

## GA LEVEL 2 (C1) CERTIFICATE IN ESOL INTERNATIONAL LISTENING RECORDING TRANSCRIPTS: Version – Sample 2

### Listening Task 1:

SPEAKER	MALE / FEMALE + AGE	ACCENT
Sally	Female	Standard English
Ben	Male	Standard English

**Sally:** Hi Ben, I heard you've moved in to a new flat. Have you settled in yet?

**Ben:** Oh Sally, this whole thing's been a total nightmare! I wish I had never left the apartment I was sharing with my sister, but I was so eager to live on my own... I just rushed into renting this place...

**S:** That doesn't sound good. But I thought you found somewhere in a great location?

**B:** Well, I thought it was, because it's only a short distance away from the university. And you know how difficult it is to find somewhere like that half way through the academic year. But the thing is, it's in a quiet residential area – it could really do with some bars or restaurants, where I could hang out with my friends. I'd rather live in the city centre and travel to the campus every day.

**S:** Oh, maybe you should try to look on the bright side? At least you will be able to focus on your studies instead of going out all the time...

**B:** I'm not sure I'll have that much time to study anyway; I'll have to find an extra part-time job to keep up with the rent payments!

**S:** Why didn't you look for something you could afford then?

**B:** I thought I had. But what I totally forgot about is that I'd have to pay water and electricity bills on top of the rent. So it's not as much of a bargain as I initially thought, quite the opposite! I think I'll have to arrange to borrow some money from the bank just to make ends meet.

**S:** If I were you I'd think twice about that. It will cost you money in interest payments. Why don't you just cut down on unnecessary expenses?

**B:** Such as what?

**S:** You know, try to identify all the things that cost you money that aren't necessary. For example, you could cycle everywhere instead of using public transport. The money you save can go towards your rent instead, and hopefully you won't have to look for more part-time work.

**B:** That doesn't sound like much fun. Maybe I could just ask mum and dad to help...

**S:** Ben, that's the last thing you should do. Anyway, it's only temporary. You don't have to stay at the flat forever, do you? And there's got to be something you like about it?

B: I guess. It's got a really nice kitchen, with a separate dining area

S: So you can start to cook your own food instead of relying on take aways every night. They cost a fortune and aren't very nutritious.

B: Sally, I'm afraid you've never tasted my cooking. It's tasteless at the best of times!

S: I can pop in this weekend and give you a hand with a few simple recipes. I'm sure you'll pick it up in no time. That way I'll finally get to see your new place as well.

B: Definitely, I'd really appreciate that. Anyway, is everything OK with you?

S: I've just started working on a new research project at the university. It's really exciting, but one of the other girls that's meant to work with me on is not well at the moment, and I'm having to cover for her. She's usually very conscientious, so I don't mind, but I'm struggling to make time for all the things I have to do.

B: Oh, now I feel bad to have taken you up on your offer.

S: On no, I didn't mean it like that, sorry Ben. I need some time to switch off anyway, so it'll be nice to come over and spend some time with you...

B: Is there anything I can give you a hand with in the meantime? I mean, I can't exactly help you with the project, but you can count on me with anything else...Except for cooking, of course (*laughter*)...

S: It's very nice of you to ask. I can't think of anything right now, but I'll keep it in mind!

B: OK, no worries. And sorry for boring you with my housing problems, but I really feel like talking to you has put my mind at rest!

## Listening Task 2:

SPEAKER	MALE / FEMALE	ACCENT
Sarah	Female	Standard English

Hello everyone. My name is Sarah. I'm a careers advisor – someone who helps people choose the right job – and I'm here today to talk to you about making the right career choice. I'm really lucky because I love my job, but it wasn't always the case. So, first of all I'm going to tell you about how I found the job of my dreams. Then, I'll give you some advice about what you should consider before choosing a job. And finally, you'll be able to ask me any questions you have, from university exams to job interviews.

OK. When I was a teenager, I had no idea what I wanted to do. My mum and dad encouraged me to study architecture, and I agreed. I didn't have much interest in the subject, but I worked hard, passed all my exams and started working as an architect. The money was good: it allowed me to make ends meet and more, but I just didn't enjoy what I was doing.

One day I was talking to my friend, who had just started a new job. She was so excited! She couldn't wait to go to work the following day. And it made me feel very sad, because I had never felt like that about my work. My boss thought I was a good architect and didn't want to let me go, but I knew I couldn't stay.

After I left, I took a part-time job in a local café. I spent a lot of time talking to customers, and I discovered that I really enjoyed listening to people and giving them advice. I wasn't earning much money, but I was feeling much happier at the end of the day. Not long after, I started a part-time course and qualified as a careers advisor. This decision definitely put my working life back on the right track!

So, what are the things you need to consider before choosing a career? Clearly, listening to my parents' advice didn't work for me. Family and friends mean well, but they don't know you as well as you do. Of course, money is an important consideration, but my experience tells me that getting satisfaction from your work is the key. It's not just about your skills, but about finding a job you will enjoy doing.

However, if you really have no idea what you'd like to do, don't let it cause you too much stress. Recent research shows that as many as 50% of 18 year olds can't identify a single job they want to go for. This number doesn't surprise me, as with the technological advances nowadays, new types of jobs appear every year, so it is difficult to keep up.

Because of that, university education is no longer as essential as it used to be for certain roles. Nowadays employers look for candidates with certain people skills rather than specific knowledge – for example the ability to work in a team, enthusiasm, or good communication skills. These are often considered to be more important than job specific skills.

OK. I have a bit more advice for you, and a question and answer session at the end, but before that I'd like us to take a break now, during which I want you to complete a short questionnaire. This will help me with some research that I'm doing at the moment so I hope that you don't mind doing it for me...

### Listening Task 3:

SPEAKER	MALE / FEMALE	ACCENT
Speaker 1	Male	Standard English
Speaker 2	Female	Standard English
Speaker 3	Male	Standard English

#### Speaker 1:

Yes, I do agree it's crucial to look after the environment. I mean, people now have a much stronger understanding of environmental issues than they did a decade ago. But I'm not sure the damage we've done to the planet can be repaired at this stage.

I must say, I've always tried to do my part...I don't own a car, and I spend my holidays at home instead of flying abroad. I regularly attend community tree planting events... in fact, I went to one the other day, and it was really satisfying. But in my opinion, the changes that individual people can make will be meaningless unless they are supported by governments. They need to work with big businesses, as business is responsible for most of the damage to the planet.

#### Speaker 2:

Last month I attended a presentation about what we can do to save the planet, and I learnt so much stuff I had no idea about before! For example, I was astonished to find out how many trees you need to plant to make up for the damage done by taking a short flight! It really opened my eyes.

I've made some real changes in my life: I've completely given up using plastic bags, and started to turn off all the appliances at night. The one thing I am struggling with is saving water – I love a nice long soak at the end of a day. I did try to convince my parents to join a car share scheme – they have a car each, but they've refused. Instead, they suggested that I spend my next holiday at home instead of flying abroad! Can you imagine? (*sounding incredulous*) I'm not particularly keen on the idea. I'd rather go to a tree planting event, to be honest.

#### Speaker 3:

I have recently started a project I'm really enjoying – I've put a feeding table for the birds in my garden. The idea is that it'll help some of the native species that are struggling to survive! And you don't even have to have a garden; you can just leave bird food in parks or even on your window sills, so there's really no excuse not to do it.

Another change I have recently made is in my shopping habits. I used to shop at places that offered the best value, but instead I now go to a supermarket which has signed up to a scheme to reduce plastic packaging by 50% across all its stores nationwide.

I know that many people believe that the government and big companies are to blame for the state of the environment. But it is up to each one of us to make changes in our lives, so I don't think anyone can afford to sit back and wait for the change to happen.