

Part 1

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



SCAN FOR AUDIO

1. You hear someone talking about football referees. What is the speaker's attitude towards referees?
A They make too many mistakes.
B They deserve sympathy.
C Some are better than others.
2. You hear a famous chef talking about his week. What does he say about what happened during the week?
A He had a problem that was not his fault.
B He didn't want to appear on so many programmes.
C He had his first experience of live TV.
3. You hear someone talking about her career in dancing. What does she emphasize?
A the contribution made by her parents
B how much hard work she did
C her desire to be a dancer
4. You hear someone talking on the phone at work. Who is she talking to?
A a colleague
B her boss
C a client
5. You hear a radio presenter talking about a book. What feeling does the presenter express about the book?
A doubt that it does exactly what it says it does
B amazement at how up to date its information is
C curiosity about how it was written
6. You hear part of an interview with a famous comedian. What does he say about his school days?
A The teachers never criticized him.
B He was only good at one subject.
C Other people found him amusing.
7. You hear someone talking about a person he knows. What is the speaker doing?
A complaining
B apologizing
C arguing
8. You hear a tour guide talking to a group of visitors to a museum. What does he tell them about the museum?
A Its easy to get lost in it.
B Big groups aren't allowed in some parts of it.
C It's better only to visit a small part of it.

Part 2

You will hear someone talking about the sport of elephant polo. For questions **9-18**, complete the sentences.

Elephant Polo

Elephants are **9** _____ animals and so they enjoy elephant polo tournaments.
 The **10** _____ of a goal in elephant polo is the same as in football.
 A player and an elephant **11** _____ both sit on each elephant.
 It is against the rules for the elephants to use their trunks to **12** _____ the ball.
 A total of **13** _____ elephants are required for a game to take place.
 The participants are in action for a total of **14** _____ during each game.
 The stick used in the game is both **15** _____ and _____.
 The elephants sometimes want to **16** _____ in front of a goal.
 An elephant with a bad **17** _____ will be taken out of a game.
 African elephants are not used because **18** _____ cause a problem.

Part 3

You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about bringing up children. For questions **19-23**, choose from the list (**A - H**) what each speaker says. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use.

A Bringing up children is difficult and needs two people.	Speaker 1 19 ___
B Men are incapable of looking after children successfully.	Speaker 2 20 ___
C Fathers who looked after children were considered unusual.	Speaker 3 21 ___
D There is no difference between mothers and fathers.	Speaker 4 22 ___
E Women can't take on the role of fathers.	Speaker 5 23 ___
F Men get less practice than women at looking after children.	
G People think men who look after children are strange.	
H Mothers and children have a special emotional relationship.	

Part 4

You will hear an interview with someone who is involved in the music business. For questions **24-30**, choose the best answer (**A, B** or **C**).

24. What does James say about the radio station he started?

- A Its name was very appropriate.
- B It was more popular than he had expected.
- C It was not very expensive to run.

25. What does James say about people's attitudes towards his age?

- A They were nicer to him when he was 12 than when he was 16.
- B They were more jealous of him when he was 12 than when he was 16.
- C They expected more of him when he was 16 than when he was 12.

FCE Listening Practice Test 4

- 26.** James says that his career in music has included
- A taking over a local radio station.
 - B making advertisements.
 - C setting up new festivals.
- 27.** What do we learn about advertising on James' TV channel?
- A There isn't any of it.
 - B It always includes music.
 - C It doesn't interrupt the programmes.
- 28.** What does James say about the people interviewed on the channel?
- A They have to say something interesting.
 - B They enjoy being interviewed.
 - C They often say unexpected things.
- 29.** What does James say about his ideas?
- A Some of them are not very realistic.
 - B He expects to have good ones all the time.
 - C He makes sure that he doesn't forget them.
- 30.** James's advice to listeners who might want to go into business is to
- A forget about past problems.
 - B learn from past mistakes.
 - C take big risks.

Answer Keys

<p>Part 1</p> <p>1. B 2. A 3. C 4. A 5. A 6. C 7. A 8. C</p>	<p>Part 2</p> <p>9. social 10. width 11. handler 12. pick up 13. nine/9 14. ten/10 minutes 15. long and heavy 16. lie down 17. attitude 18. their ears</p>
<p>Part 3</p> <p>19. E 20. H 21. A 22. F 23. C</p>	<p>Part 4</p> <p>24. B 25. A 26. B 27. C 28. A 29. C 30. A</p>

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.

Man: You have to feel sorry for referees. [1] I mean, they're under terrible pressure throughout the game, with players shouting at them, and cheating and all that. And of course, the fans of both sides give them a hard time - they just can't win. Sure, they make mistakes, plenty of them, but they're only human. They don't go out there thinking, 'I'm going to do really badly today', they're doing their best. Some people think that there are referees who just want to draw attention to themselves, who think they're as important as the players, but that's not my view. I mean, who'd want their job, with all that criticism all the time?

2.

Chef: I had a bit of an odd week. I went to Birmingham to do a TV cookery show. I had to make my special recipe pancakes, but the pan they gave me in the studio wasn't nearly big enough, so it made things all a bit difficult [2]. But it turned out all right in the end, they were just a bit smaller than usual! Later in the week I was on a radio show answering listeners' questions about cooking, and then I did a few interviews about my new book.

3.

Woman: I just had to dance. When I was a girl, I was always putting on dancing shows for my parents. By the time I was seven I knew what I wanted to be, and that feeling never went away [3]. I told my parents I wanted to do proper ballet. So I went to a ballet school and I've been dancing ever since. I used to have classes after school and

FCE Listening Practice Test 4

on Saturdays. And, when I finished school, I went to a full-time dance academy for four years. Now I'm teaching dance, and I've never been happier.

4.

Woman: So what time are you going to make it? You know it's a very important meeting and we can't really discuss the issue properly without you. Yes, I'll tell her you'll get here as soon as you can, but I know she isn't going to be very pleased. OK, I'll delay things as long as I can - I'll say you've got problems at home or something. No, I won't say you've overslept, I don't want to get you in trouble! [4]

5.

Presenter: Have you ever wondered how many tons of food you eat in a lifetime, or how many miles of blood vessels there are in your body? No? Oh well, there are plenty more intriguing entries in this huge book of facts. It claims to have the most accurate and up-to-date information about every subject on Earth. I'm not sure it covers absolutely everything [5], but it certainly has lots of fascinating facts on pretty much any topic you can think of - you won't be able to put it down!

6.

Interviewer: What was your favourite subject at school?

Man: Maths, by far. I loved it, so I was good at it I couldn't get enthusiastic about other subjects, but with maths I wanted to show off. I liked the logic of it.

Interviewer: Were you a good student?

Man: Yes, pretty much. I didn't cause a lot of trouble or anything like that was cheeky and I liked having a laugh with my friends, but I always managed to make the teachers laugh before they told me off [6]. All in all, I had a great time at school.

7.

Man: I really don't see why I have to keep doing him favours. He never does any for me. I guess you were right about him all along - you always said he took advantage of other people [7]. I didn't believe you then but now I can see what you mean. I can see now that I was totally wrong about him. It's a real shame, because I thought we were great friends for a while. But I'm just not going to put up with him any longer. I mean, he surely can't expect to behave like that and get away with it.

8.

Guide: OK, that's the end of my introductory talk and now you can wander around on your own for a couple of hours. We'll meet back here at 12.30. Before you go, a bit of advice. This is an enormous museum, packed full of fascinating things, and you can't expect to see it all in one go. So, if I were you I'd concentrate on one or two sections and look at them in detail. [8] Have a look at the map - you've all got one and it's very simple and clear - and decide where you want to go. And split up into couples or small groups - it gets pretty crowded here and you won't have much fun if a lot of you try to stick together.

Part 2

Elephant polo player: Of course, polo is normally played on horses, and it's a very fast game. Well, we don't claim that elephant polo is the fastest game in the world, but we always maintain it's the biggest. The elephants do actually enjoy polo. Definitely. It's a lot of fun for them because they're social animals [9], and a polo tournament is a week when dozens of elephants meet up, many from the same family, like a reunion. And of course they get fed extremely well - better than in their normal life. I hey use up a lot of energy and get through masses of sugar cane, especially at half-time.

FCE Listening Practice Test 4

The players sit on elephants and hit a white wooden ball, using a long bamboo stick that has a polo mallet head on the end of it. The pitch is about three-quarters the length of a football pitch, and the goals are the same width as football goals [10]. There's a basic saddle and the players are strapped onto the elephants. We've never had a serious accident. A mahout - an elephant handler - sits behind each player and guides the elephant [11]. Sometimes the mahouts have their own games, guiding the elephant and hitting the ball as well. That takes incredible skill.

During a game, if the ball hits an elephant, that's fine. Their legs are quite thick and they do get in the way. Quite often they will kick the ball so that they can run after it. They're not allowed to pick up the ball with their trunks [12], though they sometimes try. That would be a free hit to the other side.

There are four elephants per team in a tournament, plus the referee's elephant - that's nine on the pitch at any one time [13]. We usually have sixteen animals available on any given day, in four teams. There are two halves, called chukkas, in a game of elephant polo, the same as in normal polo. We play ten minutes of actual play [14]. Whenever the whistle blows, the clock stops. A novice team might score one or two goals, if they're lucky, while an advanced team might score about ten.

The polo rules are that a man can only hold the stick with his right arm, even if he is left-handed. Women can use both hands. Using the stick is hard work, because it's long and the head is heavy [15]. By the end of the game, your arm will be aching. But it's an easy game to pick up with a little practice.

During the game, you chase after the ball on your elephant, going quite quickly, and you can easily miss it, though the elephant will often help you out with his foot. The elephants usually supply the entertainment. They might decide to lie down across the goal for fun but that's an absolute no-no [16].

Ultimately, it's about elephants charging up and down the pitch, scoring great goals themselves and having a lot of fun. If the elephants didn't enjoy it, or if there was any form of misbehaving, they would be removed from the game - sent off, if you like. It's not worth risking an elephant with an attitude problem [17]. You get all sorts. You get big elephants that are a bit older and wiser, and we use a lot of small ones that can be exceptionally quick. We try to remove what you might call the elephant factor by swapping elephants and mahouts with the other team at half-time. If you've got elephants that don't normally live together, there can be some tension. The sport always uses Indian elephants. The problem with African ones is that their ears get in the way [18]. And they're much taller.

Part 3

Speaker 1: I'd say that men and women are as good as each other at looking after children and loving them. I grew up without my dad around. At the time it seemed normal enough, but now I have kids of my own, I realize that mothers and fathers help us in different ways. As a dad myself, I know there's a bond between children and their dads that's just as important as having a mum around, and from experience I'd say that only a man can really do that job [19].

Speaker 2: If you're thinking about the day-to-day care of children, I'd say that fathers and mothers can be equally successful. I know several families where the mother is the main breadwinner and the father looks after the kids - and it works perfectly well. But I'm sure that the physical relation between a baby and its mother creates an emotional tie which there's no substitute for [20], and of course this won't change because men will never be able to have children.

Speaker 3: Mothers and fathers are different and always will be, but both are essential. It's far too much work for one person to look after a family on their own, so it's important for the father to help out right from the start [21].

FCE Listening Practice Test 4

The key thing is to always put the interests of the children first. I know that I have a special relationship with them as a mum, but I can see that my kids need their dads around, too.

Speaker 4: The idea that men are worse at looking after children is rubbish. Dads can do everything just as well as mums. Women are only better at childcare because, at the moment, they spend more time with their kids than men do [22]. It's like my mum - she doesn't understand how to use email, but if she worked in an office like me she'd know exactly what to do - it's just a question of familiarity.

Speaker 5: When I was a kid, my father made more effort to spend time with us than most fathers would have done, which wasn't what real men were supposed to do [23]. Whenever he wasn't at work, he dedicated all his time to me and my sisters. Other than my mum, people didn't really recognize how special he was. My father wasn't like everyone else, so people just ignored him. Nowadays, most men are involved with their kids like he was.

Part 4

Interviewer: My next guest is James Hyland, the young Irish entrepreneur, who has been behind all sorts of music projects. The latest is Bubble TV, a music channel without advertising breaks. James, welcome.

James: Hi.

Interviewer: You're 23 now, but you launched yourself into the music world while you were still at school, didn't you? You were a very young starter!

James: Yes, I was 12 when I started my own radio station in my house. I played music I liked. The station was called Happiness. Not a good name I know, but I was young. I would have been happy if it had been just the neighbours listening, but it soon became clear that I'd attracted a lot of fans and I was invited to play at events [24]. I ploughed all the money I made from that back into the station. It got very big and I got noticed.

Interviewer: Weren't people amazed when they found out you were 12?

James: Yes, but they were far more amazed when they discovered that I was organising concerts by some of the biggest bands on the British music scene when I was just 16. That also attracted a lot of jealous rivalry. At 12 people are pleased for you, people are happy and encourage you, but when you're just a little older and running a successful business, it can be more of a threat [25].

Interviewer: So how did your career in music progress as you got older?

James: When I was 16, I started working with a local radio station. I didn't stay too long as I didn't like having a boss. But I didn't just complain and carry on going into work. I ditched the job and set up my own studio at my home in Cork, in southern Ireland, and began producing commercials from there [26]. Along the way, I'd already started promoting well-known bands. I managed to bring in some fantastic acts to play at festivals and concerts in Ireland.

Interviewer: Now not so long ago, you launched the Bubble TV channel, a 24-hour all-music channel with no advertising breaks, aimed at teenagers. James, you seem to be the sort of person who's too busy to be the couch potato type, but the idea came from watching TV, didn't it?

James: Yes, I was flicking through all the channels and noticed there were so many of them but only three dedicated to music. And there weren't any exclusively British channels - most were from the US with British commercials. I hate ad breaks, they interrupt whatever you're watching and spoil the mood, so I decided not to have any. However, I should point out that Bubble TV has sponsored segments, so companies are involved. But the sponsorship doesn't get in the way, you have to look for a change in the background logo during programmes to notice it [27].

Interviewer: Is it just music and nothing else?

James: Although it's mainly music, we have three presenters, who do slots called Juice. They interview bands and

FCE Listening Practice Test 4

go to gigs and festivals. And bands can't just promote their new song or whatever, it's got to be fun [28]. They have to spill the juice - the gossip - in just three minute slots! It has to be entertaining.

Interviewer: Now, you're constantly coming up with fresh ideas. Do you sleep with a notebook by the bed in case you dream up a best-selling idea in your sleep?

James: Absolutely. I text myself with my ideas as I have them, then each day I go through my texts to see what ideas I have sent myself [29].

Interviewer: So what's next?

James: Aah, I have several ideas ... but I'm not telling you!

Interviewer: OK, fair enough! Well, finally, have you got any tips for would-be entrepreneurs listening now?

James: Don't give up at the first sign of hardship. I've had my fingers burnt and lost money through some of my schemes in the past, but I've never let it get me down [30]. I've had setbacks - but you can't dwell on them. You just move on.

Interviewer: James, thanks.

James: You're welcome.