

B2 Listening Comprehension Activity #1

Instructions

You're going to hear someone talking about a meeting they had at work. Listen carefully to understand not just what happened—but how the speaker really feels about it.

The Listening Script

“So, we had this team meeting yesterday afternoon, and I've been thinking about it quite a bit since then... mainly because I'm not entirely sure it was as useful as it could have been. I mean, if you look at it from the outside, everything was there. We had a clear agenda, everyone showed up on time, and we went through all the main points we needed to cover. So in that sense, I suppose you could say it was productive.

But at the same time, it didn't really feel productive, if that makes sense. I think part of the issue is that we spent a lot of time talking... but not necessarily moving forward. There were moments where the conversation just seemed to go in circles, especially when we were discussing the new project timeline.

And then there's Tom. He's a nice guy, don't get me wrong, and he clearly cares about the project, but he does have a tendency to take over discussions a bit. Yesterday was no different. Every time someone tried to bring up a different perspective, he would jump in again with another point.

So although technically everyone had the chance to speak, in reality, not everyone really contributed as much as they could have. Another thing that stood out to me was how we handled decision-making. Towards the end of the meeting, we were supposed to agree on the next steps, but things became a bit... vague.

People started using phrases like, 'Maybe we should think about this a bit more,' or 'Let's come back to this next week.' And I've noticed that when that happens, it usually means no one is completely confident about the direction we're taking.

I also got the impression that some people didn't want to disagree openly. There were a few moments where you could tell someone wasn't fully convinced, but instead of saying it directly, they just kind of... stayed quiet or agreed in a very non-committal way. By the end of it, we had technically 'finished' the meeting, but I left feeling like we hadn't really achieved much. I wouldn't go as far as saying it was a waste of time... because we did share ideas and clarify a few things.

But I do think it could have been more focused. Maybe we needed stronger leadership in the meeting, or just clearer decisions.

Anyway, we've got another meeting scheduled for next week, so I guess we'll see if things improve... although, if I'm honest, I'm not expecting it to be very different."

Questions

Question 1:

What is the speaker's overall opinion of the meeting?

- A. It was completely successful
- B. It was organised but not very effective
- C. It was a total failure

Question 2:

What does the speaker suggest about the agenda?

- A. It was unclear
- B. It was followed correctly
- C. It was ignored

Question 3:

What is implied about Tom?

- A. He helped everyone participate
- B. He prevented others from contributing fully
- C. He was not interested in the meeting

Question 4:

What does the speaker mean when they say discussions "went in circles"?

- A. The discussion was confusing
- B. The discussion repeated without progress
- C. The discussion was well-structured

Question 5:

What does "Let's come back to this next week" suggest?

- A. A final decision was made
- B. The topic is not important
- C. People avoided making a decision

Question 6:

What does the speaker imply about some team members?

- A. They openly disagreed
- B. They were confident in their opinions
- C. They avoided expressing disagreement

Question 7:

Why does the speaker say, "I wouldn't go as far as saying it was a waste of time"?

- A. To strongly defend the meeting
- B. To soften criticism
- C. To show excitement

Question 8:

What is the speaker's attitude about the next meeting?

- A. Optimistic
- B. Neutral
- C. Slightly pessimistic

Answer Key:

- B
- B
- B
- B
- C
- C
- B
- C