

**LanguageCert  
Communicator B2  
Level 1  
International ESOL (Listening, Reading, Writing)  
Practice Paper 6**

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**Candidate's name** (block letters please)

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**Centre no**

**Date**

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**Time allowed:**

- Listening about 30 minutes
- Reading and Writing 2 hours and 10 minutes

**Instructions to Candidates**

- An Answer Sheet will be provided.
- All answers must be transferred to the Answer Sheet.
- Please use a soft pencil (2B, HB).

### Listening Part 1

You will hear some short conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answer to complete each conversation.

1. a) The pleasure's all mine.  
b) Please don't mention it.  
c) I'm pleased you think so.
  
2. a) I have never been able to cook well.  
b) I think you're wrong about the order.  
c) I'm not really keen on chicken either.
  
3. a) Sorry. I can't hold that.  
b) Thank you. I can wait.  
c) Of course. I know him.
  
4. a) Can you upload it, please?  
b) Like what, for example?  
c) How can you say that?
  
5. a) I'll do it first thing tomorrow.  
b) I'll go around there soon.  
c) I'll get some more now.
  
6. a) Knew they would!  
b) Turned out OK!  
c) What a shame!
  
7. a) No, we haven't made up our minds yet.  
b) No, we can't manage to play that music.  
c) No, we are not going to reach that far.

## Listening Part 2

You will hear some conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answers for each conversation.

### Conversation 1

1. The man doesn't
  - a) have many hobbies.
  - b) understand blogs.
  - c) know Martha well.
  
2. The woman shouts at the man to stop him
  - a) taking something.
  - b) harming himself.
  - c) going somewhere.

### Conversation 2

3. The speakers are most probably
  - a) a married couple.
  - b) work colleagues.
  - c) two flatmates.
  
4. The woman is
  - a) angered by the man's behaviour.
  - b) sympathetic to the man's problem.
  - c) uninterested in the man's situation.

### Conversation 3

5. Andy used to believe that
  - a) internet articles should not be trusted.
  - b) statistics were generally inaccurate.
  - c) figures and numbers were dull topics.
  
6. The man is trying to convince the woman to
  - a) improve her driving skills.
  - b) pay attention to statistics.
  - c) ignore trivial coincidences.

**Listening Part 3**

You will hear someone talking. You will hear the person twice. Complete the information. Write short answers of one to five words.

**How to protect your back**

1. Piece of office furniture that reduces backache:  
.....

2. Correct hand position when typing:  
.....

3. When to take work breaks:  
.....

4. Surprising piece of advice:  
.....

5. Easy type of exercise:  
.....

6. How gentle exercises help backache:  
.....

7. Last piece of advice:  
.....



### Listening Part 4

You will hear a conversation. You will hear the conversation twice. Choose the correct answers.

1. Fiona believes that the typical rich business person
  - a) is an expert internet user.
  - b) really only cares about himself.
  - c) has had lots of good business ideas.
  
2. Andy thinks that Tobias Gardener's ideas could
  - a) affect life on Earth.
  - b) predict the future.
  - c) increase wages.
  
3. Andy mentions a money service as an example of how Gardener
  - a) tends to improve existing services.
  - b) comes up with exciting new ideas.
  - c) only buys profitable businesses.
  
4. According to Andy, Gardener decided to build his own rockets because he
  - a) wants to start exploring planet Mars.
  - b) was influenced by a science-fiction writer.
  - c) couldn't find cheap rockets on the market.
  
5. Fiona mentions Steve Jobs to try to convince Andy that
  - a) Tobias Gardener is not unique.
  - b) Jobs' inventions were recyclable.
  - c) few businessmen are important.
  
6. Andy finally claims that Gardener will be influential because he
  - a) will improve transport on Earth.
  - b) is currently working on pollution.
  - c) has ideas for living in other planets.

## Reading Part 1

Read the text and the questions. Choose the correct answer for each question.

### **Egyptian pyramid mystery finally solved!**

Recent research shows the ancient Egyptians may have built the pyramids using a special method to slide huge blocks of stone on wet sand across the desert.

Investigating the forces needed to pull heavy loads on wooden platforms over desert sand, Amsterdam University scientists discovered that pouring water on the sand in front of the platform makes it easier to slide the load along. The findings answer one of the longest-lasting historical mysteries: how the Egyptians built the pyramids.

The researchers made this discovery with help from the past: a wall painting dating back to about 1900 BCE and discovered in the tomb of the ancient ruler, Djehutihotep, in Deir el-Bersha. Deir el-Bersha isn't as well-known as the site of the Pyramids at Geza, but Djehutihotep's tomb, originally studied by archaeologist George Reisner in 1915, revealed loads of information. Numerous wall paintings were found, and even before Reisner's research, European travellers had visited the tomb and made precise drawings of them.

One of the paintings shows 172 men pulling an enormous statue using ropes attached to a wooden platform or sledge. A person is standing in front of the sledge, pouring water over the sand. 'We wondered about the reason', said Daniel Bonn, a physics professor at the University of Amsterdam. So, Bonn's research team recreated the situation by pulling heavy objects on cardboard sledges through trays of sand.

When dragging the sledges over dry sand, the researchers noticed small piles built up in front of the sledges, making movement harder. Adding water, however, made the sand firmer, so the laboratory sledges could slide across it more easily. Bonn explained that water creates bridges between the bits of sand, helping them stick together. It's the same reason why using wet sand to build a sandcastle at the beach is easier than using dry sand, as any child who's ever built one will know.

However, the researchers found there's a delicate balance. 'Using dry sand doesn't work, but if the sand's too wet, it doesn't work either', Bonn said. 'In that case the sledge would simply start to sink as it was dragged along in the desert. Get it right, though, and you only need half the people you'd think you'd need to pull your sledge.'

The study may explain how the Egyptians constructed the pyramids, but the discovery also has modern-day uses. It could help researchers understand the behaviour of various sand-like materials, such as rice, which could potentially lead to more efficient use of these resources in future.

1. The Amsterdam scientists were inspired by an
  - a) ancient city.
  - b) Egyptian statue.
  - c) old decoration.
  
2. Some works of art were found at
  - a) a place where someone was buried years ago.
  - b) the most well-known pyramid site.
  - c) a location which Reisner first discovered.
  
3. To test their ideas, the scientists
  - a) ran some tests in the desert.
  - b) conducted an experiment.
  - c) studied children playing.
  
4. The scientists found out that
  - a) wet sand has a smoother surface than dry sand.
  - b) cardboard platforms are better than wooden ones.
  - c) desert sand is different to the sand found at the beach.
  
5. The success of this technique depends on having
  - a) a special design for your sledge.
  - b) an exact number of people.
  - c) the correct amount of water.
  
6. The writer is optimistic that scientists will
  - a) now solve other Egyptian mysteries.
  - b) make good use of the recent findings.
  - c) use sand for other purposes in the future.

## Reading Part 2

Read the text. Use the sentences to complete the text. Choose the correct sentence for each gap. There is one extra sentence you will not need.

### Why we walk

In many remote areas of the planet, walking is the only way to get anywhere. However, there are towns, especially in the USA, where people almost never walk, but either drive everywhere by car or use other means of transport. **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_ We therefore asked some of them why they act differently from their neighbours and here are their answers:

'Contrary to what most of my neighbours do, most days of the week, the only "transportation" I use is my feet. The grocery store and the yoga studio I go to regularly are near my home. **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ If I need a longer break, the beach is only about a mile from my house', says Margaret.

Katherine explains why people may use their cars so much. 'In the small town where I live', she says, 'traffic jams don't exist, except at rush hour when people coming home from work just wait at the traffic lights for a few minutes longer than usual. Therefore, most inhabitants find it convenient to use their cars, even if they're just going round the corner to buy bread! **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_ Nevertheless, I prefer to walk because it's good for the environment and because it promotes a healthier way of life for me and my children.

Katherine mentions another advantage of walking, which is not usually considered. She says: **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_ They pay attention to their surroundings and are less likely to get lost. I like to allow my kids to take the lead and show me how to get to places.' Walking is also, perhaps surprisingly, safer for children. **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_ Car crashes are a serious problem in the United States and walking clearly helps people avoid them.

On the whole, it seems there are many reasons to consider walking to your destination rather than taking the car, but the most important are those mentioned above. **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ The benefits are endless if we decide to make the change.

- A They can also easily find parking spaces in this town.
- B Statistics show far fewer accidents involving children as pedestrians than as passengers.
- C Walking in these areas is so unusual that people who do so, are considered strange!
- D But health isn't the main reason why I walk.
- E If I want a change of surroundings, there are also several cafés and restaurants close by.
- F In other words, it keeps you safer and healthier, allows you to know the area where you live and reduces pollution.
- G Children who walk through their neighbourhoods get to know them better.

### Reading Part 3

Read the four texts. Which text gives you the answer to each question? Choose the correct text (A-D) for each question.

#### A

For the perfect fries, follow these tips: cut long, thin chips, and salt them. Pour enough good quality oil in a pan and increase the heat. Test the temperature by dropping a chip in. If it starts frying, the temperature is right. Add the potatoes to the hot oil and cover the pot for five minutes, then remove the lid and fry for another five minutes on high. Take them out and add salt if needed. If you like, add some melted cheese too.

#### B

Nowadays nobody can imagine life without potatoes, but they are a fairly new addition to the European diet. Sailors returning from South America brought them back, but for at least two centuries, potatoes remained a food for few. They became popular in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, when the climate changed, and other products people relied on were hard to find. One of the most famous and well-liked dishes, is, of course, fried potatoes which are easy to make and always tasty if cooked properly.

#### C

Are you fond of potatoes? Do you enjoy well-fried chips as much as we do? Do you like your fries crispy on the outside and soft on the inside? Do you fancy different varieties of toppings and dressings with them? If you do, then, the *Happy Potato Café* is the place to visit! We specialise in making the perfect fries for every taste by cooking them at the appropriate temperature in high quality oil! Visit our historic, two-hundred-year-old café and taste the best fries since Belgian farmers first invented them!

#### D

Last Saturday we visited this café we'd heard so much about to try their fries. I must say they were far from delicious, so I'd not recommend it. The owners claim they make the best in the area, but obviously ours hadn't been cooked at an appropriate temperature because they were cold and soft, not at all crispy – very disappointing. There were lots of customers, though, and the owners say their café's really old – but our fries tasted as old as the first potatoes to come to Europe from America!

**Which text:**

1. aims to attract potential customers?
2. is an account of a personal experience?
3. gives instructions on how to do something?


**Which text provides the answers to the following questions?**

4. When was an eating place established?
5. What does someone advise against?
6. How can you tell when the temperature is appropriate?
7. Who introduced potatoes to Europe?


## Reading Part 4

Read the text and answer the questions. Use a maximum of five words for each question.

### Hedy Lamarr – an actress and a genius!

Born Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler in Vienna in 1914, she became an actress in the 1930s. At the age of 19 she married a wealthy but extremely jealous man, Friedrich Mandl, who objected to her acting career and tried to persuade her to stay at home. Mandl had numerous business meetings with scientists and other professionals involved in military technology and always insisted that his beautiful wife accompany him. This was Hedwig's first introduction to the field of applied science and led to her realising that she had a talent for science. Hedwig's marriage to Mandl eventually ended, and she decided to change her life by moving away. She wrote in her autobiography that she disguised herself as her servant and ran off to Paris. However, rumours claimed that she persuaded her husband to let her wear all her jewellery to a party before disappearing.

In Paris she met the actor, Clark Gable, and also met an American agent looking for new talent in Europe, who soon hired her, but also persuaded her to change her name to Hedy Lamarr so that she could make a fresh start to her career when she arrived in America. Louis B. Mayer chose that surname for her as he had always admired the beautiful silent-film star, Barbara La Marr, who he described as 'the queen of Hollywood'. Upon arriving in Hollywood in 1938, Mayer began promoting Hedy Lamarr as the 'world's most beautiful woman'. As one of the most gorgeous and exotic Hollywood stars of the time, she acted in many Hollywood films together with famous actors like Spencer Tracy, and Mayer hoped she would become another Greta Garbo or Marlene Dietrich. She made 18 films from 1940 to 1949 and her biggest success was as Delilah in the film *Samson and Delilah*.

The next few films she was asked to star in, however, were not challenging enough and so she refused the parts and started inventing to keep herself busy. Lamarr's earliest inventions include a traffic light and a tablet which could be added to water to make a soft drink, but drink manufacturers were not impressed. Lamarr herself said it tasted like medicine. When the Second World War started, she was inspired to invent a more serious device, one which could protect radio signals from enemy attacks. However, as the design was technologically difficult to produce, the U.S. Navy, for whom she had designed it, didn't actually adopt it until after the war.

When she was older, Lamarr became more and more isolated from friends and family, and eventually stopped going out of her house altogether. Ironically, for a woman whose invention's principles are now used in mobile phones, Bluetooth and Wi-Fi devices, her only means of communication with the outside world was the telephone.

1. What did Lamarr discover about herself in the business meetings?

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2. What did Lamarr take with her to Paris, according to stories?

.....

3. What was the name of the person who employed Hedy Lamarr?

.....

4. How was Lamarr described when she arrived in America?

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5. Why did Lamarr turn down some roles?

.....

6. Who did Lamarr hope would use her most important invention?

.....

7. How did Lamarr get in touch with people in later life?

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