

Practice Test 1: Written test

Level 5

Proficient

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Please check the table below for the total time given to complete the written test at this level and score points available for each section. Please use the accompanying audio files for sections 1-3. Answer keys and transcripts are provided at the back of this paper.

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Sections	Skills	Score points	A1	1	2	3	4	5
1	Listening	10	1 hour, 15 mins	1 hour, 35 mins	1 hour, 35 mins	2 hours	2 hours, 30 mins	2 hours, 55 mins
2	Listening and writing	10 (5 listening 5 writing)						
3	Listening	10						
4	Reading	5						
5	Reading	5						
6	Reading	8						
7	Reading	7						
8	Writing	10						
9	Writing	10						

The written test is scored out of 75 points in total at all levels. Please see the *Guide to PTE General* at this level for further information.

Please note: The design of the practice tests is not identical to actual PTE General tests.



SECTION 1

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You will have 10 seconds to read each question and the corresponding options. Then listen to the recording. After the recording you will have 10 seconds to choose the correct option.

Put a cross in the box next to the correct answer, as in the example.

Example. What is the speaker doing?

- A recommending an action
- B criticising a practice
- C explaining a process

1. Who is being described?

- A an academic
- B an economist
- C a politician

2. What does the advert suggest about bank holidays, which are public holidays in the UK?

- A Most shops are closed all day.
- B People often work on their houses.
- C Supermarkets tend to be open.



3. Who is the speaker?

- A a politician
 - B an academic
 - C a radio presenter
-

4. What is the car's main selling point?

- A It reaches high speeds quickly.
 - B It is surprisingly cheap to run.
 - C It has very luxurious fittings.
-

5. What is the woman's reaction to what the man says?

- A She isn't sure what his point is.
 - B She fundamentally agrees with him.
 - C She thinks he's exaggerating.
-

6. What is being advertised?

- A a language course
- B an investment opportunity
- C a travel agency



7. What does the woman say?

- A 25% of UK citizens don't speak English.
 - B The majority of UK citizens speak only English.
 - C There are five languages widely spoken in the UK.
-

8. What does the man say about product promotions?

- A They are usually ineffective.
 - B They can be counter-productive.
 - C They were too expensive for his firm.
-

9. What is the man's job?

- A a sociologist
 - B a writer
 - C an actor
-

10. What is the man probably talking about?

- A a proposal for a translation
- B an offer of employment
- C a piece of financial advice

Leave
blank

(10 marks)



SECTION 3

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You will hear a talk about biodiversity. First, read the notes below then listen and complete the notes with information from the talk.

Example. Biodiversity is what enables humans to *survive*

- 12 Main cause of biodiversity erosion: destruction of.....
- 13 Example of ecosystem under threat:.....
- 14 Invasion of non-native species can destroy.....
- 15 Definition of pollution: dangerous location or.....of chemicals.
- 16 Human population: growing more slowly now but will take a long time to.....



H 3 5 1 6 4 A 0 2 1 8

SECTION 3 CONTINUED

Leave
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You will hear a radio news report about minority languages. First, read the notes below then listen and complete the notes with information from the report.

Example. Welsh is a separate language, not an English *dialect*.

- 17 Under new legislation, Cornish is to be given status.
- 18 Cornish speakers are in a
- 19 Variation between different versions of Cornish involves
- 20 Modern Cornish borrows English words as it has many
- 21 The most widely spoken version is called Cornish.

(10 marks)

That is the end of the listening section of the test. Now go on to the other sections of the test.



SECTION 4

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Read each text and put a cross (X) by the missing word or phrase, as in the example.

Example.

Pre-existing conditions

Please note: you will not be covered for any pre-existing medical conditions that you may have. A condition will be considered pre-existing if it is a condition you have received treatment for, or one you knew about or in our reasonable opinion you

- A were not aware of
- B need treatment for
- C should have known about

22.

We can guarantee you're not going to be disappointed with this amazing new multi-media self-study language course, using books, CDs and video. A wide range of modern languages covered - just choose the one you need. Send off now for

- A an application form
- B a free 10-day trial
- C a school prospectus



23.

With population growth, an increase in the average age and the impact of new patterns of migration on previously homogenous communities, society is becoming more complex and diverse. Equality laws have helped challenge much discrimination and prejudice, but legislation can take us

- A a long time
- B by surprise
- C only so far

24.

Do we use translation software? Absolutely not. The key to our success is that we only use native speakers, because it's the only way to ensure that a translation captures every..... in the original.

- A single point
- B subtle meaning
- C main idea

25.

The successful will be required to play an active role in developing and improving the company's long-term marketing strategy, working in close co-ordination with the existing Head of Marketing and Media Relations. References are required.

- A position
- B advertiser
- C applicant



26.

Following greater immigration, especially from its former colonies such as India, Pakistan and the West Indies, Britain has become much more diverse than it was a hundred years ago. This mix of groups and cultures means the question of how to define “Britishness” is currently the source of.....

- A intense debate
- B much hostility
- C national identity

(5 marks)

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SECTION 5

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Read the passage and answer the questions below.
Put a cross (X) in the box next to the correct answer,
as in the example.

How do adverts work?

Actually, the question in the title begs another question, basically the same one but without the “How”. Ask most people and they’ll tell you that they’re too smart to be influenced by the less than subtle ploys of the advertising industry. To admit that would be a confession of naïve gullibility. And yet, if it was true that nobody was taken in, why would companies invest so much in expensive campaigns? So let’s assume for the moment that they do work, although not in a simplistic “I’ll buy that product because I like the advert” kind of way.

When it comes to the “how”, there are a couple of prime examples on our screens at the moment, both, coincidentally or not, for price comparison websites. If you watch any TV at all, you’re almost bound to know them because they’re inescapable. The first is that one with the meercats. In essence the idea seems childishly simple: it rests on the fact that the words “meercat” and “market” sound a bit similar and the frankly ridiculous notion that some people might mistakenly go to a site offering comparisons between different meercats. Now, I can see how that idea might emerge from a brainstorming session, but how did it get chosen ahead of any other whimsical products of the same session? Well, it has some key ingredients common to other successful campaigns, notably the simultaneous use of humour and cute animals, and as an advertising insider, I’d like to tell you that everything is worked out in advance and we know exactly what we’re doing. The fact is, though, that I’m increasingly convinced that what makes a particular advert worm its way into popular culture has a lot to do with serendipity. It’s all very well to focus on success stories, but what about all the others that seem brilliant at the time but sink without trace?

It’s perhaps more instructive to look at adverts that, on the face of it, seem designed as much to irritate as attract. Which brings us to the second example, the ad featuring that insufferable stereotype of an Italian opera singer bellowing a song based on the tune of “Over There” into the faces of innocent bystanders. Apparently this tops many people’s lists of most annoying adverts, and it’s easy to understand why. But think about it: despite your irritation, I bet you remember the name of the website, and next time you want to compare prices online, this is the one that’s likely to pop into your head. You may curse the people who inflicted this ad on you but, admit it, they’ve done their job. Maybe they do know what they’re doing after all.

Example. What does the writer initially question?

- A how people are influenced by adverts
- B whether adverts are really effective
- C the methods advertisers use



27. What convinces the writer that adverts are actually effective?

- A the money spent on them
 - B the gullibility of people
 - C their sophisticated methods
-

28. What does the writer say about the two examples?

- A They are made by the same company.
 - B They have similar elements.
 - C They are both hard to avoid.
-

29. What does the writer think about the idea behind the first example?

- A He can understand why it succeeds.
 - B It appears to be basic and rather silly.
 - C It copies the content of other adverts.
-

30. What conclusion has the writer come to about successful adverts?

- A They have many features in common.
 - B Their success is often accidental.
 - C No-one knows why they succeed.
-

31. What is the final judgement on the second advert?

- A It works precisely because it is annoying.
- B Most people appear to find it off-putting.
- C The key to its success is its simplicity.

(5 marks)



SECTION 6

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Read the website extract below and answer the questions.

Interpretation is the transmission of meaning from one language into another. Our service provides accurate real-time interpretation of calls from any country. When you receive a call from a LES (Limited English Speaker), you enter a pre-arranged number onto your phone pad and within seconds of giving your account details an interpreter becomes available. If the language requested is one not commonly spoken, this may take a little longer. If you have trouble identifying the language you need, there are trained representatives to help with identification.

Give the interpreter a brief summary of what you want to achieve during the call, and any special instructions you may have. Once communication has been initiated, you are in control of the conversation. The interpreter acts as a conduit between you and the LES, passing the information backwards and forwards.

Keep your conversation concise and, to aid natural flow, group points or questions together. Where possible, avoid jargon, idiomatic language and cultural references that may be alien to the LES. Although interpreters are trained to be accurate and brief, the interpretation may seem longer than what you have said because they sometimes need to clarify ideas that are not readily translatable.

Example. What kind of company does the website belong to?
a telephone interpretation service

32. What do clients have to provide to access an interpreter?

33. What might hold up the process at first?

34. What word describes the role of the interpreter during the phone call?

35. How might the interpreter's speech differ from the client's?



SECTION 6 CONTINUED

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Read the extract from a leaflet below and answer the questions.

Diversification is often recommended as the best way for a small business to grow, but if you decide to take this route, it is important to weigh up the risks and expense as well as seeing the benefits. This guide will help you take advantage of the latter, while avoiding the former.

The main advantage of diversification is that you are less vulnerable to fluctuations in the market. Basically, if you specialize in one product or service and the market for it collapses, you are in trouble. In these circumstances, it makes sense to have a second string to your bow. This may mean offering new products or services to existing customers, creating new markets for what you already offer or, the most radical course, offering new products to new markets.

The main danger of poorly planned diversification is that you may damage your core brand by diluting its image. The most prudent course is to diversify into similar products or services rather than over-stretching your brand.

The following pages give more detail on all these points.

Example. What is a company advised to consider carefully?
risks and expense

36. What can cause problems for companies that are not diversified?

37. What phrase is used to show the advantage of having an alternative strategy?

38. How many forms of diversification are mentioned?

39. What aspect of a company can be harmed by diversification?

(8 marks)



SECTION 7

Leave
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Read the article and complete the notes. Write no more than three words from the article in each gap.

The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) is a UK organisation that aims to ensure high standards in advertising. Essentially, this means that advertisers should only make claims that they can substantiate with evidence. The main function of the ASA is to investigate complaints about advertisements that may offend against the established principles of legality, decency, honesty and truthfulness. As well as this, however, it also works proactively, monitoring and taking action against adverts even when no complaint has been received.

The ASA looks at advertisements from the perspective of the audience (usually the general public) and is independent of both the Government and the advertising industry. Complaints are investigated free of charge and anyone can bring an advert to the attention of the ASA. The easiest way to do this is to visit the website and fill in the online form provided, but you can also complain by post or by phone, with the proviso that the complaint must be about a commercial from the TV, radio, cinema or national press. Another limitation is that complaints need to be submitted within a reasonable time of an advertisement's appearance (in practice this usually means about three months).

If you want to draw something to the ASA's attention, you should include as much detail as you can, including the date and time when you saw the advert in question and the reason why you are concerned about it. If possible, you should also attach a copy of it in the form of a weblink, scan or photocopy. The ASA promises that your complaint will remain anonymous, unless you are acting on behalf of a company or organisation, or you are asking for your contact details to be deleted from a mailing list.

As a guide, here are some examples of the types of complaints the ASA typically handles:

- advertisements that could be misleading, inappropriate or offensive
- difficulty obtaining goods bought by mail order or through television shopping channels, or a refund for such items
- promotions, special offers or competitions that are unfair or dishonest or that have led to disappointment
- unsolicited mail from companies or organisations that you have received by post, e-mail or text message
- issues involving misuse of personal data or invasion of privacy

You should note, however, that there are some complaints that do not fall within the ASA's remit because their rules do not cover that particular type of activity or medium. In these cases, there are often other organisations that a complaint can be referred to, for example government Trading Standards departments, who deal with shop window displays and point of sale material, or the Financial Services Authority, which regulates the financial aspects of advertising.



Example. The ASA works to make sure that claims made in advertisements are backed up by evidence.

40. Besides responding to complaints from the public, the ASA also operates.....

41. There is no for looking into a complaint.

42. It may not be possible to investigate an advert that is over old.

43. When complaining about an online advert, it is helpful to include..... with your complaint.

44. If you want to be removed from....., you will have to give your name.

45. The ASA can help if you have paid for..... products and not received them.

46. Sometimes the ASA can not take action because the subject of a complaint is outside their.....

(7 marks)



SECTION 8

Leave
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Use the information in Section 7 to help you write your answer.

47. You have read the article about the work of the ASA. Write a letter to an English language magazine in your country about the regulation of advertising. Write about 150-200 words and include the following:

- a brief summary of what the ASA does
- your opinion of this system of regulation
- some examples of the kind of advertising that should be restricted

Write your answer here. Do not write outside the box.

A large rectangular box containing horizontal dotted lines for writing.

(10 marks)



SECTION 9

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Choose one of the topics below and write your answer
in 250 – 300 words.

48. A) Write an essay in response to the following question:

“What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in a multi-cultural society?”

Or

48. B) Write contribution to a website blog about language learning, describing your own experience of learning foreign languages and making recommendations about the best methods.



H 3 5 1 6 4 A 0 2 1 8

Write your answer here. Do not write outside the box.

Leave
blank

A large rectangular box containing 25 horizontal dotted lines for writing an answer.

(10 marks)



Leave
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ANSWER KEY

Leave
blank

Section 1

Example: B

1. A
2. B
3. A
4. B
5. C
6. A
7. B
8. B
9. C
10. A

Section 2

11. This timely and brilliant book / analyses the way in which language can be utilised / not to clarify meaning / but to obscure it / by imposing limitations on how concepts are perceived. It cuts through the euphemisms and propaganda / now routinely used by governments and corporations, / revealing the true significance of their hidden agendas.

Section 3

Example: survive

12. habitat(s)
13. wetlands / wet lands
14. plants and animals
15. (level of) concentration
16. level out



H 3 5 1 6 4 A 0 2 1 8

Section 3 Continued

Example: dialect

17. protected
18. (tiny) minority
19. spelling(s) (and) vocabulary/words (both required)
20. gaps (in its vocabulary)
21. Common

Section 4

Example: C

22. B
23. C
24. B
25. C
26. A

Section 5

Example: B

27. A
28. C
29. B
30. B
31. A

Section 6

Example: a telephone interpretation service

32. (their) account details
33. (the) language (requested) (may/might) not (be) commonly spoken
34. conduit
35. (it may seem) longer



Section 6 Continued

Example: risks and expense

- 36. fluctuations/changes in the market
- 37. (a) second string (to your bow)
- 38. three
- 39. (its) core brand / (its) image

Section 7

Example: evidence

- 40. proactively
- 41. charge
- 42. three/3 months
- 43. a (web) link
- 44. (a) mailing list
- 45. mail order
- 46. remit

Section 8

47. Sample answer:

I have recently read an article about the work of the Advertising Standards Authority in the UK. This is an organisation whose aim is to regulate advertising in the press and media to make sure it is legal and honest and does not cause offence. They investigate complaints from the public and also monitor adverts themselves. Anyone can contact them about an advert they are concerned about and the investigations are free. The ASA also helps people with problems they might have in areas like unsolicited mail, invasion of privacy and difficulties with mail order goods.

In my opinion this seems to be an excellent system for regulating advertisers. Without this kind of regulation, advertisers can get away with deceiving the public or causing offence to certain sections of society. For example, an advert might be sexist or racist, or companies can make claims that are not supported by evidence or promises that they don't intend to keep.

I believe it would be a good idea to set up a similar organisation in our country, especially if, like the ASA, it is independent of the government and the advertising industry. (190 words)



Section 9**48 A. Sample answer:**

Nowadays, many people accept the idea that a multi-cultural society is a desirable aim. To hear some people speak, you would imagine that they are describing some kind of utopia where people of all races, religions and cultures live together in peace and harmony with mutual respect for one another's lifestyles. In reality, however, such ideal societies do not exist.

Clearly, there are advantages to living in a multi-cultural society. Some of these are superficial, for example the ability to go out to restaurants and eat food from different parts of the world. At a deeper level, it is an advantage to society to be exposed to different ways of life and different ways of looking at the world. A society that only sees its own history and culture is likely to be enclosed and unable to cope with change, especially in today's globalised world.

However, in places where people from different backgrounds live together, there are bound to be conflicts and problems. Firstly, people from the dominant culture often feel threatened by newcomers who may speak a different language and have very different habits. Secondly, the newcomers themselves often feel pressure to adapt their culture in order to "fit in", but in the process may feel they are losing their cultural identity. The result of these twin fears is often that people tend to stick together with people from their own culture, so that separate mini-societies become established.

In summary, I believe that multi-cultural societies are a good aim to have, but in most cases they do not yet exist. If we continue to ignore the problems they create, such societies will never work properly. (276 words)

48 B. Sample answer:

My own experience of learning foreign languages falls into two separate periods, first at school and then later as an independent learner. The methods of learning were very different but I believe each of them has some value.

Firstly, when I was at school, the way of teaching languages was rather traditional. We used a text book that taught us about the grammar of the language (French), together with some vocabulary. There was also some listening but it was very artificial. We hardly did any speaking ourselves; most of what we did was answering grammar exercises. Later on at school, I also studied Spanish, in more or less the same way.

The problem with this approach became clear on a school trip to France. I remember the feeling when I tried to buy something in a shop and it seemed as if the language wasn't even the same as the one we'd been studying. Even when I understood what people were saying, I found it almost impossible to reply.

Some years after leaving school, I went to Spain to live and work there. I attended Spanish conversation lessons for a while but most of the Spanish I learnt was picked up from daily life. I learnt a lot of useful vocabulary and copied phrases without fully understanding the grammar. The point, though, is that I picked things up more easily and quickly because of the traditional learning I'd done at school. This helped me to make sense of the Spanish I was hearing and relate the theory from school lessons to the "real" language around me.

This is why I believe the best method is a combination of theory and practice. At least, that's the method that worked for me. (290 words)



This is the Pearson Test of English General Level 5. This test takes 2 hours and 55 minutes.

Section 1

You will have 10 seconds to read each question and the corresponding options. Then listen to the recording. After the recording you will have 10 seconds to choose the correct option. Put a cross in the box next to the correct answer, as in the example.

Example: Listen to the man speaking. What is he doing?

M: It's all about making a profit. Food companies use health charity logos because they want to give the impression that their foods are healthier in order to increase sales. But charities and medical associations aren't there to make money for food companies.

The correct answer is B

1. Listen to the beginning of a radio programme. Who is being described?

F: The subject of tonight's profile is a man of many parts. Many, particularly younger people, know him for his political views – he is the author of many books that collectively offer a coherent critique of modern globalised economics. They may even be aware that, as a professor of linguistics, he was responsible for one of the most influential theories in the history of that field.

2. Listen to an advert. What does it suggest about bank holidays, which are public holidays in the UK?

M: If you find yourself painted into a corner this bank holiday, don't worry – at Homeworks DIY superstore, we're here to help. Open on Sunday and bank holiday Monday from ten till four.

3. Listen to a man speaking. Who is he?

M: Nowadays, our nation has embraced the idea of cultural diversity. In fact, it's become the bedrock of our economy and, whatever the opposition says, going back to the days of restricted immigration would be a disastrous backward step.

4. Listen to an advertisement. What is the car's main selling point?

M: The power, acceleration and deluxe interior come as standard, as you would expect. What we think might be unexpected, though, is its quite remarkable fuel economy.



Section 1 Continued

5. Listen to a conversation. What is the woman's reaction to what the man says?

M: What I keep noticing when I go abroad is how uniform everything is - the same shopping malls, the same fast food chains, the same brands in the shops. It's almost not worth travelling at all.

F: Oh, I don't know. OK, I see what you mean, but the diversity is still there under the surface, don't you think?

6. Listen to an advertisement. What is being advertised?

F: Be fluent in a month, or even less, with our revolutionary new method, suitable for holidays, business or study. We guarantee you'll be amazed.

7. Listen to part of an interview. What does the woman say?

M: English is presumably the official language in the UK, isn't it?

F: Believe it or not, the UK doesn't actually have an official language. Although around 75% of people speak English monolingually, so 25% don't. There are at least five other what you might call native languages – Welsh, Cornish, Gaelic and so on, not to mention those brought in by people coming from places like India and Pakistan.

8. Listen to part of an interview. What does the man say about product promotions?

F: [British accent] So, how did you resist the temptation to go for product promotions?

M: [Australian accent] Well, to my mind it didn't suit our company's aims at the time. The distinction is that promotions are a strategy that can certainly increase profits in the short term, whereas what we wanted was to create brand loyalty, which takes longer and costs more. Actually, short term promotions, special offers and so on often damage the reputation of a brand.

9. Listen to part of an interview. What is the man's job?

F: Do you find your options are a bit restricted?

M: A bit. The problem is that the diversity of society isn't represented in the number of roles available, and I think that's not going to change till we get more writers from different ethnic backgrounds to create those parts.

10. Listen to a man talking. What is he probably talking about?

M: Well, there are several variables involved in this kind of work. We'd need to see the document and assess the level of complexity of the project before confirming costs.



Section 2

11. You will hear a recording about official language. Listen to the whole recording once. Then you will hear the recording again with pauses for you to write down what you hear. Make sure you spell the words correctly.

F: This timely and brilliant book / analyses the way in which language can be utilised / not to clarify meaning / but to obscure it / by imposing limitations on how concepts are perceived. / It cuts through the euphemisms and propaganda / now routinely used by governments and corporations, / revealing the true significance of their hidden agendas.

Section 3

12. – 16. You will hear a talk about biodiversity. First, read the notes below then listen and complete the notes with information from the talk. You will hear the recording twice.

M: People sometimes ask what difference it makes if we lose the odd species here and there. The answer is simple, even if the science is complex: biological diversity is essential to life. Without it we simply couldn't survive on this planet, and it's being eroded at an alarming rate.

The chief culprit is the loss of various habitats. When we clear areas for agriculture or industry, or drain unique ecosystems like wetlands, we kill off all the life in them. A close second in the list of causes is the introduction, either deliberate or accidental, of invasive alien species, which can cause severe problems in the ecosystems they invade and lead to the extinction of native plants or animals. Thirdly, there is pollution, which can be defined as any chemical in the wrong place or at a hazardous level of concentration. Such chemical imbalances in the environment often have disastrous effects on biodiversity. Closely allied to this in terms of causation is of course climate change and the many potentially disastrous impacts associated with it.

What underlies all of these causes, unfortunately, is us. Human population has increased at an exponential rate, and is the main factor in all the problems I've described. It tripled in the twentieth century and although growth is slowing, some experts predict it will take until the twenty-third century for it to level out at around 11 billion.

Now listen again



H 3 5 1 6 4 A 0 2 1 8

Section 3 Continued

17. – 21. You will hear a radio news report about minority languages. First, read the notes below then listen and complete the notes with information from the report. You will hear the recording twice.

M: Overseas visitors are sometimes surprised to be told that Welsh, far from being a dialect of English, is actually of course a language in its own right. In fact, Welsh speakers often proudly claim that it's the oldest language in Europe. Now another language, also with Celtic origins, is set to join it, not exactly with the same official status but at least as a protected language. A new law will make it illegal for public bodies to discriminate against speakers of Cornish.

Cornish is the ancient tongue of England's most westerly county. It is spoken by a tiny minority, but they are fiercely protective. The main problem, though, is that there are no less than three versions, each with different spellings and vocabulary. The question of which version is the authentic one is the source of much emotional argument.

So-called Modern Cornish dates from around 1800, a period when the language had all but died out. To compensate for numerous gaps in the vocabulary, it uses English words for things like telephones and computers. There was a revival of interest in Cornish culture at the beginning of the twentieth century, resulting in a version called Unified Cornish. Then around 80 years later came an offshoot called Common Cornish, which is actually spoken by more people, especially newcomers to the language.

Now listen again

That is the end of the listening section of the test. Now go on to the other sections of the test.



