

IELTS Academic Practice Test

Travel and Tourism

Listening Scripts

Listening Task 1: A Trip to Kyoto

Audio Instructions:

- **Voice:** Female, standard British accent
 - **Speed:** Moderate, natural pace (approximately 150 words per minute)
 - **Tone:** Enthusiastic, reflective, and warm
 - **Intonation:** Natural, with emphasis on key descriptive words
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Script:

I've been lucky enough to travel to quite a few places, but if I had to choose one trip that really stands out, it would have to be my visit to Kyoto in Japan a couple of years ago. I'd always been fascinated by Japanese culture, so it was a dream come true.

I went in spring, which was just magical because the cherry blossoms were in full bloom. The city was covered in this beautiful blanket of pink and white flowers. My itinerary was quite packed, but I made sure to have a balance between the famous tourist spots and just wandering around the quieter backstreets.

One of the highlights was visiting the Fushimi Inari Shrine. You've probably seen pictures of it – it's famous for its thousands of bright red torii gates that create a tunnel up the mountainside. Walking through it felt like stepping into another world. It was

quite a hike to the top, but the view over the city was absolutely breathtaking. I'd recommend going early in the morning to avoid the biggest crowds.

Another unforgettable experience was the Gion district, which is famous for being the traditional home of geishas. It's not a guarantee that you'll see one, as they are quite private, but I was fortunate enough to see a geiko—that's what they call a fully qualified geisha in Kyoto—walking to an appointment. It was just a fleeting glimpse, but it was incredible to see that part of the culture firsthand.

The food was another amazing part of the trip. I'm not usually an adventurous eater, but I tried everything from fresh sushi at the Nishiki Market to a multi-course kaiseki dinner, which is a traditional form of Japanese fine dining. Every meal was a work of art.

What I loved most about Kyoto was the mix of ancient and modern. You can be in a thousand-year-old temple one minute and then on a super-fast bullet train the next. It's a city that respects its history while embracing the future. I came back with so many wonderful memories and a beautiful hand-painted fan as a souvenir, which I still have on my wall. It was truly the trip of a lifetime.

Listening Task 2: Swiping Right on Romance?

Audio Instructions:

- **Voices:** Two speakers – one male (Mark), one female (Sarah), both with standard British accents
 - **Speed:** Natural, conversational pace (approximately 140-160 words per minute)
 - **Tone:** Mark should sound slightly skeptical at first, becoming more open. Sarah should sound optimistic and persuasive.
 - **Intonation:** Natural conversational flow, with appropriate pauses and reactions.
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Script:

Sarah: Mark, you'll never guess who I saw the other day! It was Tom from our old office. He's getting married!

Mark: Wow, that's great news. I didn't even know he was seeing someone. Who's the lucky person?

Sarah: Her name is Emily, and get this—they met on a dating app. Isn't that sweet?

Mark: Hmm, I don't know. I'm still not convinced about online dating. It all feels a bit... artificial. You're just swiping through profiles based on a few photos. It doesn't seem very romantic.

Sarah: I see what you mean, but I think you're looking at it the wrong way. It's not about finding the love of your life in five minutes. It's just a tool to meet people you wouldn't otherwise cross paths with. Think about it—our lives are so busy with work, it can be hard to meet new people.

Mark: I suppose so. But don't you think people can be dishonest on their profiles? They use old photos or exaggerate their interests to make themselves seem more appealing.

Sarah: That's true, it can happen. You definitely have to be careful. But that's why the first impression when you meet in person is so important. My friend, Laura, has a rule: she always suggests a quick coffee for a first date. That way, there's no pressure, and you can quickly see if there's any real chemistry.

Mark: That's a sensible approach. I just worry about the whole 'ghosting' culture. You know, where someone you've been talking to just disappears without a trace. It seems quite harsh.

Sarah: It is, and it's happened to me. It's not a nice feeling. But you can't let that put you off. It's just part of the process, I guess. The way I see it, you have to be resilient. For every person who ghosts you, there might be someone else who is a genuine match.

Mark: So, you think the benefits outweigh the risks?

Sarah: For me, yes. It widens your social circle and gives you options. It's not perfect, but it's a modern way to solve a modern problem. Tom and Emily are a perfect example. They're so happy together, and they probably never would have met without that app.

Mark: You make some good points. Maybe I shouldn't be so quick to judge. A quick coffee, you say? Perhaps it's not such a bad idea after all.

END OF LISTENING SCRIPTS