

Part 1

You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions **1-8**, choose the best answer (**A**, **B** or **C**).

1. You hear a person talking about a recently constructed road. What do they think about the road?

- A They believe it will make shopping trips longer.
- B They approve of it.
- C They are concerned about the environmental impact.

2. You hear someone talking about their education. What did they study?

- A Medicine
- B Fine arts
- C Science

3. You hear a man talking to another person. Who is he talking to?

- A a client
- B a student
- C a janitor

4. You hear a woman and her neighbour talking. What does the woman want her neighbour to do?

- A look after a pet
- B feed her child
- C water her plants

5. You hear a woman planning to go to a beauty parlour. What is she doing there?

- A getting her hair done
- B having her nails done
- C getting a massage

6. You hear a conversation between two colleagues. Why is the woman upset?

- A Something went missing.
- B Something got wet.
- C Something is broken.

7. You hear a technician talking about a broken computer. When will it be repaired?

- A Friday
- B Monday
- C Tuesday

8. You hear a woman talking about her commute to work. How does she feel about it?

- A It makes her relaxed.
- B It stresses her.
- C It is very long.

Part 2

You will hear a radio programme about a famous dessert dish. For questions 9-18, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

Pavlova

Pavlova is a dessert that takes its name after 9 _____ Anna Pavlova.

It is believed that the dessert had been created to celebrate Pavlova's tour of Australia and 10 _____ in the 1920s.

One of the common festive meals the dessert is served at is 11 _____.

Professor Helen Leach, a culinary anthropologist at the University of Otago in New Zealand, has researched the dessert and compiled a series of cookbooks containing 12 _____ Pavlova recipes.

Some sources point at Bert Sachse as the original creator of the dish at the Esplanade Hotel in 13 _____ in 1935. Matthew Evans from The Sydney Morning Herald said that 14 _____ about the pavlova's origins is not likely to be found.

The process of making Pavlova involves 15 _____ into a thick mass, with other ingredients such as sugar and vinegar added later.

16 _____ is where raspberry topping seems to be the most popular one.

Ready-to-be-made pavlovas can be bought, that require little effort to make and only need both 17 _____ added to them.

New Zealand's national museum, Te Papa, made 18 _____ in February 1999 memorable by creating the largest pavlova in existence, called 'Pavzilla'.

Part 3

You will hear five people talking about their first employment experiences.

For questions 19-23, choose from the list (A-H) what each person says about it. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use.

A they lied about something	Speaker 1 19 ____
B they were injured	Speaker 2 20 ____
C they were made redundant at work	Speaker 3 21 ____
D they were issued a warning	Speaker 4 22 ____
E they were doing a number of different things	Speaker 5 23 ____
F it affected their career choice	

Part 4

You will listen to a person talking about their time at school. For questions **24-30**, choose the best answer (**A**, **B** or **C**).

24. The author's family

A went to the same school.

B did not enjoy their school years.

C had poor academic performance.

25. The other boys at the school

A also hated following the rules.

B seemed to be okay with it.

C enjoyed staying there.

26. The author's illness during the first term

A did not get proper treatment from the nurse.

B turned out to be not as serious as he had thought.

C was so bad that he nearly died.

27. During his stay at the hospital the author

A was irritated by nurses' attitude.

B was worried about other patients.

C was too shy to talk to the nurses.

28. Because of the illness the author

A had to skip one year of school.

B had to have classes in the library.

C had enough private time.

29. When leaving school, the headmaster expected the author to

A feel sorry about finishing school.

B realise how good the time at school had been.

C be happy about leaving school.

30. The author now

A understands headmaster's point of view.

B has the same feelings about his time at school.

C feels uncertain about how he feels about his time at school.

Answer Keys

Part 1 1. B 2. B 3. A 4. A 5. B 6. A 7. C 8. A	Part 2 9. Russian ballet dancer 10. New Zealand 11. Christmas lunch 12. 667 13. Perth, Australia 14. (a) definitive answer 15. beating egg whites 16. the United Kingdom/the UK 17. water and sugar 18. its first birthday
Part 3 19. D 20. A 21. F 22. B 23. E	Part 4 24. A 25. B 26. C 27. A 28. C 29. B 30. B

Tapescript

The part of the text containing the answer is underlined with the question number given in square brackets []. If you still struggle with FCE Listening, please refer to [Listening tips](#).

Part 1

1.

Speaker: Of course I can understand their concerns, it's bound to have an effect on some of the wildlife there, but at the end of the day you've got to balance that out with the positive effect it will have on the village. It will be a lot more pleasant for all of us here when we don't have to wait an hour just to cross the road to get to the post office. [1]

2.

Student: My parents tried to convince me to study Medicine, and I went along with them right up until the final moment when I had to submit my university application. Although I'd always been quite good at science I'd never really enjoyed it that much and I couldn't see how medicine would be that different. Of course, at that age I never fully appreciated how hard it would be to get a degree in Fine Arts... but sometimes you've just got to follow your heart. [2]

3.

Speaker: So, if you look closely you can see that just by applying a small quantity of it to the surface and rubbing it ever so gently in a circular motion with a kitchen cloth, the final result is as clean as if you'd been scrubbing it for hours. It's a marvel of modern science, it really is. And at just under two pounds a bottle, you can't say fairer than that. So how many bottles would you like? [3]

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4.

Woman: If it's no trouble... oh that's great... thanks ever so much. You just have to check there's enough water in the bowl. I'll be back by Monday, so you only need to go round there twice. And if you leave him some food in the bowl every other day, that'll be great. [4] Is there anything you'd like me to bring you back?... Sure, no problem. Bye!

5.

Woman: I'd had my hair done there before and I loved it. They really take care of you in there. I had a lovely cup of coffee while I was waiting and they even gave me a head massage before the styling. So, as it's my birthday and I'll be going out this evening I thought why not get my nails done there... [5] then go home, put on my best dress and some make up and hit the town.

6.

Woman: I'd put it in my drawer because I didn't want to take it outside with me and risk it getting wet if it suddenly started raining. I thought it would be fine if I just left it there... but when I got back after lunch there was no sign of it. [6] I haven't got a clue who could've done something like that. It's really put me in a fix, it really has!

7.

Speaker: Well, leave it with us. We'll have a look at it as soon as we can. It doesn't sound like it's anything too serious. We're a bit busy at the moment but we can definitely get round to it by Friday. So if you come around on Monday then I'm sure we'll have it up and running for you by then. Oh, hang on, Monday is a holiday and we're closed, so pop round the next day then [7].

8.

Speaker: I know most people hate it... it's stressful, it takes too long... it's hell they say. But for me... well... it's the only time I get to myself really. [8] When I'm at work the phone's ringing nonstop... at home the kids are either screaming or wanting help with their homework. So it's a time I can just slip on some good music and sort of switch off. Actually I wish it took two hours instead of one!

Part 2

Pavlova is a meringue-based dessert named after the Russian ballet dancer Anna Pavlova [9]. It is a cake similar to meringue with a crispy crust and soft, light inner. The dessert is believed to have been created to honour the dancer during or after one of her tours to Australia and New Zealand in the 1920s [10].

Where it was created and the nationality of its creator has been a source of argument between the two nations for many years, but research indicates New Zealand as the source. The dessert is a popular dish and an important part of the national cuisine of both countries, and is frequently served during celebratory or holiday meals such as Christmas lunch [11]. All currently available research suggests the recipe originated in New Zealand. Keith Money, a biographer of Anna Pavlova, wrote that a chef in a hotel in Wellington, created the dish when Pavlova visited there in 1926 on her world tour. Professor Helen Leach, a culinary anthropologist at the University of Otago in New Zealand, has researched the pavlova, and has compiled a library of cookbooks containing 667 pavlova recipes from more than 300 sources [12]. Her book, The Pavlova Story: A Slice of New Zealand's Culinary History, contains a timeline of pavlova history which gives 1935 for the first Australian pavlova recipe and 1929 for the recipe in the rural magazine NZ Dairy Exporter Annual.

It has been claimed that Bert Sachse originated the dish at the Esplanade Hotel in Perth, Australia in 1935 [13]. A relative of Sachse's wrote to Leach suggesting that Sachse possibly got the year wrong when dating the recipe, but

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Leach replied they wouldn't find evidence for that, 'simply because it's just not showing up in the cookbooks until really the 1940s in Australia.' Of such arguments Matthew Evans, a restaurant critic for the Sydney Morning Herald said it was unlikely a definitive answer about the pavlova's origins would ever be found. [14] 'People have been doing meringue with cream for a long time, I don't think Australia or New Zealand were the first to think of doing that,' he said.

Pavlova is made by beating egg whites to a very stiff consistency before folding in caster sugar [15], white vinegar, cornstarch, and sometimes vanilla, and slow-baking the mixture similarly to meringue. This makes the outside of the pavlova a crisp crunchy shell, while the interior remains soft and moist. The pavlova's internal consistency is thus completely different from that normally associated with meringue, having more of a soft marshmallow texture. This difference is due to the addition of cornstarch, the use of which is the defining feature of a pavlova recipe. Pavlova is traditionally decorated with a topping of whipped cream and fresh fruit, such as strawberries and kiwifruit. Raspberry is a popular topping in the United Kingdom, with the tartness of raspberries contrasting with the sweetness of sugar. [16]

Factory-made pavlovas can be purchased at supermarkets and decorated as desired. A commercial product is available that includes pre-mixed ingredients for baking the meringue shell, requiring only the addition of water and sugar [17]. Te Papa, New Zealand's national museum in Wellington, celebrated its first birthday in February 1999 [18] with the creation of the world's largest pavlova, named 'Pavzilla', cut by the Prime Minister of New Zealand of the time, Jenny Shipley

Part 3

Speaker 1

It was only a summer job when I was at university; just a couple of months work and the pay was awful. I suppose I was just young, I didn't take it seriously... I think if I'm honest, I thought it was beneath me... I was an academic after all... I thought I could do it with my eyes closed. Anyway, one day the boss came over and told me that if I didn't improve he would have no choice but to sack me [19]. I think I was so embarrassed that I began to take it seriously and everything turned out OK. I spent the money I'd earned on a holiday in Greece.

Speaker 2

I suppose it was a bit of a silly thing to do really. I put it on my CV that I spoke fluent French. Rather stretching the truth, to say the least. I could just about order a coffee if I had to. [20] Well, I didn't think much about it, doubted I'd ever have to prove it, but one day the boss called me over and said he had an important new client with a French wife who didn't speak a word of English, and would I show her around the city for the day while her husband was in a company meeting. There was nothing I could do about it. I couldn't just tell him the truth. So I spent the day with her. Luckily she didn't let me get a word in edgeways and I just smiled and nodded at appropriate moments. The next day I was sure my boss would ask to see me and that would be it; I'd be history. But he never did - I don't think the wife even noticed I hardly spoke a word.

Speaker 3

It was a work placement really, but I'd still consider it my first job. I mean, I worked the same hours as everybody else, mucked in with everybody else. I'd never really thought about the work they did before, but that time really opened my eyes. By the time the placement ended and I had to leave, I'd made up my mind. [21] There was no way I was going into a boring 9 to 5 office job just for the money. I was going to spend my life helping people. And that's why I became a paramedic. [21]

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Speaker 4

Some friends and I went to France to spend the summer picking fruit, just moving from place to place wherever the work was. I suppose we had an over-romantic idea about the whole thing. We had no idea just how back breaking the work would be. The amount of different things we picked - strawberries, grapes, apples, raspberries, pears - it didn't matter what it was - at the end of the day you could hardly move. Anyway we had to cut the whole thing short and come back to Scotland. I got a twig caught in my eye while we were picking pears and the pain was unbearable, there was no way I could carry on working after that. [22]

Speaker 5

A dogsbody, that's the word! I suppose you have to expect it at that age and in your first job, but at the time it really got to me. I don't know if I expected to be doing more important things or what, but I'd come home boiling with rage thinking 'that's it! Tomorrow I quit!' 'Cup of tea, Darren, fill up the photocopier with paper, Darren, clean the shelves, Darren.' [23] It was non-stop and I'd never know from one day to the next what I'd be spending my day doing.

Part 4

When I was 8 years old my family followed the ancient family tradition and packed me off to a moderately expensive public school in Cambria [24]. I hated almost every day that I spent there. My very first term was a disaster and I found it very difficult to settle in.

Life in a boarding school can be almost impossible, especially if you aren't that happy at home, which I wasn't at the time. I did miss a nice home-cooked meal though; the food at the school was dreadful. Apart from having to follow all the rules and time-honoured customs, you were never left alone, even for a minute - you were always with another boy at all times. I have always enjoyed my own company and a bit of solitude, so day-to-day life at school was very hard for me, although the other boys didn't seem to mind it. [25]

In the first term there I developed a nasty cough. The school nurse said it was nothing and gave me some pills to take. However, a short time afterwards, playing rugby in a snowstorm, I suddenly felt I couldn't breathe properly and was taken to hospital with a nasty dose of bronchitis and pneumonia. As soon as I arrived at the hospital they put me into a small room with another boy who was also very ill. He eventually died and I'm told, so did I nearly. [26] My main memory of my time in hospital was that the nurses on duty in the evening used to get together in my room and play scrabble and chat. That they were keeping me awake with the light on and their talk didn't seem to worry them in the slightest. [27]

When I had recovered I was sent home for a few weeks to convalesce and so missed almost all the school term. When I eventually returned to school, I was sent to bed early because of my illness... and so finally I got to have a brief period to myself every day. [28] Later in the term I was allowed to go to the school library alone which was another great improvement.

The day I left school the headmaster came up to me to say goodbye and asked if it was a sad day for me. I told him that in fact it was the happiest day of my life. He said that he was sure that I would come to think of my time at the school in a completely different light [29]. I told him that I was sure I would not. Although of course over the last thirty years I have had dreadfully unhappy days in my life, I found that my conclusions then - that there was nothing that could ever be so bad as my time in boarding school - were indeed proved to be quite correct. [30]