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Listening Comprehension (Aural)

aims

- To improve your understanding of spoken German.
- To be able to approach your Listening test with confidence.

The **Listening Comprehension** section is worth 80 marks (20% of the total).

The Listening Comprehension exam tests your ability to understand **spoken** German. It takes place just after the written paper and lasts approximately **40 minutes**.

There are **four** parts in the Listening test. They include:

- an **interview** with a German-speaking person
- a **telephone message**
- a **dialogue**
- a **news bulletin**, which usually includes a **weather report**

Each part is played **three** times.



Obviously, the best way to prepare for the Listening test is to **hear lots of German**.

If you have no contact with native speakers, you should use every opportunity to listen to German on **radio**, such as 'Deutsche Welle' (also accessible via www.dw-world.de), **German television channels**, such as ARD and ZDF (if you have access to German television), German films and CDs of past examinations.



While the questions on the **interview** and the **news bulletin** require **factual** information, the questions on the **phone message** and the **dialogue** also require a particular **technique** in answering. To this end, you will find **guided answers** to parts **two** and **three**.



REMEMBER:

- 1 Read the instructions on your paper carefully. You will hear 'Lesen Sie jetzt bitte die Fragen zu Teil I, II ...' Use this time wisely and then give the CD your **full concentration**.
- 2 Do not panic if you miss a piece of information on the first or even the second hearing. The parts are played **three** times.
- 3 **Do not leave any blanks**. If you don't know an answer after the third hearing, make an intelligent guess. You could be right!
- 4 Use the full line provided when answering. You do not necessarily have to answer in full sentences, but make sure your points are **clear and legible**.
- 5 In all parts of the Listening test, check that you have given the **correct details**, the **correct number** of details and that they have been written in the **correct space**.

First part: Interview



In this part there is an interview with a German-speaking person. It might be about a career path, a project, an organisation or a particular problem.

Included in past examinations have been interviews with:

- a person who works in a children's hospital
- a student involved in Third World projects
- a professional ballet dancer
- a fireman
- a person in search of accommodation
- a director of a charitable organisation
- a school caretaker
- a sociology student

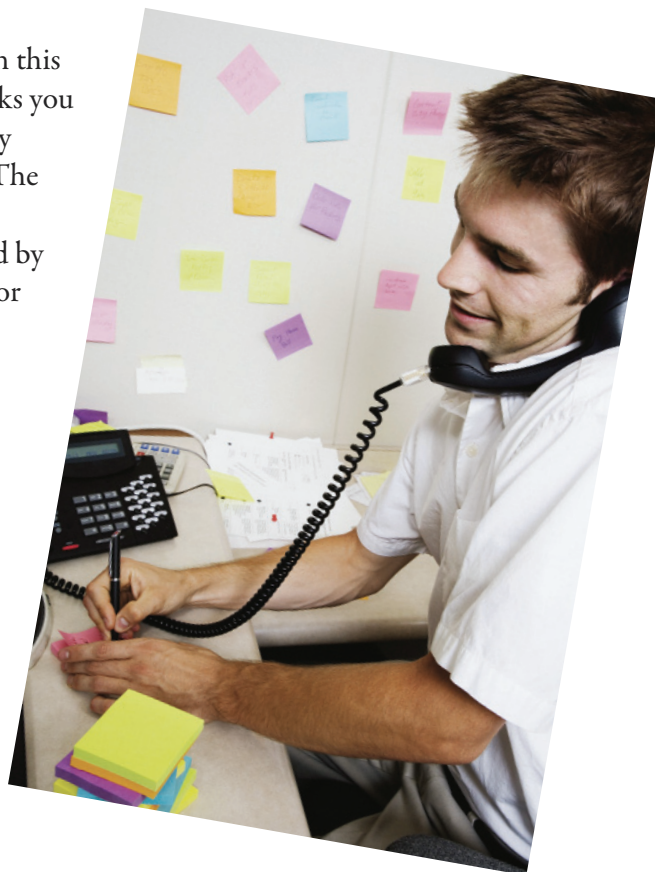
In the exam the interview is played **three** times, the **second time** with **pauses**, to give you a chance to assimilate the information and write your answers.



The subject matter of this section is **wide** and **varied**. The more thorough your grasp of a **broad range of vocabulary** (available throughout the book), the more confident you will be in your answers.

Second part: Telephone message

There are **two** questions in this part. The first question asks you to write the message or key information in **German**. The second question asks for examples of **language** used by the speaker to express his or her feelings.



There has been a **wide variety** of phone messages in past examinations. They have included:

- a complaint to a party service
- a problem about a delivery of furniture
- an anxious call regarding participation in a stunt school
- a worried caller reporting an attack
- a call to the police by a person stuck in a lift
- a delighted call about a prize trip to Bali
- a complaint about a job
- a complaint about a reservation in a youth hostel
- a call to the German Rail Lost Property Office

The first task is to write the telephone message in **German**. You need not use full sentences. **Key words** are sufficient.



You will lose marks here if you answer in English.

Teil II: Guided answer



Track 1

(Transcripts for the guided answers can be found on pages 208–209)

In the 2009 exam, an agent of the German Rail Lost Property Office takes a message.

Question 1

You are asked to write down **in German** the key information the official puts in his note of the conversation. The note should contain:

- the caller's name
- the problem the caller has
- details regarding further contact/action to be taken
- the caller's phone number



Make sure you know the **alphabet in German** as names of callers are usually spelt out. Pay particular attention to the vowels 'i' (pronounced 'ee') and 'e' (pronounced 'ay'). The mark awarded is **all or nothing**.

After you have written the name of the caller, you have to fill in the information about the train that the lady was travelling on and then give an **exact** description of the camera phone that she lost. The words 'Regionalexpress', 'Hannover' and 'Neustadt' are **not spelt out**. Don't worry! In this case you will be awarded the marks if your **spelling is close**.

The description of the camera phone can be written in key words.

You then tick the box that indicates the next step for the caller.

Finally, you give the **telephone number** of the caller.



Know your **numbers in German**! As with the alphabet, the mark awarded is **all or nothing**.

The answers are in **handwriting type** and the **marks** awarded are shown in **red bold type** and in **brackets**.

Solution to question 1

Gesprächsnotiz: Fundbüro der Deutschen Bahn
Anruf von: <i>SCHENKER</i> (1, all or nothing)
Problem: Zug <i>Regionalexpress</i> (1) von <i>Han(n)over</i> (1) nach <i>Neustadt</i> (1)
Abfahrt um <i>16.25</i> (1) Uhr
Ankunft um <i>16.50</i> (1) Uhr
Was verloren?/Genaue Beschreibung: <i>Silber, Samsung, zerkratzt, ein Aufklapp-Foto-Handy, hat einen Apfel/Anhänger/Fotos von der Party</i> (any two of these details, 2 marks)
Anrufer/in:
wird innerhalb der nächsten zwei Wochen kontaktiert <input type="checkbox"/>
erhält einen Rückruf, sobald Näheres in Erfahrung gebracht worden ist (2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
soll sich im Laufe des Tages noch einmal melden <input type="checkbox"/>
braucht nicht mehr anzurufen <input type="checkbox"/>
Kontaktnummer: (Vorwahl) <i>05032</i> (Rufnummer) <i>916066</i> (2) (all or nothing)

You should be familiar with the following phrases. They indicate the steps that can be taken with regard to the caller.

Anrufer/in ... *Caller ...*

erhält einen Rückruf. *will receive a call back.*

erhält so schnell wie möglich einen Rückruf. *will receive a return call as soon as possible.*

ruft in 20 Minuten zurück. *will call back in 20 minutes.*

wird zurückrufen. *will call back.*

erwartet einen Rückruf. *is expecting a call back.*

wird e-mailen/schickt eine E-Mail. *will email.*

erwünscht einen Rückruf. *would like a call back.*

möchte ein Treffen. *would like a meeting.*

wird morgen zurückgerufen. *will be called back tomorrow.*

bittet um einen Termin. *requests a meeting.*