



OXFORD TEST OF ENGLISH

B1 Practice Test 1

Audioscript

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 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 transport. How did you get here today?

Question 4: In the place where you live, how can people travel around?

Question 5: What do you like or dislike about travelling by public transport?

Question 6: I'm going to ask you some questions about shopping. What sort of things do you enjoy shopping for?

Question 7: Can you describe your favourite shop?

Question 8: Do you prefer shopping on your own or with other people?

1.02

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 have an English lesson today with a private language teacher. You have transport problems and cannot get to the lesson. Leave a voicemail message for your teacher. In your message you should: say who you are and when your lesson is; apologize and describe your transport problems; arrange another lesson.

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

1.03

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 a message from your friend who has just started at the college where you are a student. Then, leave a voicemail message for your friend. In your message you should: welcome your friend; give your friend some advice about clubs; suggest a time and place to meet.

Now listen to the message.

F I've just had my first day here, and, wow, this place is so big! I keep getting lost. Anyway, could you call me because I need some advice about clubs. We've got to decide tomorrow which ones to join. One other thing – if you're free this weekend, shall we meet up?

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

1.04

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 activities young people take part in.

Choose two photographs. Tell your class what young people can learn from these activities.

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

You now have one minute to give your talk.

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.

Question 1: Your talk was about free time. What sort of things do you like doing in your free time?

Question 2: Some people complain that hobbies are very expensive. Do you agree?

Question 3: What are the advantages and disadvantages of being in a club – for example, a cycling club or a reading club?

Question 4: Who do you most like spending your free time with, and why?

Question 5: How do you feel about spending time on your own?

Question 6: What would you choose to do if you had more free time?

⏮ 1.06

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

Question 1: A man and a woman are talking about a birthday present for a friend. What do they decide to give her?

M I was thinking of getting Sophie some perfume for her birthday, though it's twice as much as we were planning to spend.

F Yeah, and actually I was in the garden centre the other day and they've got some lovely indoor plants I know she'd like. Or they've also got some nice vases which are even better value.

M On the other hand, she is giving us a party, so I think we should be generous.

F No, you're right – let's do what you suggested – I'm sure she'll love it.

Now listen again.

Question 2: A girl is talking to her father about a party. How will the girl get to the party?

M Mum said there was some sort of problem about this Saturday.

F Yeah, there's a party in Bristol, but Mum won't let me borrow the car.

M There's always the train, and you get a good discount with a student card.

F I can't get one until next week. Anyway, Annie's agreed to give me a lift there.

M Is that safe? I mean she's only just passed her test.

F Don't worry, she's very careful and it's only one way. I'm getting the bus back because she's staying in Bristol for a few days.

Now listen again.

Question 3: A girl is talking to her father. What will the girl have for lunch?

F Oh, Dad, Jo's coming for lunch today.

M Is she your friend who's a vegetarian?

F No – she had steak and chips the last time she was here.

M Oh, good. Having said that, I'm not sure what we've got apart from some bread and cheese.

F That doesn't sound very exciting. What about the beef burgers?

M Tom finished them the other night. It looks like you haven't got much choice unless you fancy going to the shops.

F I can't really, she'll be here any minute.

Now listen again.

Question 4: A girl is talking to her cousin about her job. What does she do at the restaurant?

M Where are you working?

F Smith's Restaurant.

M Isn't that the one all the celebrities go to?

F Yeah, we get loads of them, singers, footballers. That actor Bob Smith comes in all the time ...

M Wow ... what do you say to people like that when you go and take their order?

F Well, I'm down in the kitchen, so that's not really my problem.

M I didn't know you could cook.

F I often do at home, but I'm hoping they're going to give me some training ... I don't want to be doing the washing up forever.

M Well, you've got to start somewhere, I suppose.

Now listen again.

Question 5: What sport is the man hoping to take part in tomorrow?

M Hi, I'm just calling about tomorrow. I'd love a game, but I've got to take Hallam to his seven-a-side football at Shipton. That would mean leaving you by 11 at the latest, which doesn't make much sense unless we make an early start. I could book a tennis court for 9. How does that sound? Later's no good because I'm hoping we'll be back from Shipton in time to watch the final of the rugby, which we might win with a bit of luck. Anyway, let me know if that suits.

Now listen again.

▶ 1.07

Listen to a travel agent leaving a voicemail about some travel arrangements. 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 Hi ... this is Jenny from Executive Travel, and I've got an update on Mrs Wilson's return travel arrangements from Canada next week. I did try to phone her, but I guess her mobile was switched off, so if you could pass this on the next time you email her or text her, that would be great.

On the day before she comes back, so on the Friday, she's staying in Edmonton at the Wayside Hotel. When I rang them to confirm, they said she can have somewhere at the back away from the traffic because I know what she's like about noise. They have lots of vegetarian things on the menu, so that's fine. They haven't got any special offers, but it's not very expensive anyway.

The next morning they said to leave plenty of time to get to the airport to get the flight from Edmonton to Vancouver. It's not because they're digging up the motorway, it's because it's a public holiday, so there will be lots more people on the road trying to get away. And obviously at the airport you'll get queues at check-in.

In Vancouver I've booked her on the Icelandic Air flight via Reykjavik on Saturday afternoon. It does cost a bit more than the one that comes straight to London, but it's better for her. Her flight from Edmonton gets into Vancouver at about two, and the Icelandic Air flight leaves at five, so she'll have about three hours to change planes, which is perfect.

Now, there is a ten hour stop in Reykjavik. She could get a room in the airport and get a bit of sleep, and there are a couple of very nice places to eat. Or, she would have time for a trip to the Blue Lagoon, which is a warm outdoor lake, and that is something I would really recommend.

When she gets back, I'll send the tickets for the Berlin conference – we managed to get them with 50% off, which isn't bad ... um, and we can also chat about the ideas for the weekend off she was planning in Paris.

Now listen again.

▶ 1.08

Listen to a man and a woman talking about what students should learn at school. Match the people (woman, 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 I was reading something the other day about what young children should learn at school, and you know, it's not quite as simple as you think. I mean, I'm sure I've forgotten all that chemistry I did, and the French and history ...

F No, I can't remember much of it either.

M I wonder what really matters.

F Well, English. Basic reading and writing. If you come out of school and you can't read and write, it's hopeless.

M It's so important, and it's got to be a lot more than basic, it's got to be nearly perfect. If you apply for a job and your letter's got one spelling mistake, they won't even look at you.

F I know that's the way it is, but it does seem a bit unfair. Just one little mistake ...

M But you can see why they're like that, you can't have people sending out letters from your company full of mistakes. It looks really bad.

F And if they can't add up, it's even worse. That's something that schools should concentrate on, basic maths, um, how to add up, multiply, do percentages, because that's what you really need to do in everyday life, all the time.

M I wonder. These days you can do all that sort of stuff on a calculator or on your phone in seconds. Isn't it a bit of a waste of time doing that sort of thing?

F That's a bit like saying you don't need to learn dates in history because you can find them on the internet. What do you do when your phone runs out of battery and the internet is down? I think it's very dangerous to rely so much on technology for really important things.

M Surely sometimes it's better to use technology. What about things like your sat nav?

F I haven't actually got one. I can see how it might be useful, but not as useful as learning to read a map.

M I suppose so. Maybe that's something they should teach at school. After all, if you're good at map-reading you can walk across mountains for days and days and never get lost.

F It would be difficult to teach, though. And I think there are more important things they should be focusing on, don't you?

Now listen again.

▶ 1.09

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

Question 1: A woman is describing the island she visited on holiday. What does she think of it?

A It was more beautiful than the man's favourite island.

B It was quicker to reach than she imagined.

C It was busier than a lot of other resorts.

M Tell me about this Greek island you went to, Alonissos. I haven't heard of it.

F Alonissos. No, nor had I, so the five hours on the car ferry to get there came as a bit of a shock. But it was worth it.

M Quiet, I imagine.

F Actually, the village was quite lively at night, but obviously we're not talking about clubbing.

M I still don't think anywhere can beat Paxos. It's such a pretty island.

F Well, in that case, you have to see Alonissos.

Now listen again.

Question 2: A woman is phoning a customer service department. What is the problem with the order she has received?

A The boots are too big for her.

B The company has sent the wrong boots.

C The quality of the boots is not good enough.

F Oh, hi, I'm calling about some boots I've just had delivered ... um, and I can see they'd be perfect for hiking, but I'm afraid they're no good, even with really thick socks. They're size five, which I can see, looking at the order form, is what I ordered, I just didn't realise that your size five was different to an English size five. Anyway, I'm not sure which address to send them back to, so could you give me a ring?

Now listen again.

Question 3: A man is leaving a message with a bicycle mechanic. Why is he phoning?

A to make an appointment

B to ask for some information

C to discuss a problem

M Hi Tim, this is Michael Waverley here, and I think I'd like you to have another look at my bike. You did it last year, and it's been great. This time I'll probably just need a service and check-up, but I'm also thinking about having a couple of new tyres, so perhaps you could give me a figure for that, too before we go ahead with anything. OK, bye.

Now listen again.

Question 4: A woman is talking about her friend Andrew. How does she feel about him?

A angry that he did not come for a meal

B sad to hear that he was not feeling well

C annoyed that he made her waste food

M How was lunch with Andrew?

F He didn't turn up. He rang this afternoon to say he had a bad cold.

M Well, he probably didn't want to give it you.

F He seemed absolutely fine yesterday.

M So, did you actually go ahead and cook something?

F Yes, and it cost more than I usually spend on cooking lunch, but it's OK, it's in the freezer. We can have it some other time.

M You and him?

F Me and you. That's the last time I'm inviting him around for anything.

Now listen again.

Question 5: Two friends are talking about a TV programme. What sort of story is it?

A a comedy

B a romance

C a thriller

M Are you watching that thing with Anna Stone in it – where she looks after the children in a rich family?

F Yeah, 'Home Help' – it's really good, isn't it? And she's got such amazing eyes, she almost doesn't need to say anything, you know what she's feeling – love, hate – well, not much love, is there?

M Exactly! And I've got a funny feeling that the mother could be her next victim.

F Yeah, perhaps. I think the kids will be OK, but not her.

M No, I don't think she realises what danger she's in.

Now listen again.