

DRŽAVNO NATJECANJE U ZNANJU ENGLESKOG JEZIKA
za 2. razrede srednjih škola

SLUŠANJE S RAZUMIJEVANJEM

Good morning. May I have your attention, please? The listening part of the test will start now. Open your tests to page 2. As you can see, the listening task and questions are on this page.

You will hear someone talk about being a landscape gardener.

You will hear the recording twice, and there will be a short pause between the two listenings.

You can write your answers during both the first and second listening.

Listen to the recording. For each of the questions 1-5, choose ONE answer (A, B, C or D) that fits best according to the recording.

Write the corresponding letter (A, B, C or D) on the Answer Sheet.

The task begins with an example (0).

Remember to write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

While you are listening, write your answers on the task itself. You can 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.
During this time, you should write your final answers on the Answer Sheet.

Now, let's begin. You have 30 seconds to read through the questions.

[Count silently to 30 – and then say the following:]

Now you will hear the recording.

Landscape Gardening

Looking back, I was what you would probably call an underachiever at school. My parents put it down to idleness on my part, although if the truth be told it was more a matter of my not being academically inclined rather than a lack of effort. My teachers thought I was either uninterested or simply not bright enough, and so I left school without any qualifications to my name.

I started working for a company that provided landscape gardening services. I loved being out in the open and the banter with colleagues and was quite content for several years. Unfortunately, the company folded and I became unemployed. I was faced with no alternative but to go it alone. After all, I'd actually picked up quite a lot of knowledge over the preceding years and was reasonably confident that I'd be able to meet the challenges that lay ahead. Besides being my own boss, I realised that there was a slight chance that I might even earn more.

They say that the first year is always the hardest when you start up your own firm, and mine was no exception. I knew it wasn't going to be straightforward but somehow I survived this period. It was the operating costs. Working in the open, I don't have an office with any bills to pay. Anticipating a struggle, I even took out a loan, but it was never touched. Many others in the trade work all the hours that God sends and pay lower wages to their staff. I resisted this and focused on quality. This allowed me to build up a decent reputation for myself.

There are just the two of us working full-time in the firm at present, although we take on temporary staff if necessary. We actually went to the same school together, although we didn't really know each other back then. We undoubtedly make a good team. In fact, Jane now owns part of the company. People notice that we like and laugh at the same kinds of things. The key, though, is that we're prepared to take the other person's views into consideration when we disagree about something.

Over the last couple of years, the business has gone from strength to strength. There are a lot of similar firms to us out there, and our prices have to be reasonably competitive. We're also ready to put in the hours if need be. However, we've got to where we are because we go the extra distance for the customer. Trust is central, and the people that we do work for know that we're approachable. At the end of the day, quality is vital, as is price, but you need that personal touch too. It's what differentiates us. At least, that's what we feel.

The work can make tremendous demands on the body. It goes without saying that there's plenty of lifting, pulling and bending for hours on end. I have to visit a chiropractor on a regular basis, and I'm not sure how much longer my frame can take it. It can also be a challenge to constantly achieve the high standards that we set ourselves, though on the whole we're pretty comfortable with that. Jane sometimes finds certain clients hard work. They often want the impossible, and it takes patience to explain such things to them. Then there's the weather: it can be a bit of a pain working outdoors when it's chucking it down or the temperature's freezing and your fingers are all numb, but then there's the flip side. Would you rather be cooped up in an office on a glorious spring day?

[Count silently to 5 and then say the following:]

Now you will hear the recording again.

[After the second reading, say the following:]

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

[Count silently to 60 – and then say the following:]

This is the end of the listening task. You may now go on to do the other parts of the test.

PART 2 - Task 1: LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Task 1: Landscape Gardening

You will hear someone talk about being a landscape gardener. Listen carefully to the instructions. For each of the questions 1-5, choose ONE answer (A, B, C or D) that fits best according to the recording. Write the corresponding letter (A, B, C or D) on the Answer Sheet. You will hear the recording twice.

You have 30 seconds to read through all the questions.

The task begins with an example (0).

After you hear the recording for the second time, you have 1 minute to check your answers and transfer them to the Answer Sheet.

- (0) The speaker blames her lack of success at school on her not
- A being oriented towards studying.
 - B having the necessary talent.
 - C showing sufficient interest.
 - D working hard enough.
- (1) Why did the speaker make the decision to set up her own firm?
- A She had been made redundant.
 - B She hoped to obtain a higher salary.
 - C She wanted increased independence.
 - D She was seeking a greater challenge.
- (2) The speaker says that her firm got through the initial tough phase due to
- A all the extra hours that she was putting in.
 - B her decision to reduce labour costs and prices.
 - C the low overheads that her business had.
 - D the money that she had borrowed from the bank.
- (3) The speaker gets on with her business partner because they
- A are good at listening to each other.
 - B come from similar backgrounds.
 - C enjoy the same sense of humour.
 - D share a number of common interests.
- (4) The company's sustained success is put down to
- A being completely honest at all times.
 - B building up relationships with clients.
 - C ensuring all work is of the highest quality.
 - D having a flexible pricing strategy.
- (5) What does the speaker find to be the biggest challenge in her work?
- A Dealing with unrealistic expectations.
 - B Maintaining the company's high standards.
 - C The physical toll that the job takes.
 - D The weather can be rather inclement at times.