

What is Gist Listening?

Worksheet

Gist listening is capturing the main idea and key points of a conversation without focusing on every word. This IELTS skill helps you understand the overall message quickly and efficiently.

Questions

1. What is the main benefit of gist listening?
A) Catching every word perfectly
B) Quickly understanding the main idea
C) Memorizing exact phrases
D) Translating to your language
2. Which should you ignore when gist listening?
A) Keywords and numbers
B) Filler words like 'um' and 'like'
C) The main topic
D) Verbs and actions
3. A speaker says: 'Well, um, the issue is... it's not really clear, but I think the problem is costs.' What is the gist?
A) The issue is unclear
B) The problem is about costs
C) Well and um are important
D) I think is the main idea
4. True or False: Gist listening means you ignore names and numbers.
A) True
B) False
5. You hear: 'Um, so like, the meeting is, you know, scheduled for Tuesday at 3 PM in the conference room, right?' What is the gist?
6. Speaker discusses: 'I've been there for years... the food is decent, prices are fair, service is, well, okay, but honestly the location is perfect for me.' What is the main idea?
7. Audio: 'The project, if I remember correctly, started in... oh, I think 2019, and it involved about 50 people, give or take. Honestly, it was quite successful.' Gist?
8. Define: What is gist listening?
9. Define: Why use gist listening in IELTS?
10. Define: What words should you ignore in gist listening?

Answer Key

1. B) Quickly understanding the main idea — Gist listening lets you understand the core message without needing every detail.
2. B) Filler words like 'um' and 'like' — Filler words add no meaning and should be filtered out.
3. B) The problem is about costs — Ignoring filler ('Well, um'), the gist is that costs are the problem.
4. B) False — False — names and numbers are keywords and should always be caught in gist listening.
5. Ignore: 'Um', 'like', 'you know', 'right?' Identify keywords: 'meeting', 'Tuesday', '3 PM', 'conference room' Connect: The meeting is on Tuesday at 3 PM in the conference room Gist: A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday at 3 PM.
6. Skip filler: 'well', 'honestly', repeats Keywords: 'years', 'decent', 'fair', 'perfect', 'location' Ignore: 'service is okay' (minor point) Gist: The speaker recommends this place because of its food quality, fair pricing, and especially its convenient location.
7. Ignore hedging: 'if I remember correctly', 'I think', 'give or take' Key facts: 'started 2019', '50 people', 'successful' Connect: A 2019 project with ~50 people was successful Gist: A large project from 2019 was successful.
8. Understanding the main idea and key points without catching every word.
9. To quickly identify relevant information and overall message when you can't catch every word.
10. Filler words like 'um', 'like', 'you know', hesitations, and irrelevant anecdotes.

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