

Listening & Speaking Practice

Guided Conversations

◀ Sample Conversations ▶▶▶

Read the following conversations and pay attention to the underlined parts. Then practise the conversations with your partner.

1. **A:** Hi, Linda, it's great to see you. How's everything?
B: Very good, Bill. How are you?
A: Not so good. I'd like you to meet my sister Monica Gilbert.
C: Hi! Nice to meet you.
B: Nice to meet you, too, Mrs. Gilbert.
C: Please call me Monica.
2. **A:** How can I improve my listening, Professor Yang?
B: You'd better listen to English radio programmes regularly.
A: What radio programmes should I listen to?
B: Why not try *Radio English on Sunday*? It's excellent.
A: How about listening to tapes?
B: That's a good way too. *New Concept English* may be a good choice.

◀ Bank of Useful Expressions ▶▶▶

Introduction and Self-introduction	Enquiry and Request
1. This is...	1. Can you give me any explanations?
2. I'd like you to meet...	2. What is the meaning of...?
3. Come and meet...	3. Do you have any suggestions on...?
4. This is my colleague, Mr. ...	4. Excuse me, but can you tell me...?
5. May I introduce you to...?	5. Can you do me a favour?
6. Hi, I'm...	6. Would you mind...?
7. Excuse me, my name is...	7. Are you free this weekend?
8. I don't think we've met before. I'm...	8. Do you want me to get a doctor?

◀ Mini Role-play ▶▶▶

Make up conversations with your partner according to the following situations. Try to use the expressions in the Bank.

Situation 1: Your partner is a librarian. Ask him/her how to borrow books from the library.

Situation 2: Your partner failed in the examination and looks very unhappy. Show your sympathy with him/her and encourage him/her to do better next time.

Listening Practice

◀ Word Dictation ▶▶▶

Listen carefully. Fill in the blanks with the words you hear.

1. Learning a foreign language is for the purpose of _____.
2. The quickest _____ of travel is by plane.
3. He is planning to go _____ to study English for a few years.
4. There are a lot of foreign language films, radio and TV programmes, tapes, _____ coming into China nowadays.
5. _____ will make you a good musician.
6. Active students often ask questions or ask for further _____ from teachers.
7. You must take an active part in the learning _____.
8. While learning, try to _____ on English sounds and sentence patterns.
9. Foreign language learners must _____ native speakers' speaking.
10. You should remember that no one in an English-speaking country speaks _____ English.

◀ Sentence Comprehension ▶▶▶

In this task, you will hear five sentences. There are three choices for each sentence. Decide which is closest in meaning to the sentence that you've heard.

1. **A.** Can you tell me why you were late?
B. Would you explain the word "late"?
C. Do you feel sorry for being late?
2. **A.** People in the community know the boy very well.
B. The boy is shy when talking with his classmates.
C. The boy is too shy to talk with others.
3. **A.** You cannot learn how to play basketball unless you watch others play.
B. It's a good way to learn how to play basketball by watching others play.
C. You must practise in order to learn how to play basketball.

4. **A.** Some good teachers can read others' thoughts.
B. Some excellent teachers can read very fast.
C. Some outstanding teachers have a quick mind.
5. **A.** He has not decided where to spend his holidays.
B. He has made up his mind to have a holiday.
C. He's not sure whether he'll have a holiday.

◀ Dialogues ▶▶▶

Dialogue 1 I Have to Write an English Composition

Listen to the dialogue and then choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

1. What is the man's problem?

- A.** He is sick.
- B.** He cannot decide which country he should visit.
- C.** He doesn't know what to write for his composition.
- D.** He is too busy to finish the composition.

2. What does the woman suggest?

- A.** Asking his teacher for advice.
- B.** Writing about his trip.
- C.** Visiting Egypt.
- D.** Taking a picture.

3. What did the man do last week?

- A.** He took some pictures of camels.
- B.** He travelled to Egypt.
- C.** He showed the woman some pictures.
- D.** He visited some historical places.

4. When should the composition be handed in?

- A.** Next week.
- B.** Next morning.
- C.** That afternoon.
- D.** Twenty minutes later.

5. What would the man probably do next?

- A.** Take some pictures.
- B.** Buy a ticket.
- C.** Tell the woman his plan.
- D.** Organise his composition.

Dialogue 2 English Language Centre

Listen to the dialogue and then answer the following questions in the fewest words possible.

1. What kind of students is the basic communication course for?

2. How many months does the basic communication course cover?

3. Besides Wednesday evening, when will the students have classes for the basic communication course?

4. How much does the course cost?

5. Where is the student going to get the application form?

◀ Passages ▶▶▶

Passage 1 Why Is the Native Language Learnt So Well?

Listen to the passage and then choose the best answer to complete each of the following sentences.

1. **Compared with children, _____.**
 - A. adults have less language learning experience
 - B. adults have less knowledge of language
 - C. adults have fully developed mental powers
 - D. adults can learn foreign languages more quickly
2. **_____ reasons are provided to explain why a child learns his mother tongue so well.**
 - A. Two
 - B. Three
 - C. Four
 - D. Five
3. **When learning his mother tongue, a child _____.**
 - A. has a lot of practice in listening and speaking
 - B. always uses the right words and right structures
 - C. has each week a limited number of hours
 - D. always works hard
4. **A child learning the native language has all the advantages except _____.**
 - A. hearing the language in all natural situations
 - B. hearing the language spoken all day long
 - C. being able to learn the proper body language
 - D. talking about ice and snow in June

5. The last explanation for children's success is that _____.

- A. their language teachers are usually experts
- B. they have close relationship with their language teachers
- C. their language teachers never give them unnatural lessons
- D. their language teachers speak correctly from morning till night

Passage 2 Ms. in English Language

Listen to the passage and then complete each of the following statements with no more than three words.

1. Miss was first used for _____.
2. The word Mr. doesn't show a man's marital status, so many women think this is _____ for men.
3. People use Ms. before a woman's name when they don't know _____.
4. Some women don't like Ms., for they find the word is difficult to _____.
5. Generally speaking, _____ like Ms. better than older ones.

◀ Listening for Fun ▶▶▶

Listen and see how well you can understand the story.

Text-based Practice

Vocabulary & Structure

1 Complete the following sentences by using some of the words from Texts A and B with the help of the first few letters given.

1. What is the nor _____ temperature of the human body?
2. There is nothing parti _____ in today's newspaper.
3. As you know, it is now quite com _____ for women to become managers.
4. We gene _____ go to France for our holidays, but last year we went to America.
5. Talking with friends is not only rela _____, but also very interesting.
6. The Great Wall is full of tour _____ at this time of the year.
7. The little boy of only five years old can imi _____ the actor's voice perfectly.
8. There is a good rea _____ for me not to go to the meeting.
9. Have they deter _____ where the new school will be built?
10. The girl said that she could give an exp _____ why she didn't want to go to school that day.

II *Fill in each of the blanks in the following sentences with a proper preposition or adverb from Texts A and B.*

1. Finally he managed to get into contact _____ the local people in the village.
2. Young people sometimes complain of not being able to communicate _____ their parents.
3. You'll solve the problem if you concentrate _____ it.
4. Look! The train is going _____ full speed.
5. _____ what purpose do you want to go to Japan?
6. It will save time if we go by taxi _____ walking.
7. Some of the students are learning English _____ listening to tapes and getting online.
8. You must make good use _____ your spare time to practise English.
9. The teachers were invited to take part _____ the discussion.
10. She made up her mind to finish the task, and refused to give _____.

III *Complete each of the following sentences with the proper form of the word given in the brackets.*

1. (explain) From this _____ you will easily understand the new rule.
2. (translate) This poem _____ from Chinese into several foreign languages.
3. (enjoy) The boys must have had a(n) _____ holiday; they look so happy and healthy.
4. (cook) _____ for the family is not only fun, but also a way of showing love.
5. (what) _____ he did, his mother praised him.
6. (overcome) Ann's mother told us that she was very proud of Ann's _____ her shortcomings.
7. (able) I'm afraid the little girl will be _____ to open the heavy door.
8. (understand) Mrs. Johnson's pronunciation and intonation is so poor that she can hardly make herself _____.
9. (relax) He lay back and let his mind _____.
10. (improve) My purpose is _____ my English.

IV *Translate the following English expressions into Chinese or vice versa.*

A

1. find oneself unable to understand

2. as closely as you can

3. an active rather than a passive student

4. unless you ask a question

B

1. 发现这个问题很难回答

2. 尽可能快速地

3. 抓住而不是失去这个机会

4. 除非下雨

5. whatever your reason is

6. communicate with foreign guests in China

7. make oneself understood

8. help the teacher by asking questions

5. 不管我们有什么样的目的

6. 与自己的子女沟通

7. 让别人听得见自己的话

8. 通过模仿别人学会说话

V *Translate the following sentences into English.*

1. 如果你听从我的劝告，你就能成功。（follow..., and...）

2. 外面的噪音使我不能专心工作。（concentrate on）

3. 除窗子外，屋子的其他部分都很好。（other than）

4. 照看那些人是我的工作。（用动名词作主语）

5. 他们没有乘公共汽车而是步行到那里去的。（instead of）

Grammatical Exercises

I *Choose the right words in brackets to complete the following sentences. Consult "Writing Practice" Exercises I, II and III in your textbook if necessary.*

1. Gymnastics _____ my favourite sport. (is/are)

2. The trousers you bought for me _____ fit me. (doesn't/don't)

3. The police _____ to interview two men about the robbery last week. (want/wants)

4. Fortunately the news _____ as bad as we expected. (wasn't/weren't)

5. Where _____ your family live? (does/do)

6. Three days _____ long enough for a good holiday. (isn't/aren't)

7. I don't like very hot weather. Thirty degrees _____ too warm for me. (is/are)

8. The government _____ to increase taxes. (want/wants)

9. So far neither the teachers nor the students nor everybody else _____ launched a protest against the local government. (has/have)

10. Where to find him and how to find him _____ known to us. (aren't/isn't)
11. Not only Ricky but also the Browns _____ going to take their children to Disneyland this vacation. (is/are)
12. Whether he succeeds or fails _____ not concern me. (do/does)
13. Writing stories and articles _____ what I enjoy most. (are/is)
14. No teacher and no student _____ seen the film. (has/have)
15. Neither of the young men who had applied for a position in the university _____ accepted. (was/were)
16. In the room there _____ a big table and a great many chairs. (are/is)
17. Many a student _____ (has/have) realised the importance of learning English, and now the students of the class _____ taking notes when listening to the teacher. (is/are)
18. Each of the students, working hard at his or her lessons, _____ to go to university. (hope/hopes).
19. All but Tom _____ present at the meeting last night. (were/was)
20. The population of China _____ (is/are) very large, 80% of which _____ farmers. (is/are)

II

Combine each pair of sentences into a single sentence, using the word given in brackets.

Consult "Writing Practice" Exercises I, II and III in your textbook if necessary.

1. (and) Our knowledge grows.
The universe develops.
2. (but) I bought this blouse here last week.
There seems to be something wrong with it.
3. (because) She went to the doctor.
Her back hurt.
4. (if) You jump the queue.
Other people will not be pleased.
5. (or) You may do it yourself.
You may ask someone else to do it.
6. (so... that...) You were very absorbed in the moment.
You lost all self-consciousness.
7. (which) His mother finally hurried him into the house.
The house swallowed him for the evening.
8. (whether) Will he speak at the meeting or not?
This is very important to us.

Reading Practice

Passage 1

How to Be a Good Language Learner

Linguists (语言学家) have given us many suggestions on how to learn a new language quickly and effectively. But probably the most important piece of advice can be summarised (总结) in one word: Reflect (细想)! By this I simply mean that you should think about your learning; that you should come to understand your own strengths and weaknesses, your likes and dislikes. If you find something difficult, you should ask yourself why and try to find ways to do better next time. If you always get low scores in vocabulary tests, you should analyse your methods of studying words. If you don't like to study grammar from grammar books, you should find some other methods of learning the rules of the language. An excellent way to reflect on your learning is to keep a language journal in which you write about your daily experiences in learning English.

A good way to use the study notes on this website is to first reflect on (and maybe write down) your own strategies in listening and in learning vocabulary, etc. Then you can read the notes in these pages and compare what you do with the advice given there. (If you don't know how to start, just look at the sub-headings within the note pages. These may give you a good idea of the different issues connected with the particular topic.)

Remember that everyone has his or her own learning style. So if you do something different and it works well for you, don't feel you have to follow the advice given in the notes.

The passage above is downloaded from a website. It gives some advice on how to learn a new language quickly and effectively. After reading it, you are required to complete the outline below.

1. The advice for learning a new language quickly and effectively:

_____.

2. The things a language learner should understand:

his own _____ and _____;

his _____ and _____.

3. An excellent way to reflect on one's learning: _____.

4. The last step of suggested actions in using the study notes on the website: making a comparison between _____ and _____.

Passage 2

How to Learn Words

Once you have chosen which words to learn, the next to decide is how you are going to learn them. Here are a few ideas:

- ◆ write the words in a notebook (with their definitions or translations)
- ◆ write the words and their definitions on small cards
- ◆ read the words aloud many times (if you have an electronic dictionary you can hear how the word is pronounced)
- ◆ put the words into different groups (you could use a graphic organiser)
- ◆ write them in a file for use with a computer program
- ◆ make associations (in pictures or with other words)
- ◆ ask someone else to test you
- ◆ use the words in your own speaking or writing exercises

Some students put a tick or cross in their dictionary next to each word they look up. The next time they turn to a page with a marked word, they quickly check to see if they remember the meaning of that word.

In all of the ways above, you are doing something with the words. It is usually not enough to just read through a list of words with their definitions or translations and try to remember them. Most students find that they memorise words better if they do something with them. Even better is to try and learn the word in a typical combination with other words. Learning that to apologise means to say sorry is a good start, but it's much better to learn a whole expression containing the word, e.g. He apologised for being late. Not only is this often easier to remember, but you are also learning some very important information on how the word is used.

The passage above contains some suggestions about how to learn words. After reading it, you are required to give brief answers to the five questions below.

1. What should you first decide to do if you want to learn words?

We should _____ the words we want to learn.

2. Which method would you choose to learn words?

We would choose _____.

3. What do some students usually do when they use a dictionary?

They put _____ next to the word they look up.

4. How can one memorise a word better?

He can try and learn it _____ with other words.

5. What does the example in the last paragraph suggest?

It suggests that it is important to know _____.

Passage 3

VOA (Voice of America, 美国之音) Special English

Special English programmes are designed primarily for listeners who are studying English or who speak English as a foreign language. Three elements form the basis of every broadcast: Vocabulary—scripts (短篇) are written in about 1,500 words; Style—sentences are short and grammatically simple; Speed—passages are read one-third slower than regular VOA broadcasts. When it started in October 1959, Special English was an experiment. A basic vocabulary and format were developed. Next came a test programme broadcast worldwide. Non-native speakers found the pace comfortable and the English easy to understand. For many of them, English was the language they need to learn to realise their goals. Listening to Special English was one way to learn.

VOA made some Special English programmes available outside the United States for English teaching purposes. Publishers and educational institutions have used them to reach large numbers of students. Teaching materials based on Special English programmes have been published in China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Poland, Romania, and South Korea.

The following are some Special English programs reporting on activities and trends in education, politics, arts and American society. Monday “Science in the News” is a collection of recent developments in science. Tuesday “Space and Man” reports about outer space and the space in which we live and work. Wednesday “The Making of a Nation” tells the story of America from the late 1700s to the 1980s. Thursday “American Mosaic” is a radio magazine with reports about music, movies, and the students’ life. Friday and Saturday “American Stories” are adaptations of stories written by American authors. Saturday and Sunday “Words and Their Stories” explain words and expressions used in American English. Saturday “Science, Agriculture, Development and Environment Reports” describe the research in those fields. Sunday “In the News” describes issues, organisations, and people that are the subject of news stories.

The following five questions or unfinished statements are based on the passage above. For each question or unfinished statement there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. You should make the correct choice after reading the passage.

1. When Special English started it was mainly intended for those _____.

- A. whose native language was English
- B. who were learning English
- C. who were native Americans
- D. whose English was very good

2. When did the test programme broadcast become worldwide?
- A. As soon as it started.
B. After October 1959.
C. In October 1959.
D. Before 1959.
3. The underlined word “pace” (in Para. 1) means “_____”.
- A. style B. space C. speed D. pronunciation
4. What can we infer from the passage?
- A. The programmes are popular among native Americans.
B. The programmes are not so easy for listeners.
C. Special English is a round-the-clock programme.
D. Special English is broadcasted every day.
5. How many Special English programmes are broadcasted by VOA now?
- A. At least 8.
B. More than 9.
C. No more than 7.
D. 11.

Translation

Translate the following six sentences chosen from the three passages above into Chinese.

1. If you always get low scores in vocabulary tests, you should analyse your methods of studying words.
2. Then you can read the notes in these pages and compare what you do with the advice given there.
3. Put the words into different groups (you could use a graphic organiser).
4. It's usually not enough to just read through a list of words with their definitions or translations and try to remember them.
5. Speed—passages are read one-third slower than regular VOA broadcasts.
6. Publishers and educational institutions have used the programmes to reach large numbers of students.

Writing Practice

Guided Writing

Rearrange each of the following six groups of words and expressions to form a logical sentence in accordance with the pattern “S + VI + Cs”.

Model: *Science in the News*, of recent developments, is, in science, a collection

Science in the News is a collection of recent developments in science.

1. English, the language, to learn, they need, was
2. English, the language, to learn, they need, was, for many of the students, as a tool
3. English, the language, to learn, they need, was, for many of the students, as a tool, in, this, to go abroad, university
4. English, the language, to learn, they need, was, for many of the students, as a tool, in, this, to go abroad, university, in the future
5. English, the language, to learn, they need, was, for many of the students, as a tool, in, this, to go abroad, university, in the future, to find, a, well-known, job, and
6. English, the language, to learn, they need, was, for many of the students, as a tool, in, this, to go abroad, university, in the future, to find, a, well-known, job, and, South-Asian, good

Applied Writing

Programmes and Agenda

◀ Sample ▶▶▶

American Teachers' Academic Tour – China

(May 30 – June 12)

Time	Place	Activities
May 30 10:00 a.m. 3:30 p.m.	Beijing Beijing Foreign Studies University Beijing Normal College	A visit to the Web Centre and a multi-media language lab followed by lunch at the college; A discussion of the library programme and small group meetings with students
June 4 9:00 a.m.	Chengdu Sichuan University	A visit to the library and a discussion of the training of teachers for remote areas
June 6 3:30 p.m.	Nanjing Nanjing University	A visit to the Johns Hopkins Centre
June 9 10:00 a.m.	Shanghai East China Normal University	A discussion of the distance learning programmes followed by lunch at the university
June 12 10:00 a.m.	Hong Kong Chinese University of Hong Kong	A discussion of higher education in Hong Kong

◀ Simulation Writing ▶▶▶

Finish the following schedule with the information given below.

在期末考试前一周，你给自己制定了“考前周学习计划”：除每天上午正常上课外，

- 1) 周一下午复习《新起点大学基础英语教程》Book 1, 1-3单元，晚上继续；
- 2) 周二下午复习第4单元；晚上和夏俊同学拜访王老师；
- 3) 周三下午、晚上复习5-7单元；
- 4) 周四下午复习第8单元，晚上听录音：1-8单元的听力部分；
- 5) 周五下午浏览1-8单元写作部分；晚上开班会（class meeting）。

Pre-exam Revision Schedule Mon. - Fri. (except all mornings)	
Time	Revision Tasks
Monday afternoon evening	Review Units 1-3 Book 1 <i>New Essential College English</i> Continue
Tuesday afternoon evening	
Wednesday afternoon evening	
Thursday afternoon evening	
Friday afternoon evening	