

Teaching Tips for the London Test of English – Listening 1

This is the first of three issues of Teaching Tips to be devoted to the listening section of the LTE examinations.

Preparing to Listen

For all examinations it is vital for candidates – and teachers – to be familiar with the format, the kinds of tasks and the kinds of language likely to come up. Arguably this is most important of all for listening exams, because they demand such intense concentration. Candidates need to be as comfortable as possible while listening. They cannot stop or rewind the listening material, so cannot afford to be distracted or confused even if only for a moment by unexpected questions or topics.

The following activities

- familiarise students with formats and language for the listening section of the LTE exam
- show them how to read the rubrics and the questions to help them focus their listening

Activity: To teach students to orient themselves to what they are going to hear.

- 1) Compile or invent a list of introductions to the listening section (See [sample papers](#) and the [LTE Handbook](#) for ideas). For lower levels you might produce

Hello everyone! Today's test is the London Test of English Level #. The theme of this test is Jonas buys a Jacket...

Task One: Jonas meets Ahab

Jonas is waiting in a cafe. Listen to his conversation with a friend, and look at the pictures...

Hello everyone! Today's test is the London Test of English Level #. The theme of this test is A New Job...

Task One: Sophia arrives at the office

Sophia is talking to her new boss. Listen to the conversation and ...

Hello everyone! Today's test is the London Test of English Level #. The theme of this test is A Trip to Scotland...

Task One: Learning about the Country

You are planning a holiday. Listen to a radio programme about popular tourist attractions in Britain, and ...

- 2) Give the list to pairs of students. Get them to read each introduction and discuss these questions:

As you read each introduction, what can you predict about

- the people who are going to speak?
- the vocabulary they will use?
- the relationship between them?
- how they will speak?

There will be further listening activities in next month's Teaching Tips.