

# **Tapescript 4 \_Short Story Competition**

This is the IELTS listening test. You will hear a number of different recordings and you will have to answer questions on what you hear. There will be time for you to read the instructions and questions and you will have a chance to check your work. All the recordings will be played once only. The test is in four parts. At the end of the test, you will be given 10 minutes to transfer your answers to the answer sheet.

Now turn to part one.

## **Part 1**

You will hear a telephone conversation between the organizer of a short story competition and someone who wishes to take part in the competition. First, you have some time to look at questions 1 to 6.

Organiser: Good morning, Dave speaking.

Interested candidate: Oh, hi, I'm phoning about a short story competition and I saw an advert in a magazine and I was just calling to get some details.

Organiser: Yes. Certainly. I'm the competition organizer. So I should be able to help. What kind of details are you looking for?

Interested candidate: Well, does it cost anything to enter?

Organiser: Yes, there's an entry fee of five pounds.

Interested candidate: Okay, that should be fine.

Organiser: It's a short story competition. So how many words is that?

Interested candidate: Well, we want to give people a reasonable amount of freedom, but the guidelines are around three thousand words.

Interested candidate: Oh, That sounds quite a lot.

Organiser: Well, it's not as much as it used to be. We did have a limit of five thousand words, but some people thought that was too many. So this year we've reduced it.

Interested candidate: Right. And does the story need to be about anything in particular?

Organiser: No, you can write about any topic you like but the main point of the competition is that it has to have a surprise ending.

Interested candidate: Oh, I see! That sounds interesting. I don't think I've ever written a story like that before.

Organiser: Yes. It's something we've introduced for this year's competition.

Interested candidate: Right. I'm 18. Is there any age limit?

Organiser: Yes, you need to be 16 or over. So if you're 18, that's fine.

Interested candidate: Great. So you have the competition once a year. Is that right?

Organiser: Yes, we start advertising in January and the competition takes up a lot of the year. We give people a few months to write their story and then it takes quite a long time to judge all the entries and to announce the winners.

Interested candidate: I see. So when is the closing date for the competition? It's already April. I hope I'm not too late.

Organiser: No, you've still got plenty of time. You need to submit your entry by the 1st of August. After that, it will be too late. Although, you can always enter next year's competition.

Interested candidate: Okay, good. So, how do I enter?

Organiser: Well, we have a website and the best way to enter is to complete the entry form online. We also have more details of the competition on the site. Shall I give you the web address?

Interested candidate: Yes, please.

Organiser: Okay, it's `www dot comp4ss dot com`. And that's the number four not the word four.

Interested candidate: Ok. Thanks! I've got that. So I can complete the entry form online. But how do I send the story? Do I print it out and send it to you?

Organiser: Well, you may want to print the story out, so you can review it. But don't post it to us. When you've finished your story, you will need to email it to us. The email address is on the website, I gave you.

Interested candidate: Okay. That's fine.

Before you hear the rest of the conversation, you will have some time to look at the questions 7 to 10.

Now listen and answer questions 7 to 10.

Interested candidate: Can you tell me a bit about how the competition is judged and what the prizes are?

Organiser: Yes, of course. Well, once we have all the entries, I send them to all the judges. Our competition is quite popular. So we are lucky to be able to use famous authors who are very interested in the competition.

Interested candidate: That's fantastic. It's great to know that someone famous will be reading my story.

Organiser: Yes. That's right. It takes them quite a while to read through the entries, but eventually they decide on the top 5 stories.

Interested candidate: I see and what happens then?

Organiser: Well, they will be published online. So everyone can read them. They will not be in any order at this point. They will just be the five stories that the judges think are the best.

Interested candidate: And do all the top five stories get prizes?

Organiser: No, it's just the top story and the runner-up.

Interested candidate: So how is the top story decided?

Organiser: Well, once the top five stories are available, it will be the public who will vote for their favourite story.

Interested candidate: Right. I see. So I need to get all my friends to vote for me then?

Organiser: Yes, that's a good idea.

Interested candidate: And what is the price?

Organiser: Well, the runner-up gets a prize of 300 pounds, but the winner gets a trip to Spain to attend a workshop for writers.

Interested candidate: Wow! That's brilliant. I'd better get writing straight away.

Organiser: Yes. Good luck.

Interested candidate: Thanks.

That is the end of part one. You now have one minute to check your answers to part one.

## **Part 2**

You will hear a guide talking about a Sea Life Centre. First, you have some time to look at questions 11 to 17.

Okay! So, hi everybody and welcome to the Sea Life Centre. Before you start on your tour, I'd just like to give you some information about things to look out for, as you go. Well, first of all, I guess some of you may have been here before and maybe surprised to see the name has changed. We're not called World of Water, anymore. Since the beginning of this summer, we've been renamed and we've also made a few other changes. However, the main attractions like the aquarium, the crocodiles, the penguins and so on are still here. But we have a new restaurant and picnic area and the latest thing that we have and it was only finished last week is the splash ride. This is an exciting new area of the centre and is pretty scary, and of course you do get a bit wet. So make sure you're not wearing your best clothes. As I said, the main attractions are still here and the most popular thing that everyone wants to see is feeding time, especially for the crocodiles and the seals. We used to have the main feeding time in the afternoon at around 3 p.m. But we found that some of the animals got a bit hungry waiting until then and so we now have it at noon. They seem much happier with the new time. Although it's a bit difficult to know what they're thinking.

Now, I'd like to mention something new that we've introduced this year that we're very excited about. It's called a VIP ticket. The VIP ticket costs an extra 2 pounds per person and you will be amazed at what it allows you to do. With this, you'll be allowed to feed the sharks. Now, I know that, for some people this might be quite a frightening thing to do, but it is perfectly safe. For those of you who are a bit unsure, we do have a video you can watch to see what happens. It's a great experience and your friends will be very impressed. Speaking of friends, I'd just like to remind you that the Sea Life Centre will be more than happy to organize a birthday party for you and your family and friends. If you need more details you can speak to me afterwards and there are also forms at the entrance that you can fill in.

I'd also like to bring your attention to the good work that the Sea Life Centre is doing in support of animal conservation. I'm sure you're all aware of the worrying situation with a large number of species facing extinction. Here at the Sea Life Centre, we're taking action by asking as many people as possible to sign a petition. Once we have over 5,000 signatures, we are planning to send it to the government in the hope that more people will begin to take it seriously.

Right!

Well, there's obviously a lot going on at the Centre and a lot of things to discover. At all the attractions there is helpful information. So please read as much as you can and if you want to see what you've remembered, please do the quiz after your visit. There are no prizes of course, but I'm sure you'll be surprised by how much you've learned.

Before you hear the rest of the conversation, you will have some time to look at the questions 18 to 20

Now listen and answer questions 18 to 20.

So before I leave you all to start your tour, I've just got a few tips. There are a large number of attractions and you may not have time to see them all. Of course, there are the old favourites like the aquarium and the Crocodile Cave, but if you don't have time to see everything, make sure you visit Turtle Town, which is beyond the aquarium and the Seal Centre. This is very special and has a large number of endangered species and as it's at the far corner of the Sea Life Centre, it often gets overlooked. I also have to apologize for the Penguin Park. This has needed some urgent work to be done and so will not be open for the next week. We're very sorry about this, but I'm sure you'll find

the Seal Centre which is directly opposite it will keep you entertained just as much, if not more.

We're also very busy today as you may have noticed on your way in. Everyone starts here, at the aquarium, but as it's so big, there's no waiting to get in. But today we're expecting a lot of people to want to see the Crocodile Cave as a couple of eggs have hatched out. So expect delays there and if you like, move on to the Seal Centre first, and then go back when things are quieter towards the end of the day. So I'll leave you now, but if you have any questions, I won't be far away and have a great time at the Sea Life Centre.

That is the end of part 2. You now have 30 seconds to check your answers to part 2.

### **Part 3**

You will hear two students talking about their university studies. First, you have some time to look at questions 21 to 26.

Martina: Oh, Hi George. How's it going?

George: Hi Martina. It's going well. How about you? How is university life?

Martina: Well, it's great. Apart from studying, of course.

George: Yeah. Me too. What are you studying? I seem to remember that you were going to do art. That was your best subject. Wasn't it?



Martina: No, not really. I just liked the teacher. He was French and had an amazing accent. My favourite subject was history, but I couldn't see what career that would give me.

George: All right. So what did you choose?

Martina: Well, I found it really difficult to decide. I was really good at Science, but I must admit I never really enjoyed studying it. So in the end, I decided to opt for English, which was my second favourite subject and I thought It would be more useful to me, than studying anything else. So that's what I'm doing. And, how are you finding university?

George: Well, it's a bit of a challenge. I suppose.

Martina: Are you finding it difficult?

George: mmm... Well, some of it I'm doing Mechanical Engineering which is really interesting, but it covers quite a lot of areas like Material Science, Machine Design, Physics and of course Mechanics and they're all fine. But it's Maths that I'm struggling with. It's a lot harder than it was at school.

Martina: I can believe it. It all sounds very difficult to me. But then I never was very good at mechanical things. I suppose it must involve some practical work.

George: Well, not at the moment. Currently, it's nearly all theory. So it's a bit heavy going.

Martina: I guess you need to start with that, so that you can get a grasp of the concepts and learn a few facts before you start putting it into practice. It must be a lot different from the course that I'm taking.

George: Yes, but in a few weeks, we'll be having a lot more practical experience. In fact, I've got a great assignment this term working on jet engines, which means I'll be going on a few field trips to a nearby airport.

Martina: Oh, that's great! It sounds like you're going to be very busy.

George: Yes. I'm not sure how I'm going to cope with the work. We have a lot of lectures and that's fine. The lecturers are very knowledgeable and I learn a lot from them, but we also have a lot of seminars and I find, with so many people expressing their views, it can get quite frustrating. It would be better, if we didn't have so many of those.

Martina: Yes. It's the same for me.

Now listen and answer questions 27 to 30.

Martina: And how are the students at your place?

George: Well, I haven't really met anyone yet. They all seem a bit quiet.

Martina: Perhaps they're working hard. They don't appear to be very studious here, but they are very friendly. I must say I've been doing a lot of sitting around and chatting, over the last week or so.

George: Well, that's good. The only person I've spoken to really is my tutor. He's very approachable and seems to understand how difficult it can be starting university.

Martina: mmmm.....It's good to have someone you can talk to and he may help you meet other students.

George: Actually, that doesn't bother me. I am bound to get to know some people sooner or later. It's more a question of finding out what I need to do, where to go and so on. I hope he can help me with that.

Martina: Oh! I would have thought so. Well, we certainly have a lot of work ahead of us. It seems like a long time, doesn't it? Studying for three years?

George: Yes, it does. But I'm sure it'll go quickly. You know, I'm really dreading the first assessment.

Martina: Yes. For the course I'm doing, we have to hand our first one in at the end of next month.

George: Really. So, have you got the topic yet?

Martina: No, but we'll get it soon. I'm not sure how much we have to write yet. Not too much, I hope.

George: I know what you mean and it's hard to study, especially where I am now.

Martina: Oh, where are you living?

George: I'm living in a hall of residence. I thought that would be a good idea as there'd be a lot of people around but I'm finding it a bit noisy. I can see this. I'm going to have problems when I really need to get down to some work.

Martina: So I guess you need to be somewhere on your own then.

George: Yes. Well, I do like to have some people around me. So I'd prefer to live with a family somewhere, in a house. Not too far from the University.

Martina: Well, good luck with that.

George: Yes. Thanks and good luck to you as well. Oh! I have to rush now. I've another lecture in 10 minutes. Bye for now.

Martina: Bye.

That is the end of part 3. You now have 30 seconds to check your answers to part 3.

## **Part 4**

You will hear someone talking about creating a presentation. First, you have some time to look at questions 31 to 40.

Now listen carefully and answer questions 31 to 40.

Hello, everyone. You've all been given an assignment for your sociology course, which will involve giving a presentation to the rest of the group. And so today I'm going to be giving you a few tips on how to prepare your presentations. This should help you with your current assignment, but a lot of the principles I'll be putting across will be general principles which will of course help you with all your future presentations.

So first of all, the most important thing to consider is your audience and in this instance your audience are the other students in your group. There are

three points to bear in mind. Firstly, you need to ask yourself what they need to know. Secondly, it's useful to consider whether they'll be supportive or not. And thirdly, will it be a small group, say three or four, a moderate gathering of 20 or so people, as for your current assignment or will there be hundreds of people?

Having said all that, what I'm about to tell you will apply equally to any audience. So, how do you structure your presentation? Right at the beginning, you should tell them something that forces them to pay attention. This could be something surprising or even shocking but it needs to be relevant. After that, you need a list of items or topics showing them what you'll be covering, rather like an agenda. And then the main part of the presentation will follow. This main part will be the detailed information you'll be presenting and could include facts, statistics, personal experiences etc. After this, you should summarize what you've presented and close with what I call next steps. For this assignment, you could simply point the group to other sociology reference material. In other cases, you may want to suggest some actions that people can take.

Now what about the design of the slides for your laptop? Well, the important thing here is to be consistent. You need to have the same type of font and use the same colour and size for the same elements. For example, all headers need to look the same. All bullet points need to be presented in the same way. And don't just stick to words. Bring the presentation to life by adding graphics. These could be in several forms such as pictures, flow charts, diagrams, histograms and so on. And so, let's move on now to presenting. You have your presentation prepared and you're ready to start. Well, it's important to give a good impression from the start. So take three deep breaths. Look at the audience, no matter how frightening they may be and be enthusiastic and energetic.

As you go through the presentation, remember to provide some variety in the way you speak. So for example, you can talk fairly rapidly for information that may be familiar, but then slow down for more unfamiliar sections and change your tone as you speak. Don't keep it at the same level all the way through. As I mentioned, look at your audience. A good tip is to pick people out and look at them for around five seconds. Not looking at the audience gives the impression that you're either not interested in them or terrified of them. Looking too long at one particular person may make them feel rather uncomfortable.

There may be points in your presentation that you want your audience to really absorb and in order to make important points stand out, you may consider adding silence right after these. It will give people time to reflect on what you've just said. Also, you may be presenting complicated ideas or technical details, but try to keep everything as simple as possible. Use simple words and as few as possible and be clear. If you say something like this appears to be, it implies uncertainty. So using weak verbs such as appears, seems, could be, etcetera needs to be avoided.

I'll just finish off with a few thoughts on questions and interruptions from the audience. You may choose to invite questions from the audience as you go or ask them to wait until the end. Either way, questions should be encouraged as it provides you with some feedback on how interested the audience is and how well they're understanding you. When a question is asked, you need to provide an answer that is as accurate as possible. So initially my tip is to repeat it. This will ensure you have heard it correctly and will give you a few seconds to gather your thoughts.

Interruptions on the other hand can be unwelcome and you may get them for a variety of reasons. It's likely however that there's something in your presentation that's unclear or confusing. So my advice is to reduce problems

by reading through your presentation beforehand and predicting potential points, which could cause interruptions. You may then want to change that part of your presentation or at least you will be prepared if someone does interrupt you now. Now do you have any questions?

That is the end of part 4. You now have one minute to check your answers to part 4.

That is the end of the listening test. In the IELTS test you would now have 10 minutes to transfer your answers to the answer sheet.