

# Education

## Unit aims

Listening skills

Speaking skills

Identifying campus contexts

Describing people

Information in multiple-choice questions

Making notes

Summary completion

Pronunciation: stress shift

## Topic talk



1 Look at the photo and answer the questions below.

- Would you describe the situation in the photo as a tutorial, a seminar, or a lecture? What is the difference?
- Which of the three modes of teaching do you think is the best way of learning?
- What are the differences or similarities between teaching in universities in your home country and other parts of the world like the UK?

2 Listening Section 3 often relates to academic courses. Complete the sentences below about courses with nouns from the list.

requirements analysis criteria dissertation essay evaluation  
module paper portfolio programme

- In order to study photography, you have to fulfil the *course* ....., which include a foundation qualification in art.
- Many people fail at medicine due to the difficulty of meeting the *assessment* .....
- Most mature students enrol on a *part-time* .....
- At the start of each academic year, students choose which *core* ..... they will take.
- As part of their jobs, many lecturers are expected to submit at least one *academic* ..... per year.
- Students on the fine art programme are required to present a ..... of *their work*.
- After collecting your data, you will need to carry out an *in-depth* ..... of it.
- To get a good mark, students should show they are capable of making a *critical* ..... of the literature.
- At the end of the course, each student must submit a 4,000-word *long* .....
- After you have submitted your MA ....., you will have to wait about four months for your final grade.

- 3 Look at the sentences in 2 again. Which verb introduces the noun in each case?
- 4 The steps below give details of how to prepare a piece of written work as part of a course. Work with another student. Put the stages a–g in a logical order.
- present an analysis of the data
  - include a bibliography
  - describe the methods used for collecting data
  - set out your hypothesis and explain your terms of reference
  - draw conclusions based on your analysis
  - provide a survey of existing literature
  - state your aims and objectives
- 5 The statements a–j below were made by students about courses they are taking. Complete each sentence with a feature from the list.

research project    deadlines    easy-going tutors  
 end-of-year examination    background reading list    extensions  
 weekly seminars    individual tuition    ongoing assessment  
 practical work    vocational content

- The tutors provide you with a ..... before the course.
  - As part of our assessment, we have to plan and carry out a .....
  - It's a very flexible programme: we have very .....
  - It can get very stressful: we are assessed by .....
  - Coursework has really fixed ..... You can't get .....
  - Everyone gets ..... if they are experiencing difficulties.
  - The course is marked by ..... of written work.
  - I spend a lot of time doing ..... in a laboratory.
  - It's mostly ..... : it will all be useful for my career.
  - There are regular ..... in which people take turns to make presentations.
- 6 With a partner, discuss these questions about the statements in 5.
- Which statements would attract you to take a course? Which would put you off?
  - Have you had experiences similar to these? If so, tell your partner about what happened to you.

## Listening skills Identifying campus contexts

1 Listening Section 3 is normally set in a place of academic study. Complete each list below with nouns that you normally associate with them. The first ones have been done for you.

- a library *journals,*
- b student flat *study bedroom,*
- d lecture theatre *aisles,*
- e laboratory *experiment,*


2 Look at multiple-choice questions 1 and 2 in 3 below. What words do you think might indicate the correct answer?

### Information in multiple-choice questions

3 The questions below are taken from a multiple-choice task. The questions and options can give you a lot of information about what you will hear. Read multiple-choice questions 1–4 and answer questions a–d.

- a How many speakers do you think you will hear?
- b Who has to do assignments?
- c Which academic subjects is someone studying?
- d What area of that subject are they focusing on?

- 1 Where are the speakers having this discussion?
- A a library
  - B a student flat
  - C a lecture theatre
- 2 How has Chloe spent the morning?
- A drinking coffee
  - B training
  - C studying
- 3 According to Bill, what does the experiment show?
- A Quantities of water are hard to measure.
  - B Children under five make many mistakes.
  - C Clear thinking is difficult for small children.
- 4 Bill's assignment is about the stages in a child's
- A emotional development.
  - B mental development.
  - C social development.

4  1.19 Listen to the first part of this Listening Section 3 recording and answer Questions 1–4 above, choosing the correct answer A, B, or C.

## Summary completion

- 5 The list below gives eight popular degree subjects. Number each subject 1–10 according to how easy or difficult you think each subject is (1 = easiest; 10 = most difficult).


psychology    medicine    engineering    law    languages  
business management    physics    sports science    sociology    fine art

- 6 Compare your answers with another student. Then answer the questions below.
- Which of these subjects would you prefer to study? Why?
  - How far would you agree that the most popular subjects also tend to be the easiest?
  - Which subjects have you enjoyed studying most in the past? Why?
- 7 The paragraph below is taken from a summary completion task.
- Which speaker does it concentrate on?
  - What aspect of her studies does it discuss?

Chloe started the psychology course in the **5** ..... year. Previously she studied law. She enjoyed studying the **6** ..... branch of that subject. The worst thing was having to remember lots of **7** ..... She found **8** ..... especially technical. She did not enjoy spending her time reading about **9** ..... in the library. The part of the psychology course she likes best is experimental psychology, because it involves **10** ..... activities.

### Technique

Use the reading time to think about the overall topic of the summary. The general topic of each answer may be clear from the context.


- 8 Match each of the predictions below with a gap in the paragraph in 7. Think of any other predictions you can add.
- It's an area of law, but it's technical, so maybe it's something like *property law*.
  - It's an area of law, and it's interesting, so maybe it's something like *family law*.
  - It's something that goes with activities, like *useful* or *difficult*.
  - This is something like *last*, or an ordinal number like *second*.
  - Something you have to remember, like *names* or *dates*.
  - It's something lawyers read about, like *judgements*.
- 9  1.20 Listen to the second recording and complete the summary. Write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS for each answer.

## Speaking skills Describing people

- 1 Answer the questions below about the teachers you had at school.
  - a How well do you remember your teachers?
  - b Was there a teacher you especially liked? Why?
  - c How in general can teachers make lessons more interesting and fun? Is it important to do this? Is it always possible to do this?
- 2 The list below gives some qualities that teachers might possess. Decide if each quality is Important (I), Useful (U), or Not important (N).

### Qualities of good teachers

They speak many foreign languages.	.....
They have a lot of hobbies.	.....
They set high standards.	.....
They are able to explain difficult things.	.....
They tell lots of jokes.	.....
They maintain discipline.	.....
They avoid negative criticism.	.....
They speak loudly.	.....
They give a lot of praise.	.....
They are very athletic.	.....
They mark and return students' work quickly.	.....
They are good-looking.	.....
They know the subject well.	.....
They are polite to the students.	.....

- 3 Which other qualities would you add to the list?
- 4  1.21 The taskcard below is taken from Speaking Part 2. Listen to a person answering the question. Make a brief note on the card of the answers they give to each prompt.

Describe a teacher you can remember from your schooldays.

You should say

what this teacher looked like

what subjects they taught

what kind of person they were

and explain how this person has influenced you.


**Technique**

In Speaking Part 2, use phrases to structure your talk and help you move on to the next point.

5 Match each phrase in the list to one of the functions a–d.

- a Introducing your choice.
- b Explaining the reason for your choice.
- c Describing physical features.
- d Describing character.

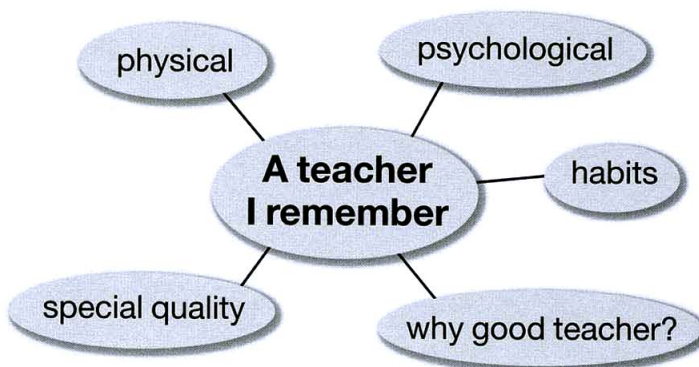
Physically, he/she was ...  
 The ... I've chosen is ...  
 What ... taught me was that ...  
 In terms of personality, ...  
 I can remember ... really well.  
 He/she looked ...  
 Character-wise, he/she was ...  
 I'll never forget him/her because ...

6  1.21 Listen again. Which phrases from 5 does the speaker use?

7 Take one minute to think and make notes about your own talk on this topic, using your own experience. Then practise speaking for two minutes using your notes and the phrases in 5.

**Making notes**

8 Another student made the notes below for the Speaking Part 2 task in 4. Add the words in the list below to the appropriate part of the diagram.



- short
- fat
- amusing
- relaxed
- looked out of the window while speaking
- rolled tie up and down
- made boring subjects interesting
- made difficult subjects easy
- cheerful personality

9 The notes in A and B below describe the advantages and disadvantages of different ways of making notes. Answer the questions below.

- a Which list relates to the technique in 8?
- b What kind of note-taking does the other list describe?
- c Which method of making notes would work best for you?

**List A**

encourages creative thinking  
many ways through the ideas  
takes little time to write  
uses very few words  
can be messy

**List B**

encourages logical thinking  
one way through the ideas  
can take a long time to write  
uses more words  
very tidy

10 Using a note-taking technique you prefer, make notes on the Speaking Part 2 taskcard below, using your own experience. Then practise speaking for two minutes using your notes.

Describe a person you know who has helped you in some way.

You should say

how you know this person

what abilities this person has


how this person helped you

and explain how this help has influenced your life.

**Pronunciation: stress**

11 Put the words in brackets in the right place in the sentences.

- a Sarah has lots of ..... and ideas. I can't ..... our office without her.  
(imagine, imagination)
- b Bill is able to ..... other people and he has a high level of ..... himself.  
(motivate, motivation)
- c Jack has an ..... outlook, whereas Tom is one of life's .....  
(pessimists, optimistic)
- d Jack is an ..... and deals with our publicity. But Tom is very ....., too.  
(artist, artistic)

12  1.22 Underline the stress on each word you have put in, eg imagine. Then listen to the recording to check.

13 Think of a group you work or study with and answer these questions.

- a Who has the following things: *communication skills, motivation, imagination, good qualifications*?
- b Who is: *artistic, optimistic, diplomatic*?

## Exam listening

### Section 4

#### 1.23

Questions 31–35

Choose the correct letter **A**, **B**, or **C**.

- 31** How long would terms be under the six-term system?
- A six weeks  
B seven weeks  
C thirteen weeks
- 32** What would happen to the summer holiday?
- A It would disappear.  
B It would be shortened.  
C It would be lengthened.
- 33** How much was the average learning loss in the summer?
- A two weeks  
B three weeks  
C seven weeks
- 34** In which subject was learning loss greatest among disadvantaged children?
- A maths  
B reading  
C writing
- 35** According to Marchmont's research, in the six-term system pupils performed
- A better than under the existing system.  
B worse than under the existing system.  
C the same as under the existing system.

Questions 36–40

Complete the summary below. Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** for each answer.

The school terms that we use originated when many people worked in **36** ..... Also, because of the heat, it was difficult to teach children in July and August before the invention of **37** ..... A different approach can be provided by the **38** ..... An important factor in the success of these is the small **39** ..... Also, the element of **40** ..... is usually present, which contributes greatly.