen again.**

**3 You hear an automated call after someone calls a bank. Which is the number for information about financial protection?**

- A** one
- B** two
- C** three

**F:** Thank you for calling Ironwood Bank. Please listen carefully as our menu options have recently changed. To talk to a customer service representative about any problems, press one. Our team can also assist with questions about our new savings accounts. To check the status of your balance and how much you have left to withdraw, press two. Please have your customer ID and four-digit PIN ready. Press three to talk with an adviser to take advantage of our special insurance offers for valued customers. Press four to hear these options again.

**Now listen again.**

**4 You hear a tutor talking to her student. What does the student think of the book he's reading?**

- A** It includes vivid characters.
- B** It has a realistic plot.
- C** It is very moving.

**F:** How are you getting on with the novel I assigned?

**M:** Can I be honest? I'm not someone who cries when they read something, but this one's managed to produce more than a few tears. I'm not sure why. It's not like the story is especially believable. I'm used to reading books where unlikely things happen, but this one is pretty extreme at times! And the people aren't the easiest to understand or even tell apart at times. I think it must be the quality of the writing.

**Now listen again.**

**5 You hear two colleagues at work. Why is the man staying late in the office today?**

- A** He is working to a very tight deadline.
- B** He is preparing for a group meeting.
- C** He is waiting to speak to someone.

**F:** It's six o'clock. Are you still working?

**M:** Unfortunately, yes, even though I've finally got through that big project I was working on. I just need to summarize some details with Kazue in the Tokyo office.

**F:** Oh, and she's in a different time zone, of course. Not so convenient! I suppose you also need to get ready for the discussion we're having with the sales department?

**M:** I definitely would be if I'd had an invitation! I hear you have some quite serious points to talk about ...

**Now listen again.**