

# **ŽUPANIJSKO NATJECANJE U ZNANJU ENGLESKOGA JEZIKA**

**za 2. razred srednjih škola**

<b>SLUŠANJE S RAZUMIJEVANJEM</b>
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This is the listening part of the County Competition.

There are two tasks in the listening part. You will hear each recording twice and you will have time to read the questions before the recording starts.

While you are listening, write your answers on the task paper itself. You may cross out your answers, change them, make notes, or underline words if you wish.

After the second listening, you will have 1 minute to check your answers and copy your FINAL answers onto the separate Answer Sheet. You must do this carefully and clearly, and you must not make any changes to your final answers once they are written.

Open your tests at page 1.

## **Task one**

You will hear six short texts from six different speakers expressing their thoughts on voting. For items 1–6, choose the speaker that best answers the questions. The task begins with an example (0).

You will hear the recording twice.

You now have 30 seconds to read the questions.  
(30 seconds)

You will now hear the speakers.

## Transcript

A) Amy

We have one of the highest voter turnouts in Australia. About 90% of eligible voters cast their ballot in every election. This might be because voting is compulsory. Since 1924, all eligible voters must vote or be fined \$20, just a bit over 11 euros. But now most people would vote even without the law. Schools and other community groups grill “democracy sausages” at nearly all polling places as a fundraiser. It has become an icon of Australian elections and something we all look forward to.

B) Ben

What does one vote matter? In a group of millions, or even tens of thousands, one single person can't affect the result. There are lots of “one vote made the difference” stories out there, but, when you look closer, they all fall apart. It's elections in groups that number in the hundreds. Or it's an average across voting areas. There are a few instances in larger elections that ended in a tie with a few thousand on either side. I guess, in those elections, one vote did matter. Still, it's not enough to make me waste my time.

C) Candie

As a woman, the idea of not voting never crosses my mind. It wasn't that long ago—less than a century—that I wouldn't have been able to cast my vote in the UK. It was countless women who risked everything to ensure I had equal access to this democratic process. Women suffered all manner of torture and torment to secure this right for me. Suffragettes endured ridicule, ostracism, and even loss of freedom. How could I treat their sacrifice with such disdain? Even if one vote isn't likely to win an election, it would be sacrilege not to vote and suggest it's not worth the bother.

D) Dawn

In the US, we are taught that voting is a right. Only two states allow a convicted felon to vote with no restrictions. One-fifth of the country still can't vote after serving their sentence and supposedly repaying their debt to society. Marijuana possession can lead to a felony and the loss of the ability to vote. Given the known issues with the justice system, this disenfranchisement seems even more sinister. I think we need to either teach that voting is a privilege or make it a right, something that cannot be taken away.

E) Erica

Mickey Mouse. Yoda. Jesus Christ. Those are just three of the many ridiculous write-in votes that are cast in every election. I guess it could be a form of protest. I find it distasteful. It's an easy way for a person to act like they have principles when it's really just laziness. The voter's duty is to weigh all the options and pick the person who most closely aligns with their views. Most of these “rebels” probably didn't bother to do any research. Voting is the most powerful method for affecting the world we live in. If you choose to cast your vote, it's foolish to just throw it away on a joke.

F) Fiona

It breaks my heart to hear people say they don't vote because it doesn't matter. Sure, one vote doesn't really have any power, but each one added to the next makes hundreds, thousands, millions of votes. Al Gore lost the state of Florida, and therefore the presidency of the U.S., to George W. Bush by 537 votes. Multiple times, presidents have lost their bids for office by only a few thousand votes. And often there are ten

times that number that didn't vote because, "One vote doesn't make a difference." Imagine the difference in the world if someone kinder or nicer were in charge of the most powerful nations.

**You will now hear the recording again.**

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**You now have 1 minute to check your answers and copy them onto the Answer Sheet.**

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**This is the end of the first listening task.**

## **Task two**

**You will hear a text about cats. For each of the statements 1-6, write the correct answer: T for true or F for false. The task begins with an example (0).**

**You will hear the recording twice.**

**You now have 45 seconds to read the questions.**

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**You will now hear the recording.**

## **Transcript**

Cats. Whenever one hears the word mentioned, the mind conjures an image of fluffy, velvet rascals that demand food and pampering from their human servants, offering only an occasional purr or an outpour of cuteness in return. These mysterious and fiercely independent little predators have always used their elegance and quiet assurance to enchant mankind, using their odd charm to become adored companions of humankind in every corner of the world. But have they really succeeded in doing so?

Cats have been keeping us company for thousands of years, initially proving their usefulness as extremely effective pest controllers, and slowly working their way from there to becoming worshipped deities in cultures, for example the ancient Egyptians, and, eventually, coddled pets.

Their journey started in the Middle East, where their hunting prowess and usefulness gave them a free pass to spread throughout the Old World. But it wasn't until they had reached the shores of the New World that they revealed a whole new dimension to them, and a very unpleasant one. As it is often the case with invasive species, the local wildlife had and still has no way to fight off these wily predators. It is estimated that, in Australia alone, cats kill more than 1.5 billion birds, rodents and amphibians annually, and the brunt of their viciousness and hunting prowess has been

especially keenly felt in New Zealand, where these elegant stalkers managed to wipe out entire bird populations on several islands.

And while domestic cats are responsible for their fair share of carnage, feral cats are the biggest culprits. Once pets and now ferocious wild hunters, these outback felines seem to be adding a new weapon to the already abundant arsenal of teeth and claws – their size. While the average domestic cat weighs four to five kilograms, their feral kin regularly reach seven or eight, and reports of huge cats reaching double digits are becoming increasingly frequent.

It would seem that the cat is evolving once again, using an abundance of prey and absence of natural predators in the Australian outback as well as natural selection, which apparently favours larger and more powerful specimens. No one can say for sure where this new leap might lead. If the trend holds, we just might end up with something never seen before – like the Australian leopard or tiger.

**You will now hear the recording again.**

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**You now have 1 minute to check your answers and copy them onto the Answer Sheet.**

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**This is the end of the second listening task. This completes the listening part of the test. You may now continue with the rest of the test.**