Tape Script from Home Laboratory

H M PATEL INSTITUTE OF ENGLISH TRAINING & RESEARCH, VALLABH VIDYANAGAR, PRESENTS

Listen on: Home Laboratory

To develop COMMUNICATION SKILLS in English

This material is in two parts. Part I contains short conversations. Part II contains listening tasks of various kinds. Finally, there is a self-check exercise to assess your progress in listening.

Speaker 1

Listen on: part I – Conversations

Instructions: Listen to these conversations carefully. At the end of each conversation there will be a question or two followed by options for answers. Choose the answer that you think is the most appropriate one.

You may need to listen to some conversations more than once. Go ahead at your own pace.

Conversation 1

Gopi: What are you looking for, Rajesh?
Rajesh: My tracksuit.
Gopi: I think I saw it in your almirah.
Rajesh: Good. Now I can go for jogging.

Question: Where is Rajesh going?
(a) To a Party.
(b) To the sports field.

Conversation 2

Husband: It seems I won’t get tea today
Wife: I should have kept the milk in the refrigerator. It’s too hot outside. The milk has……
Husband: Well, then why didn’t you?
Wife: er … I was in a hurry.
Husband: That’s pretty feeble excuse.

Question: what has probably happened to the milk?
(a) It has turned sour
(b) It is too hot for tea.

Conversation 3
Woman : Would you like to have a cup of coffee?
Man: Yes, I would, Thank you very much.
Woman: Well, would you mind making it yourself?
Man : Of course not.

Question : What does not woman want the man to do?
(a) Make coffee
(b) Mind his own business.

Conversation 4
Man : So Mrs. Patel, you want to go the states. How long do you propose to stay there?
Woman: For about six months.
Man: And what’s the purpose of the visit?
Woman : Meeting my parents. I’ve already mentioned it in the application.
Man: All right. Go to window no. 3 and pay the fees.

Question : Where do you think this conversation is taking place?
(a) At the Airport Booking office
(b) At the American Consulate.

Conversation 5
Kusum: Hello Beena, when did you return from Mount Aby?
Beena : Just last evening, Kusum.
Kusum : You look really worn out.
Beena : Yes, the heat there was terrible – 46 degrees. See, I am so tanned.
Kusum : Yes, the heat is a great killer these days. One must be careful.

Question : Are these statements true or false?
(I) Heat can make people feel tired.
(II) Kusum and Beena are talking on the phone.

Conversation 6
Aditi : Is that Four Six Nine Five Eight?
Kartik : That’s right.
Aditi : O Kartik. This is Aditi. I have great news to share with you.
Kartik : What’s it? One more promotion?
Aditi: No, not really, you won’t believe it. I’ve won a lottery.

Kartik: A lottery? That’s great And how much is the prize money?

Aditi: Not money exactly, but a sponsored trip top Antarctica.


Question: What has Aditi won?
(a) A promotion
(b) A trip to Antarctica

Conversation 7
S1: And how do we use this?
S2: That’s simple. Let your hair fall full length. Comb the hair evenly to straighten it. Then, pour the liquid onto your palm and grease both your palms well, rub them on your scalp, into your hair, starting from the nape of the neck, moving upward. See that the roots of your hair are well massaged. Tie your hair up in a knot. Don’t wash the hair for the next six to eight hours. You’ll get good results.

Question: The liquid mentioned is:
(a) A shampoo
(b) A nourishing lotion

Conversation 8
F: When did you get that plaster, Hari?
M: Last week. I was going up the stairs when I slipped.
F: And how long do you need to keep it on?
M: For six weeks at least, the doctor says.
F: It must be very painful too. How do you manage walking around
M: It’s difficult to move around. I need a Stick for Support.
F: I hope you get well soon. Take care.
M: Thanks.

Question: How did the boy get hurt?
(a) While moving around
(b) While climbing the stairs.

Conversation 9
M: O Meenakshi, why do you insist on watching this dull programme on Science. It can put us to sleep. How about switching over to the Zee channel?
F: I don’t think there is any serial on there at this time. It’s Antakshari, you know, full of noise.
M: But, it is fun and entertainment. Can’t we change the channel?
F: I'd rather watch this educational programme

Questions: What would Meenakshi Like to watch?
(a) Antakshari
(b) The Science Programme

Conversation 10

F1: O, what a lovely dress!
F2: Do you like it?
F1: It's wonderful. Must have cost a fortune.
F2: Not really, only Rs. 300. Feel the fabric — it's so smooth and drapes wonderfully well. The colours are guaranteed and will not run when washed. And above all it's been designed by my mother.
F1: Incredible!

Question: The dress is incredible
(a) Because it’s been designed by mother.
(b) Because it has cost a fortune.

Conversation 11

S1: Excuse me, do you know where the English Language Institute is?
S2: The English Language Institute, let's see.
S1: Actually. They'd given the directions on the phone, with all the landmarks. I'd even made a note on a slip of paper, but now I have lost it. I don't even have their address.
S2: Ah, don't worry. I know it's not very far from here. We are at the Sardar Street. Now, go along this road till you reach the second traffic lights.
S1: Walk till the second traffic lights?
S2: Yes. There you'll reach the Tilak Street, to your left. Turn there.
S1: Turn at the Tilak Street, to the left. Is that what you mean?
S2: Yes, go down the Tilak Street, past a car — park. Then you get to the first turning on the right, which is he Tagore Street, turn there.
S1: Turn into the Tagore Street on the right, ok.
S2: Yes, walk down the Tagore Street. You will find the Municipal Hospital to your left. The building next to the Municipal Hospital is the English Institute... Have you got that?
S1: Yes, thank you so much.
S2: You're welcome.

Question 1: On which street is the English Institute?
(a) The Tilak Street
Conversation 12

M : So, you have got home at last, Nikhil.
N : I’m terribly sorry, mama, I’m late.
M : This is the third time that this has happened, Nikhil.
N : I know that, I’m sorry mama, but I couldn’t help.
M : Well, couldn’t you call up from somewhere?
N : The phones were down at my friend’s place, and I couldn’t get out sooner.
M : Why did you have to wear this special dress?
N : I couldn’t find the plane ones, mama, I was in a hurry.
M : What about the extra money I gave you this morning?
N : I’m sorry mama, I haven’t any left. I had to spend it on repairing the puncture.
M : I’m tired of this Nikhil. I wish you wouldn’t go on telling lies!

Question : Why is Nikhil’s mother angry?

(a) Because he is home late
(b) Because he wore a special dress.

Now onwards, no options are provided after the questions. You are required to answer these questions on your own, that is, in your own words. You may listen to these conversations more than once, if necessary.

Conversation 13

Trin...trin....

Rahul : hello.
Premjeet : Hi, Rahul. This is Premjeet. Aren’t you up yet?
Rahul : No, I’m not it’s still the middle of the night.
Premjeet : It’s 20 to nine, let me tell you. I’ve been up since half past 6.
Rahul : That’s nothing to be proud about. It’s only a matter of habit.
Premjeet : Perhaps. Now look Rahul, are you doing anything special today?
Rahul : It’s Sunday today……So nothing in particular. Why?
Premjeet : Last night I ran into Arvind and his wife. They are going to the town hall today and they have 4 tickets
for a play. Apparently the two friends they were going with have let them down at the last minute. So
they asked me if I could join and suggested my taking a friend, Arvind is talking his car.
Rahul : It sounds very nice. What time are they leaving?
Premjeet : They are reaching my place at 9 o’clock. We could pick you up at ten past.
Rahul : That gives me only half an hour. But listen, I’ m not off the be yet. I’ve to have a shave, get washed,
get dressed and have breakfast in half an hour., actually 26 minutes, why didn’t you ring me up a bit sooner?
Premjeet: Actually I wasn’t sure if I could go. I had to find a substitute for myself to play a cricket-match this afternoon. Get up and get ready now. See you in half an hour.

Question 1: What is Premjeet’s proposal to Rahul?
Question 2: How did Preneet get the invitation for the Play?

Conversation 14
Union Leader: Excuse me, sir. May I come in?
Manager: Yes please. Please take a seat.
Union Leader: Thank you, sir. I’ve come to discuss an old issue again. So, if you have some free time now---
Manager: Yes, of course. Please go ahead.
Union Leader: Actually, we’ve already discussed this once before. The executive Council had decided to give a raise in our pay, but the decision has not yet been implemented. It’s been 6 months since the decision.
Manager: I know that very well and I’m sorry about the failure to do as promised. But you see, during the recent months, the sales of the Company have been steadily deteriorating. So the pay raise, I’m afraid, will have to be postponed for some more time.
Union Leader: I think the sales have not dropped drastically. With the kind profit the Company has been making, the pay-raise demanded by the workers can still be managed.
Manager: You’re right, it was not drastic. But it certainly has affected the status of our Firm in the market. Anyway, we will have another meeting to discuss the issue.
Union Leader: I hope something will be worked out soon.
Manager: I promise that we will take up the matter at the earliest.
Union Leader: Thank you, sir.

Question 1: What is the Union Leader’s purpose to go to the manager’s cabin?
Question 2: What was the decision taken at a meeting 6 months ago?
Question 3: According to the manager, why has the decision not been implemented?
Question 4: Does the union leader accept the excuse given by the manager?
Question 5: What is the final agreement?

Conversation 15
Customer: Good Morning. I’d like a refund for the bag, I bought it last week, and the handle is broken.
Assistant: Oh, I’m sorry about that. But we can easily repair it for you.
Customer: I can understand that, but I’d prefer a refund.
Assistant: Mmm. I see, but we don’t usually give refunds we can repair it now.
Customer: I don’t want a repair. I’d like my money back.

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Assistant: Oh, well, I don’t know….you’ll have to speak to the manager…..
Customer: That’s fine. I’ll see the manager, then. Thank you.

Question:
1. What is the customer’s complaint?
2. What is the company’s policy on refund?

Conversation 16

Kamal: What did you say you were going to take up as a career?
Rehana: Architecture. Actually, I’ve already started. I began my studies at the national School of Architecture last June.

Kamal: What made you decide to take up architecture as a career?
Rehana: Well, I was good at maths and art at school and I think I had a certain feeling for design. My teachers encouraged me and said I had an inclination for architecture. I suppose my personal qualities made me choose architecture, not medicine, for instance.

Kamal: I’m sure there is. Will you need English in your job?
Rehana: It’ll be useful in many ways because there’s a lot of literature about architecture written in English. Besides, most professionals now use English at formal meetings and forums. Moreover, when one attends international conferences, English is often the only official language. So, I took this course to brush up my English.

Question 1: Why has Rehana chosen architecture as a career?
Question 2: What is Rehana going to do when she completes her studies?
Question 3: How is English useful in your own career? Note down the points and discuss them with your partner.