

Test section – Listening Part 1

Matching Features

Activities

1. Developing a strategy for Matching Features questions
2. Listening Part 1 practice
3. Vocabulary practice – identifying synonyms

Aims

- to help students effectively use the time before the audio starts
- to provide students with strategies to approach this type of question
- to develop students' awareness of the use of rephrasing and synonyms

Learning outcomes

- Students will have practised using the time before the audio starts to analyse the context and predict the information provided.
- Students will have practised how to approach Matching Features questions.
- Students will have applied the strategy to an IELTS Listening test Part 1.

Information about this section of IELTS

In the Listening test Part 1, test takers will hear a conversation between two people set in an everyday social context, for example, a conversation about travel arrangements. There are 10 questions, and they are in the same order as the audio recording. The recordings are heard only once. They include a range of accents, including British, Australian, New Zealand, American and Canadian. A variety of question types are used, chosen from the following: Multiple Choice, Matching, Plan/Map/Diagram Labelling, Form/Note/Table/Flow Chart/Summary Completion, Sentence Completion, Short Answer questions.

Time	30-45 minutes
Level	B1+
Class	Suitable for groups / large classes, F2F / Online
Interaction	Individual / pair work
Materials	Worksheets x2 and audio script attached

Activity 1: Matching Features questions - a strategy

Material: Worksheet 1

Time: 15-20 minutes

Procedure:

- introduce the focus of the lesson – Listening Part 1 – a conversation between 2 people in an everyday social context.
- give out Worksheet 1 and draw attention to the Matching Features question.
- tell students they are going to look at a strategy for dealing with this type of question (whether in Part 1 of the Listening test or in the other parts).
- get students to work in pairs to answer Exercise 1 about the context.
- get class feedback.
- stress the importance of using the time that test takers have before the audio recording starts to read the questions to understand what the context is going to be.
- advise your students to think about the differences between voices e.g. male or female, young or old, deep or high. This will help them to distinguish between speakers.
- elicit what students know about how synonyms are used across all sections of the IELTS test (e.g. paraphrasing questions in Writing and Speaking).
- elicit the use of synonyms in the Listening test.
- draw attention to Exercise 2 which requires learners to consider the use of synonyms in the task.
- get students to work through questions a) - c) individually.
- for question b), you may wish to elicit examples of how they might hear the first option with the whole class e.g. *outside the city, countryside*
- students check their ideas in pairs and then check with the whole class.
- advise your students that they need to think about what kind of words or phrases they will hear on the audio to help them choose the correct options.

Answers

Exercise 1 Possible answers: booking a hotel room, choosing a hotel to stay in

Exercise 2

a) 5 – the names of the hotels

b) *Suggested answers*

in a rural area – *outside the city, countryside*

only opened recently – *new hotel, opened a few months ago*

offers facilities for business functions – *meeting rooms, boardroom, business centre*

- has an indoor swimming pool – *inside, covered swimming pool*
c) 'Swimming pool' and the names of the hotels.

Activity 2: Listening Practice

Material: Worksheet 1

Time: 10 minutes

Procedure:

- tell students they will now listen to the recording and answer the questions. Remind them to focus on phrases, hotel names and anticipated words and phrases from the previous activity.
- play the recording <https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/ielts-web-static/production/Sample-tests/Listening/ielts-listening-sample-task-6-matching.mp3>
- students check their answers in pairs first and then check with the whole class.
- elicit any synonyms students remember from the audio that helped them to identify correct answers.

Answer key

1 E, 2 B, 3 C, 4 A

Activity 3: Vocabulary practice – identifying synonyms

Material: Worksheet 2

Time: 10 minutes

Procedure:

- give out Worksheet 2 and draw attention to the audio script.
- give students time to work alone to highlight/underline the answers to the listening practice, Questions 1-4.
- draw attention to the table in Exercise 2.
- ask students to look at the audio script and work through the vocabulary practice by completing the table.
- students check their answers in pairs first and then check with the whole class.

Answers

A	B
rural area	<i>in the country</i>
opened recently	<i>took their first guests just a few months ago</i>
business functions	<i>meeting rooms, conferences and corporate events</i>
renovated	<i>refurbished</i>
Gym	<i>fitness centre</i>

Follow-up task

You can extend this work on the vocabulary of this part by providing more practice on lexical sets for travel, holidays, etc.

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/vocabulary/a1-a2-vocabulary/hotels>

Listening Part 1

Worksheet 1

Matching Features – a strategy

- 1 *Look at the instructions and questions for Part 1 of the Listening test and decide what you think the conversation is going to be about.*

PART 1

Questions 1 – 4

Which hotel matches each description?

Choose your answers from the box and write the correct letter **A-E** next to questions 1-4.

A	The Bridge Hotel
B	Carlton House
C	The Imperial
D	The Majestic
E	The Royal Oak

- 1 is in a rural area
- 2 only opened recently
- 3 offers facilities for business functions
- 4 Has an indoor swimming pool



In Classification questions, you will hear a lot of information. Before you listen, you should try to anticipate how you will hear this, as the speakers on the recording will not always use the same language as the options. Try to think of synonyms and similar words and phrases.

2 *Look again at Part 1, questions 1-4, and answer the following questions.*

- a) How many options do you have to choose from? What are they?
- b) Work in pairs. How could these four ideas be expressed differently?

rural area _____

opened recently _____

facilities for business functions _____

indoor swimming pool _____

- c) *Are there any words or phrases that you think might not change?*

3 *Now listen to the audio and complete questions 1-4.*

Listening Part 1

Worksheet 2

Vocabulary practice – identifying synonyms

1 *Look at the audio script for questions 1-4 below:*

Official Can I help you?

Man Yes, I was wanting somewhere to stay for a few days - a four- or five-star hotel. Can you tell me something about the possibilities?

Official OK, right, well there are five hotels that might interest you. Were you wanting a city centre location, or would you be interested in something a bit further out?

Man Well, I do have a car so I could go for either.

Official Well, there are two central hotels in the range you're looking for – there's Carlton House and The Imperial, they're both near the main square, but if you've got your own transport, you might be interested in the Royal Oak – that's out in the country, about ten kilometres away, very peaceful. Then there's the Bridge hotel and the Majestic – they're both in town but not in the centre, they're out on the airport road.

Man Mm... that might be a bit far out actually. OK, now the other two you mentioned, in the city centre. Can you tell me a bit about them?

Official Well, they're both excellent hotels. If you want something with a bit of character, Carlton House is quite unusual – it's a very old building that was originally a large private house, it was bought by the Vannis chain, and they completely refurbished it – they took their first guests just a few months ago but it's already got an excellent reputation. That's a five-star hotel. Or there's the Imperial, which is a much more modern building. That's also has its own gym, and it also has internet connection and meetings rooms – it's used for conferences and corporate events as well as private guests. That's five-star as well.

Man Does it have a swimming pool as well as a gym?

Official No – the Royal Oak has an outdoor pool, which is lovely in the summer, but the only hotel with an indoor pool is the Bridge Hotel. It doesn't have a gym though. The Majestic is planning to build a swimming pool and a fitness centre, but it's not finished yet.

Man I see. Well, I think I'll probably go for one of the city centre hotels.

- 2 *Using the audio script, complete the table below with words and phrases that mean the same as the words and phrases in column A.*

A	B
rural area	
opened recently	
business functions	
renovate	
gym	