

PRACTICE TEST 4

This is the Richmond Practice Tests for Cambridge English: First, Test Four. Listening. I am going to give you the instructions for this test. I shall introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions. At the start of each piece you will hear this sound:

Sound effect

You will hear each piece twice.

Remember, while you are listening, write your answers on the question paper. You will have five minutes at the end of the test to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet.

There will now be a pause. Please ask any questions now, because you must not speak during the test.

PAUSE 5 SECONDS

Now open your question paper and look at Part 1.

PART 1

You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1 – 8, choose the best answer, A, B or C.

1 You hear a hotel guest complaining to the manager of the hotel.

PAUSE 2 SECONDS

So, although I turned it on, nothing seemed to be happening. In fact, I've done that several times. I'm pretty sure I'm using the correct switch. It's the one with the red light, right? And it doesn't seem to be anything to do with the electricity because I've had the TV on. It's really humid in my room because of the steam from the shower I had. Do you think you could get it fixed – or perhaps you could move me to another room?

PAUSE 2 SECONDS – REPEAT Q.1 – PAUSE 2 SECONDS

2 You hear a woman asking about her missing glasses.

PAUSE 2 SECONDS

Hello, is that the airline lost property desk? ... Oh good. Yes, I've just arrived from London on flight SY 303 and I'm afraid I've left my glasses on board the plane. ... My seat number? Just a minute, um, 47G. ... No, I don't think I left them on the seat as I would have seen them. I had some hand luggage in the overhead locker, but they certainly weren't in my luggage as I had them during the flight. I think they may have got folded up inside all the flight magazines when I put them back.

PAUSE 2 SECONDS – REPEAT Q.2 – PAUSE 2 SECONDS

3 You overhear two students discussing some arrangements.

PAUSE 2 SECONDS

Man: It's a pity about having to cancel the excursion to the coast next Saturday.

Woman: Yeah, I know, but only six people signed up to go, and you need at least twenty-five before you can hire a coach – otherwise it costs a fortune.

Man: Yet when we were talking about it, over thirty people said they were interested.

Woman: Well, apparently there's a concert on that night and we wouldn't get back in time for the start of it.

Man: Well, I'm really disappointed as I'd been looking forward to it.

PAUSE 2 SECONDS – REPEAT Q.3 – PAUSE 2 SECONDS

4 You hear an announcement about the weather.

PAUSE 2 SECONDS

... and the high winds which have been sweeping across the country have begun to die down. There are reports of damage to buildings and bridges although no one has been injured. However, storms and heavy rain are expected to return in the next 24 hours, and drivers are advised not to make any unnecessary journeys. Although most flights are leaving on time, incoming flights are up to three hours late in some cases, so if you're planning on meeting people...

PAUSE 2 SECONDS – REPEAT Q.4 – PAUSE 2 SECONDS

5 You overhear a tour guide talking to some people.

PAUSE 2 SECONDS

... and a warm welcome to you all. I'm afraid we have to make a slight alteration to today's tour. We would normally take you to the top of the mountain so you could enjoy the views. But as you will see from the fog and mist this morning, such a journey would be pointless. We will still be taking you around the island and the surrounding countryside, but at the end of the morning we shall stop at a factory shop where you can buy different kinds of chocolate at very low prices, much lower than you would normally pay. The cocoa beans are all actually grown locally and processed in the factory.

PAUSE 2 SECONDS – REPEAT Q.5 – PAUSE 2 SECONDS

6 You hear a woman talking about studying abroad.

PAUSE 2 SECONDS

I decided to come to New Zealand to study partly because I've got family here. In fact, I've got five cousins who are similar in age to me. And I think that was important because it meant I'd got a ready-made circle of friends I can go out with, have a coffee and a chat, you know. I'm also going off at weekends to visit different places and I'm reading lots to find out about this amazing culture. There's an exhibition on in the university art gallery at the moment of New Zealand art. I just came across it by accident as I was going to the chemistry labs – I'm studying chemistry.

PAUSE 2 SECONDS – REPEAT Q.6 – PAUSE 2 SECONDS

7 You hear a man talking.

PAUSE 2 SECONDS

I was walking past the sports centre when I saw it so of course I picked it up. It was full of money. I didn't count it, but it was a thick bundle of notes as if someone had won it. So I looked for a name and address so I could return it to whoever had dropped it. Well, there were some photos inside but absolutely nothing to say who it belonged to. So I went into the sports centre and there was this woman at the desk in tears, explaining she'd lost something. I've never seen anyone look so happy when she saw I'd got it.

PAUSE 2 SECONDS – REPEAT Q.7 – PAUSE 2 SECONDS

8 You hear a brother and sister talking together.

PAUSE 2 SECONDS

- Boy:** So if I buy Mum some flowers, will you get her a vase?
- Girl:** She's got plenty of vases. Can't we think of something more original?
- Boy:** But she loves flowers...
- Girl:** Yeah, but it ought to be something different. She's going to be fifty so it's not just an ordinary occasion. And we took her flowers when she was in hospital last month. And Dad gave her some jewellery to celebrate their wedding anniversary. Let's get her a picture or a painting, something small but original.

PAUSE 2 SECONDS – REPEAT Q.8 – PAUSE 2 SECONDS

That is the end of Part 1. Now turn to Part 2.

PART 2

You will hear a man who has just flown in from abroad being interviewed about the airport's facilities. For questions 9 – 18, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase. You now have 45 seconds to look at Part 2.

PAUSE 45 SECONDS

- Interviewer:** Excuse me, Sir; I wonder if you could spare a few minutes to answer some questions?
- Passenger:** Oh, right, OK then, I've got a bit of time to spare. What's it to do with?
- Interviewer:** I'm carrying out a survey on behalf of the airlines which use this airport. As you probably know, there are plans to develop a new terminal in the future. Could I ask you first about the purpose of your trip?
- Passenger:** Of course. Even though I've just flown in from a popular holiday destination, Spain, I've been there on business, just for a couple of days. I'd really like to go back there as a tourist one day though.
- Interviewer:** Yes. And can I ask you about your ticket? Did you fly first class?
- Passenger:** I used to fly first class but for the last couple of years I've had an economy fare. There's quite a difference in the price, I can tell you.
- Interviewer:** Oh, well, that brings me on to my next question. How would you describe your flight?

Passenger: I know that flying can be stressful for lots of people, and I can understand that if there are delays or you're in a rush ... but surprisingly, perhaps, 'comfortable' sums up my flight really well.

Interviewer: Thank you. I'll put that down. Now the next question is ... are you a frequent traveller?

Passenger: Well, it depends what you mean by frequent, do you mean once a week?

Interviewer: How often do you travel, presumably more than once a year?

Passenger: It works out at about once a month but I know lots of people do commute weekly by plane.

Interviewer: Yes. And can I ask you, have you had to queue for long for anything since you got off your plane?

Passenger: Well, my bag was waiting for me when I got to the luggage claim but at passport control there was what I'd call an unacceptable wait. There seemed to be some sort of problem.

Interviewer: Oh, I'm sorry to hear that. Now the next question's about places to eat. What sort of place do you eat at in an airport?

Passenger: To be honest, like most people, all I want is something light so a café would be my preference, rather than a restaurant where you would get a big meal.

Interviewer: Yes, I feel the same when I travel. And have you been to any of the shops and bought anything?

Passenger: Yes, I had a look in the duty free shop to see if I could find the perfume my wife likes but it was out of stock so I went for some chocolates instead. I thought that was safer than getting a perfume I'd chosen.

Interviewer: I know what you mean. So you've spent a bit of time in this terminal. Have you come across anything that's not working?

Passenger: I used the cash machine ... oh but the lift near the toilets had a sign on it saying you couldn't use it, so just that I think ... yes.

Interviewer: OK, I'll make a note of that. And is there anything that you'd like to see more of that could improve the airport for passengers?

Passenger: We could do with more seats; people waiting to meet friends for example would appreciate that. There seem to be plenty of trolleys ... so I can't think of anything else.

Interviewer: Good point. Now, one last question. How will you be travelling onward from the airport?

Passenger: I've given up using my car to get to and from the airport and use the train. Even the bus only gets caught up in traffic jams – so what's the point?

Interviewer: I know. Well, thank you for your time and have a good onward journey.

PAUSE 10 SECONDS

Now you will hear Part 2 again.

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REPEAT PART 2 - PAUSE 5 SECONDS

That is the end of Part 2. Now turn to Part 3.

PART 3

You will hear five different people talking about things they miss. For questions 19 – 23, choose from the list A – H the thing each person misses. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use. You now have 30 seconds to look at Part 3.

PAUSE 30 SECONDS

Speaker 1:

Well, you see, my parents moved house; we moved from living in the country in the hills to living in a city. And I remember waking up the first morning in the new house, and looking out of my bedroom window and being horrified by how close all the other houses and neighbours' barking dogs were. I'd been used to looking out at fields and hills and I felt trapped by all the buildings. But actually, the weather's much better here, not nearly as cold as it was where I used to live and I must admit it's much easier to get to college now, it's only about fifteen minutes by bus.

PAUSE 3 SECONDS

Speaker 2:

When I first moved to this country I thought it was wonderful. Well, I suppose I still do otherwise I wouldn't have stayed here – I'd have gone off travelling again. But one of the things I've never got used to is having to go without some of life's little pleasures. It sounds silly really. I love cheese, and the only one you can get here is in tins, and it tastes nothing like the real thing. At times I think I can almost feel the texture and see the yellow creamy colour and then I can almost smell it, that ripe sharp smell.

PAUSE 3 SECONDS

Speaker 3:

I've now got a great job with a travel agency and it feels wonderful to earn some money at last. I can choose whatever I like on a restaurant menu instead of just choosing the cheapest thing. But, actually, some days, I'd do almost anything to be in the library doing research for my Master's again. I used to have my favourite place there and I'd spread out my papers and work for hours on end, just absorbed in what I was doing. At the time, I didn't realise how privileged I was to be able to do that.

PAUSE 3 SECONDS

Speaker 4:

When I was a student, I used to spend all my free time playing tennis or going out somewhere with Simon. We even went on holiday together. That was all before we both got jobs that took us to different sides of the world. Although I'm enjoying living in the USA and working in a top restaurant, and I've got to know lots of people, it's not the same. The people I know here are mainly colleagues and it's nothing like 'the good old days'. Perhaps when it's cold here in a New York winter, I'll go and visit him in sunny Australia.

PAUSE 3 SECONDS

Speaker 5:

Of course, in the days when I was earning a good salary, I'd think nothing of spending huge sums on eating out in expensive restaurants. I never used to worry about how much was going out of my account on horse-riding lessons, whale watching holidays, you name it. And if I was walking past a shop and I saw something that I fancied – not that I actually needed, but just something that looked attractive like another watch or a ring – then I simply went in and bought it. Very different from today, when I have to add everything up and count my pennies to make sure I can buy even basic things like soap and toothpaste.

PAUSE 10 SECONDS

Now you will hear Part 3 again.

REPEAT PART 3 - PAUSE 5 SECONDS

That is the end of Part 3. Now turn to Part 4.

PART 4

You will hear a conversation between Carol and Mike about a film they have just seen. For questions 24 – 30, choose the best answer, A, B or C. You now have one minute to look at Part 4.

PAUSE 60 SECONDS

Carol: Hi Mike. I'm really glad that we went to see that film last night, even though it was quite a long way to go to the new cinema.

Mike: Yeah, but I'd go almost anywhere to see a new film directed by Hank Witters. And I was pretty sure that you'd feel the same.

Carol: Absolutely. And I wouldn't have known it was on if Jane hadn't told me about it. She emailed me when she saw it advertised in the local paper.

Mike: The opening scenes were brilliant, weren't they?

Carol: I thought at first that Charlie, the main character, was talking about a friend he was looking for, and it took me a while to realise he just couldn't remember a thing about his past life.

Mike: Yeah, I even thought he was suggesting he'd killed someone and that that whole thing was haunting him.

Carol: Yes, but making us, the audience, really think was a good way to get us engaged with the film.

Mike: What did you think of Charlie, played by Hugh Pennington? You like him as an actor, don't you?

Carol: Well, I know he's an actor who's been around for a long time and has had some great parts, but to be honest it took me a while to figure out if he was supposed to be American or British.

Mike: Oh really, that never occurred to me. The only thing I would have liked were more close-up shots so that we got more of a sense, a stronger sense, of the anger he was feeling.

Carol: Well, I think the emotions were really supported or... brought out by the music, which was fantastic, so perhaps that's why they didn't have those close ups.

Mike: I agree about the music; whoever wrote and produced it did a great job of making it a perfect match for the excitement, the atmosphere ... all those things.

Carol: And I think some of the songs will become popular hits.

Mike: Yeah, I think so too because the film's sure to become a box office success. I mean, just think about the plot.

Carol: Yeah, I never knew what was going to happen next. But it wasn't overcomplicated.

Mike: That's the sign of an intelligent script – complex enough to keep you interested but not so complicated it becomes hard to follow.

Carol: Yeah. I know what you mean. But how did you feel about the ending?

Mike: Yeah – that was a bit funny – I mean, do you really think that Charlie would have opted to go and live with his brother?

Carol: That didn't seem true to character to me. And what was that supposed to mean?

Mike: Well, I guess the message of the film was that family ties are always the strongest in the end – no matter what other relationships we form along the way.

Carol: But I wouldn't have given the film that sugary ending.

Mike: Perhaps not, but that's what the scriptwriter did and you have to accept that. So what for you was the most memorable part?

Carol: I bet you loved it when Charlie was driving that sports car and was chased by gangsters ... up those windy mountain roads...

Mike: That was good but...

Carol: What about when we saw Charlie's previous life in the 80s? I'll never get that image out of my head.

Mike: That's got to be the part that will stay with me for a long time. And I know some reviewers think his wedding is superb.

Carol: Yeah but perhaps less original.

Mike: Definitely.

PAUSE 10 SECONDS

Now you will hear Part 4 again.

REPEAT PART 4 - PAUSE 5 SECONDS

That is the end of Part 4.

There will now be a pause of five minutes for you to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. Be sure to follow the numbering of all the questions.

[In the exam, there will be a pause of five minutes. You may wish to stop the recording now. Remind your students when they have one minute left.]

That is the end of the test. Please stop now. Your supervisor will now collect all the question papers and answer sheets.