

Half-Yearly Exams

2015

English Listening Comprehension Procedures

Time: 30 minutes

Teacher's Booklet

Procedures for Task 1.

Look at Task 1

(Allow a 15 second pause while students familiarize themselves with the task)

Listen carefully. You will hear the passage twice.

If you wish, you may start the exercises as you listen.

Mrs Bedone

One Friday morning early, Mrs. Bedone came. A very tremendous lady she was. When the children saw her they all stood in a row, very upright indeed. They smoothed down their bathing dresses and put their hands behind them, just as if they were going to be examined by the inspector.

She had on a black bonnet and a black shawl. On her great hooked nose she had a pair of large green spectacles. Her nose hooked so much that the bridge of it stood quite above her eyebrows. Under her arm she carried a long wooden rod.

Indeed she was so ugly that Tom was tempted to make faces at her. He did not admire the look of the rod under her arm.



from **The Water Babies** by Charles Kingsley.

Listen to the exercises and complete them.

(Include the 4 second pause after each number).

Exercise 1: True, False or No Information Given.

1. Mrs Bedone came on a Friday afternoon. _____
2. The children were afraid of the lady. _____
3. Her large green glasses were found in the street. _____
4. Tom managed to make faces at her. _____

Exercise 2: Tick (✓) to show the correct answer.

- a) When the children saw Mrs. Bedone they all
- i) ran towards her.
 - ii) stood in a row, very upright indeed.
 - iii) hugged her lovingly. *(4 seconds)*
- b) Mrs. Bedone wore
- i) a big red hat.
 - ii) a pair of big black shoes.
 - iii) a black bonnet and a black shawl. *(4 seconds)*
- c) Mrs. Bedone had
- i) a hooked nose.
 - ii) a small nose.
 - iii) a lovely thin nose. *(4 seconds)*

d) Under her arm she carried

i) a big black book.

ii) a black cat.

iii) a long wooden rod.

(4 seconds)

Now you will hear the passage again. Listen carefully. *(The passage is read a second time).*

Listen to the sentences again. You may finish this task as you listen. *(The sentences are read a second time. Include the 4 second pause after each number).*

You now have some time to check your answers. *(Allow 30 seconds)*

This is the end of Task 1. *(Allow a 30 second pause between Task 1 and Task 2).*

Look at the exercises for Task 2.

(Allow a 50 second pause while students familiarize themselves with the task)

Listen carefully. You will hear the passage twice.

If you wish, you may start the exercises as you listen.

The Golden Eagle

At last the winter was ending. Every day the sun grew warmer until it began to melt the thick snow that covered the land. For the golden eagle, however, this was still a difficult time. Prey was scarce and he sometimes went hungry for several days between good meals. But he was strong and skilful hunter and had lived through many winters before.

With wings stretching two metres from tip to tip – longer than a man is tall – the eagle could ride on the strong mountain winds almost without effort. His eyesight was remarkable – perhaps eight times better than any human’s – so that he could see even small creatures moving in the distance.

Today the wind had dropped and the air was still, so that the golden eagle could not glide in the easy, stiff-winged way he liked best. He had to work harder, flapping along until he reached a high watching place where he could see his huge mountain kingdom, in the north west of America, spread out below him. The sound of the rivers, unfrozen now and flowing noisily rose up to him. Occasionally big, wet splodges of snow slipped from the branches of the fir trees and dropped to the ground.

Listen to the exercises and complete them.

(Include the 4 second pause after each number)

Now listen to these sentences and fill in the blanks with one word only from the story.

Number 1. The eagle went hungry for _____ days. *(4 seconds)*

Number 2. In calm wind the golden eagle couldn't _____. *(4 seconds)*

Number 3. Its eyesight was _____ times better than any human's. *(4 seconds)*

Number 4. The golden eagle could hear the sound of the _____ water. *(4 seconds)*

Number 5. There were some _____ of snow slipping from tree branches. *(4 seconds)*

Number 6. The wings stretched _____ metres from tip to tip. *(4 seconds)*

Underline the correct answer in the brackets.

(Include the 4 second pause after each number)

Number 1. The story took place in (summer, autumn, winter). *(4 seconds)*

Number 2. During this time prey was (abundant, scarce, common). *(4 seconds)*

Number 3. The golden eagle is a (skilful, poor, lazy) hunter. *(4 seconds)*

Number 4. When the wind drops the golden eagle finds it (easier, harder, simpler) to reach a high watching place. *(4 seconds)*

Number 5. When the icy rivers melt, water flows (silently, noisily, smoothly). *(4 seconds)*

Number 6. On the mountain, in the North West of America there are a lot of (oak, fir, walnut) trees. *(4 seconds)*

Now you will hear the passage again. Listen carefully.

(The passage is read a second time).

Listen to the exercises again. You may finish off any remaining exercises as you listen.

(The exercises are read for a second time. Include the 4 second pause after each number).

You now have some time to check your answers. *(Allow 1 minute)*

This is the end of Task 2 and the end of the Listening Examination.