

L.3-4 · Preliminary listening: notes and longer interviews

A2 Key and B1 Preliminary (KET, PET) · Cambridge English · B1 Preliminary (PET)

What this topic covers

The second half of the listening paper: **Part 3**, a talk with **six note gaps** to fill, and **Part 4**, a **longer interview** with six 3-option questions on detail and attitude.

- Part 3 is the A2 note-gap part grown up: a guided tour, a course description, a talk about a club – fill a word or number per gap.
- Part 4 is an interview with a guest: a musician, a student who did something unusual. Questions follow the interview order and dig into attitude.
- Memory hook: Part 3 is a **form** – fill it. Part 4 is a **podcast** – follow the guest’s story.

Part 3: the form

Six gaps in notes about a talk: names, dates, prices, places, websites.

- The gaps are signposted by the notes themselves: *Day: _____* tells you a day is coming. Preview and predict.
- △ The spelling rule is absolute: names and websites are spelled aloud; write the letters as they come. *W-E-B-S-I-T-E* arrives letter by letter; the recording waits for no one.
- △ The correction rule applies: *“It costs fifteen – sorry, fifty.”* The sorry is the signal. Numbers self-correct; wait for it.
- △ Plural endings are audible : *three weeks* or *three week* – the -s is part of the answer.

Part 4: the podcast

An interview with six questions, in order, asking detail **and** attitude.

- The attitude questions ask: *How did she feel about...? What does he say about...?* – the cushion trap from Part 2 applies here too.
- The detail questions paraphrase: the guest says *“we slept in tents for two weeks”*; the option says *“they camped”*.
- △ Interviewers ask the question, guests wander. The answer comes when the guest **finally answers**, sometimes after a story. Patience is a listening skill.
- △ Watch the guest’s *but*: *“It was exhausting, but amazing.”* The word after *but* is the attitude; the word before it is the bait.

Watch out: traps for Chinese speakers

- △ **The note gaps punish slow writers.** Write the short form while listening (*wk* for week), complete the word at the pause. The recording doesn’t wait for your handwriting.
- △ **Interview attitude ≠ your attitude.** *What does the guest say about the journey?* – the guest’s word after *but*, not your opinion of tents.
- △ **Websites and emails are dictated** : *“that’s travel-now, all one word, dot com”*. Practise writing dictated strings; they come exactly once per sitting.
- △ **Miss one, move on.** The interview continues; a gap you chase is two answers you miss.

Try it

Teacher-read rehearsal : no recording here – your teacher reads the voice aloud twice, like the exam, and you fill the notes by listening. The printed words are the script, not the task.

Notes: *“Course: Photography – Day: _____ · Price: £_____ · Website: _____”*

The voice: *“It runs on Thursdays... The price? Fifty pounds – no, sorry, fifteen. And it’s all on shootsmart, one word, dot com.”* Answers: **Thursdays · 15 · shootsmart.com** – the sorry corrected the price; the website was dictated.

Interview: *“The two weeks in tents were exhausting, but amazing.”* – the attitude is **amazing**. The *but* flipped it.

Check yourself

Answer first, then read the explanation.

1. *“It costs fifteen – sorry, fifty.”* – **fifty**. The *sorry* is the signal.
2. A name spelled aloud – **write the letters as they come**.
3. *three week(s)?* – **the -s is audible and part of the answer**.
4. *“Exhausting, but amazing.”* – the attitude is **amazing**. The word after *but*.
5. A gap you can’t fill – **move on**. The interview continues.