

PTE Academic

Listening

Part 3: Listening of PTE Academic tests your ability to understand spoken English in an academic environment. It also tests your ability to understand a variety of accents, both native and non-native.

Listening skills

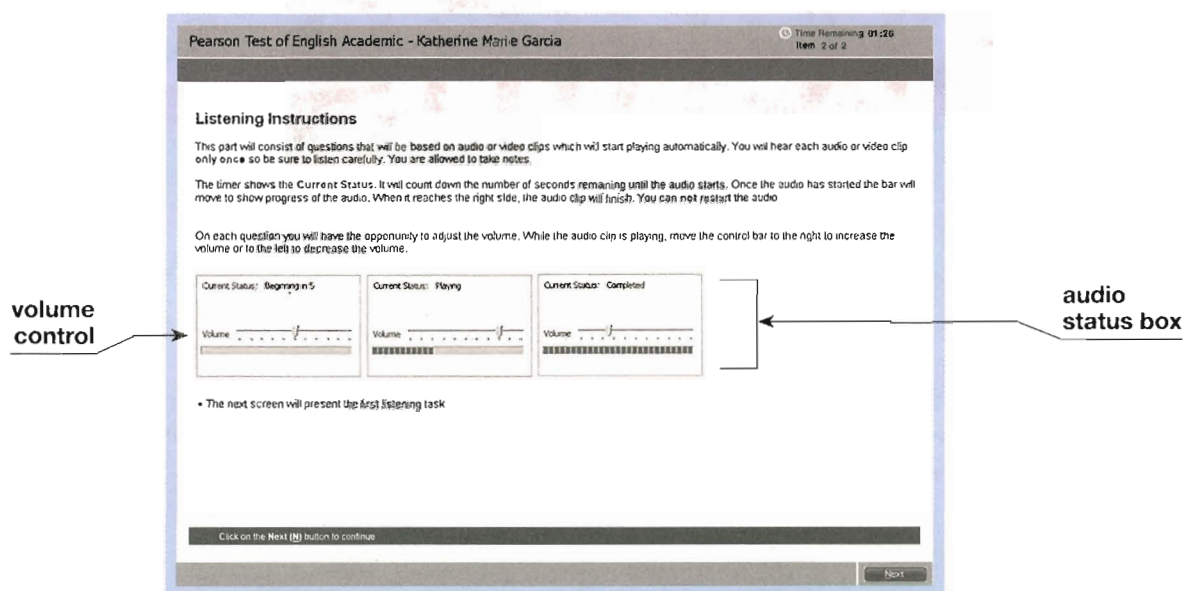
The listening skills tested in PTE Academic include the following:

- identifying the topic, theme or main ideas
- summarizing the main idea
- identifying supporting points or examples
- understanding academic vocabulary
- inferring the meaning of unfamiliar words
- identifying words and phrases appropriate to the context
- comprehending explicit and implicit information
- comprehending concrete and abstract information
- classifying and categorizing information
- following an oral sequencing of information
- forming a conclusion from what a speaker says
- predicting how a speaker may continue
- identifying errors in a transcription
- identifying a speaker's purpose, style, tone or attitude
- inferring the context, purpose or tone
- comprehending variations in tone, speed, accent

- identifying specific details, facts, opinions and definitions or sequences of events
- identifying the overall organization of information and connections between pieces of information
- evaluating and synthesizing information
- summarizing the main idea

Overview

General listening instructions are presented before Part 3: Listening.



The audio status box on screen shows how long until the audio or video recording starts and the progress of the recording while you are listening and/or watching. You can adjust the volume by moving the slider on the volume control. You must listen to all the **audio** and cannot move on to the next item until the audio has finished playing.

Listening item types require you to understand an audio or video recording of an authentic lecture, presentation or dialogue from an academic source.

Eight item types appear in the listening part of PTE Academic. The total time to complete the listening part of the test is approximately 45–57 minutes, depending on the combination of items in a given test. Some of the item types are integrated and assess both listening as well as reading and writing skills.

Part 3 (listening) total time: 45–57 minutes			
Item type	Task	Skills assessed	Recording length
Summarize spoken text	After listening to a recording, write a summary of 50–70 words.	listening and writing	60–90 seconds
Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers	After listening to a recording, answer a multiple-choice question on the content or tone of the recording by selecting more than one response.	listening	40–90 seconds
Fill in the blanks	The transcription of a recording appears on screen with several blanks. While listening to the recording, type the missing words into the blanks.	listening and writing	30–60 seconds
Highlight correct summary	After listening to a recording, select the paragraph that best summarizes the recording.	listening and reading	30–90 seconds
Multiple-choice, choose single answer	After listening to a recording, answer a multiple-choice question on the content or tone of the recording by selecting one response.	listening	30–60 seconds
Select missing word	After listening to a recording, select the missing word or group of words that completes the recording.	listening	20–70 seconds
Highlight incorrect words	The transcription of a recording appears on screen. While listening to the recording, identify the words in the transcription that differ from what is said.	listening and reading	15–50 seconds
Write from dictation	After listening to a recording of a sentence, type the sentence.	listening and writing	3–5 seconds

The recordings focus on academic subjects in the humanities, natural sciences or social sciences. They contain characteristics of actual speech, such as accents and dialects, fillers, hesitations, false starts, self corrections and variations in delivery speed. Although you may not be familiar with the topics presented, all the information you need to answer the items is contained in the recordings.

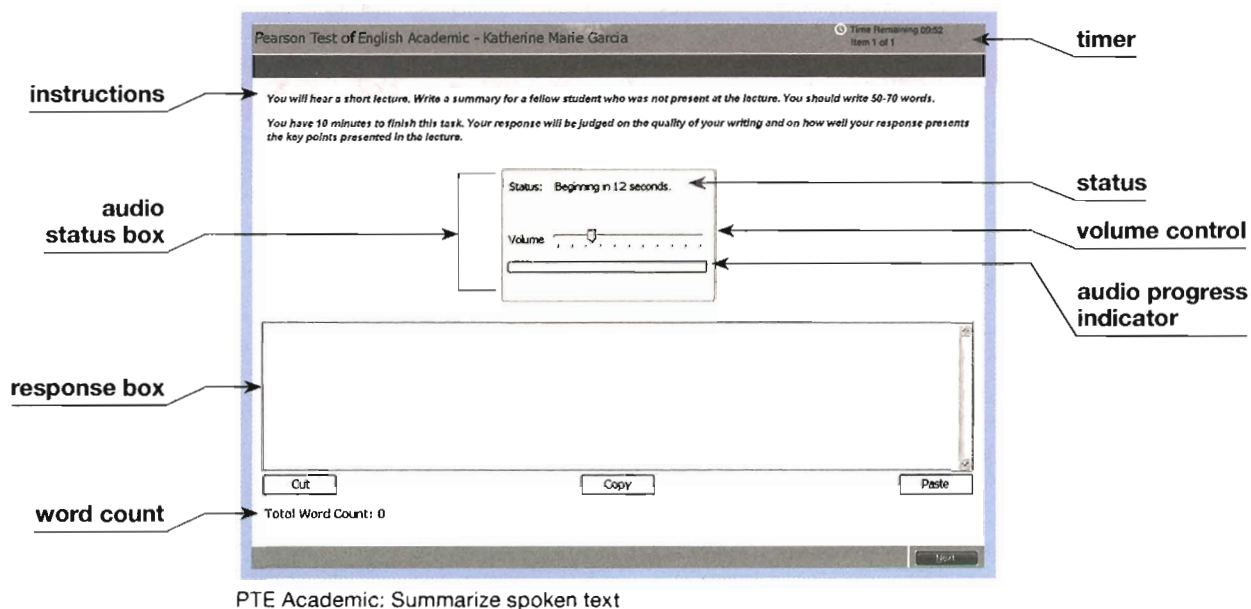
Each recording is played only once. You may take notes using the Erasable Noteboard Booklet and pen, and use these notes as a guide when answering the items.

With the exception of *Summarize spoken text*, listening item types are not timed individually. You can refer to the timer in the upper right-hand corner of the computer screen, “Time Remaining,” which counts down the amount of time remaining for the listening part.

Summarize spoken text

Task

Summarize spoken text is an item type that tests your ability to comprehend, analyze and combine information from a lecture, and then summarize the key points in writing. It assesses both listening and writing skills. The image below shows the item type.



PTE Academic: Summarize spoken text

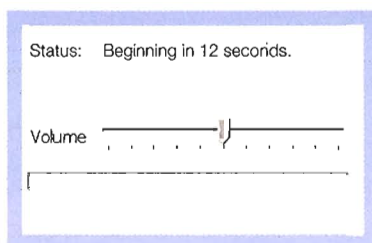
Below are the features of *Summarize spoken text*.

- 1 Instructions are presented at the top of the computer screen.

You will hear a short lecture. Write a summary for a fellow student who was not present at the lecture. You should write 50-70 words.

You will have 10 minutes to finish this task. Your response will be judged on the quality of your writing and on how well your response presents the key points presented in the lecture.

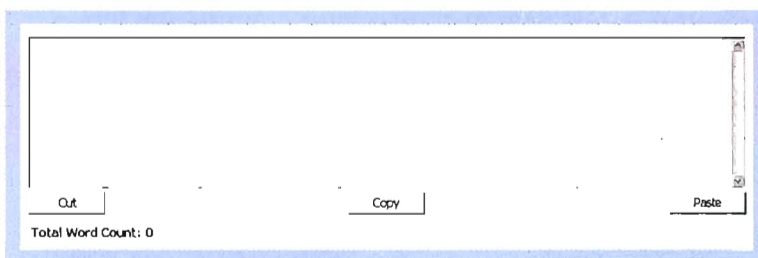
- 2 In the audio status box, the status will count down from 12 seconds. Then a recording will play automatically.



The audio progress indicator represents the entire duration of the lecture. So if the lecture is short, the bar moves faster. If the lecture is long, the bar moves slower.

The status will change to “Playing.” To adjust the volume of the recording, move the slider left to decrease and right to increase. You can adjust the volume at any time while the recording is playing. The audio progress indicator features a blue bar that will gradually move to the right as the recording continues. When the recording finishes, the status will change to “Completed.”

3 A response box follows.



Use this space to type your summary. You can select text within the response box with the mouse, and use the “Cut,” “Copy” and “Paste” buttons to edit your response. The “Total Word Count” keeps track of the number of words written and updates as you type.



8 Play the CD to listen to the recording that goes with this item.

4 The timer will count down from 10 minutes for this item type. Click on the “Next” button to go to the next item.

The recordings for this item type run for approximately 60–90 seconds. Each recording will play only once. There are two to three *Summarize spoken text* items in PTE Academic, depending on the combination of items in a given test. They are presented together in a single block. This item type is individually timed. You have 10 minutes to answer each item of this type. After 10 minutes, the test will automatically move on to the next item.

Scoring

Your response for *Summarize spoken text* is judged on the quality of your writing and on how well your response presents the key points in the lecture. Your score is based on five factors:

- **Content:** Does your response summarize the main points in the lecture?

Content is scored by determining if all the key points of the lecture have been addressed without misrepresenting the purpose or topic. If your summary misinterprets the topic or the purpose of the lecture, you will not receive any score points for your summary on any of the five factors. Your summary will be scored zero. The best responses clearly summarize the main points and condense essential supporting points. They focus on the topic, including only key information and essential supporting points.

- **Form:** Does your response meet the length requirement of between 50 and 70 words?

Form is scored by counting the number of words in your response. You will receive full credit if your response is between 50 and 70 words. Writing less than 50 words or more than 70 words will decrease your score. If your summary contains less than 40 words or more than 100 words, you will not receive any score points for your summary on any of the five factors. Your summary will be scored zero.

- **Grammar:** Does your response demonstrate correct grammatical usage?

Grammar is scored by determining if the basic structure of the sentences is correct. The best responses use concise sentences that clearly communicate the intended meaning.

- **Vocabulary:** Does your response demonstrate correct and appropriate word choice and usage?

Vocabulary is scored according to its relevance to the lecture and its appropriateness in an academic environment. The appropriate use of synonyms is also scored. The best responses use words from the lecture appropriately, demonstrate an understanding of the context and use synonyms effectively to show variety in language use.

- **Spelling:** Does your response demonstrate correct and consistent use of a single spelling convention?

PTE Academic recognizes English spelling conventions from the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada. However, one spelling convention should be used consistently in a given response.

Partial credit scoring applies to *Summarize spoken text*. No credit is given for no response or an irrelevant response. This item type affects the scoring of the following:

Overall score		✓	
Communicative skills			
Listening	✓	Speaking	
Reading		Writing	✓
Enabling skills			
Grammar	✓	Spelling	✓
Oral fluency		Vocabulary	✓
Pronunciation		Written discourse	

Listening and writing skills

Summarize spoken text is an integrated skills item type that tests both your listening and writing skills in an academic environment. Below are the key skills tested:

Listening

- identifying the topic, theme or main ideas
- summarizing the main idea
- identifying supporting points or examples
- identifying a speaker's purpose, style, tone or attitude
- understanding academic vocabulary
- inferring the meaning of unfamiliar words
- comprehending explicit and implicit information
- comprehending concrete and abstract information
- classifying and categorizing information
- following an oral sequencing of information
- comprehending variations in tone, speed, accent

Writing

- writing a summary
- writing under timed conditions
- taking notes while listening to a recording
- communicating the main points of a lecture in writing
- organizing sentences and paragraphs in a logical way
- using words and phrases appropriate to the context
- using correct grammar
- using correct spelling
- using correct mechanics

Your speaking skills are not tested by this item type, and your reading skills are only used to read the instructions.

Strategies

While listening

- **Pay attention to the content of the lecture.** It is important that you understand what you hear because you will have to summarize the lecture in your own words.
- **Take notes** using the Erasable Noteboard Booklet and pen. Focus on key words. Do not attempt to take notes word-for-word. You may miss important information if you try to write too much.
- **Review your notes and plan your summary** when the recording stops.

While writing

- **Summarize the lecture in your own words.** Refer to your notes when necessary.
- **Use an overview sentence** to introduce the summary.
- **Include all of the main ideas** from the lecture and provide some supporting details.
- **Use grammatical structures that you feel confident about.**

After writing

- **Check the content of your summary.** Does it contain all of the key information?
- **Check the total word count.** Does it fall between 50 and 70 words? If not, adjust the text length accordingly.
- **Check grammar, spelling and punctuation,** and make corrections where necessary.

Practice


Below is a *Summarize spoken text* item for you to respond to.

Pearson Test of English Academic - Katherine Marie Garcia Time Remaining 09:52
Item 1 of 1

You will hear a short report. Write a summary for a fellow student who was not present at the report. You should write 50-70 words.

You have 10 minutes to finish this task. Your response will be judged on the quality of your writing and on how well your response presents the key points presented in the report.

Status: Beginning in 12 seconds.

Volume 

Cut
Copy
Paste

Total Word Count: 0

Next



9



10 min.

Listen to the lecture only once. Then write your summary in the space provided on the next page. To simulate the test conditions, give yourself only 10 minutes to respond to this item.

Remember, during PTE Academic you will type in your response at a test delivery workstation.

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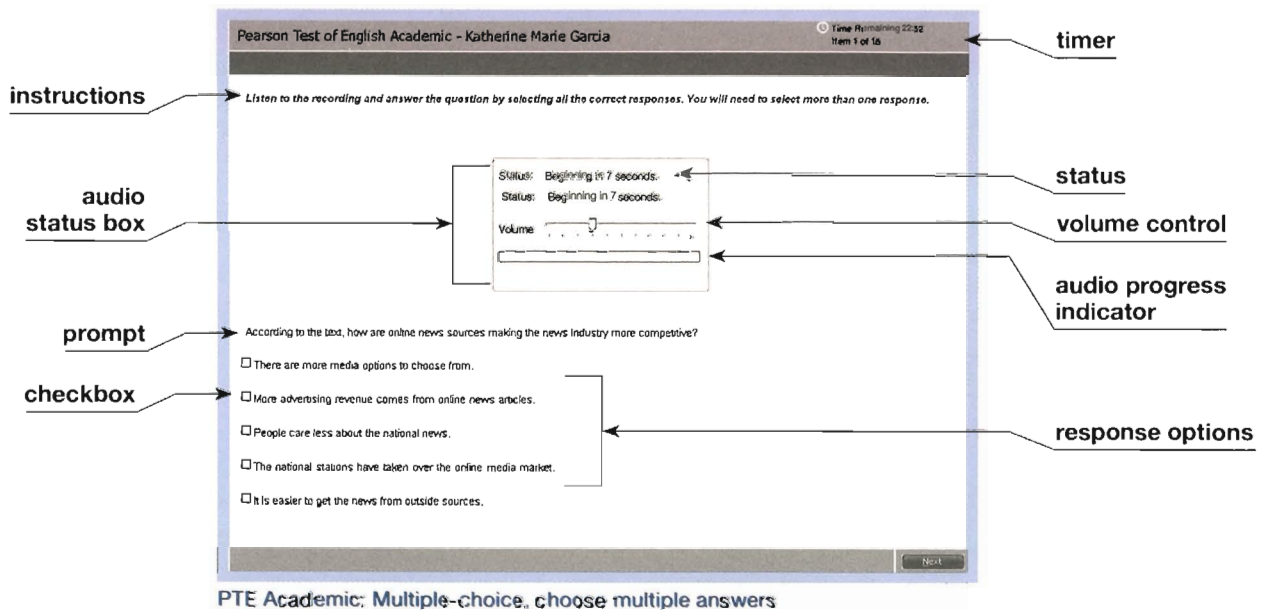
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Answer key **p.185** Now check the Answer key.

Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers

Task

Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers is a multiple-choice listening item type with more than one correct response. It tests your ability to analyze, interpret and evaluate a brief audio or video recording on an academic subject. It assesses listening skills. The image below shows the item type.



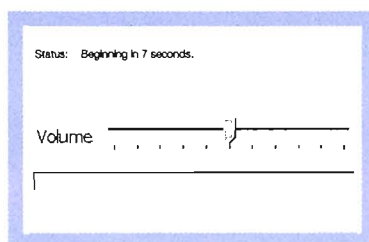
PTE Academic: Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers

Below are the features of *Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers*.

- 1 Instructions are presented at the top of the computer screen.

Listen to the recording and answer the question by selecting all the correct responses. You will need to select more than one response.

- 2 In the audio status box, the status will count down from seven seconds. Then a recording will play automatically.



The audio progress indicator represents the entire duration of the recording. So if the recording is short, the bar moves faster. If the recording is long, the bar moves slower.

The status will change to "Playing." To adjust the volume of the recording, move the slider left to decrease and right to increase. You can adjust the volume at any time while the recording is playing. The audio progress indicator features a blue bar that will gradually move to the right as the recording continues. When the recording finishes, the status will change to "Completed."

3 A prompt with five to seven response options follows.

According to the speaker, how are online news sources making the news industry more competitive?

- ☐ There are more media options to choose from.
- ☐ More advertising revenue comes from online news articles.
- ☐ People care less about the national news.
- ☐ The national stations have taken over the online media market.
- ☐ It is easier to get the news from outside sources.

To select a response, click on the corresponding checkbox or the response itself. Your response will be highlighted in yellow. To deselect your response, click on the checkbox or the response again. To change your responses, click on a different checkbox or a different response.



10

Play the CD to listen to the recording that goes with this item.

4 Click on the "Next" button to go to the next item. The timer for the listening part will continue running.

The recordings for this item type run for approximately 40–90 seconds. Each recording will play only once. There are two to three *Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers* items in the listening part of PTE Academic, depending on the combination of items in a given test. They are presented together in a single block.

Scoring

If all response options are correct, you receive the maximum score points for this item type. If one or more response options are incorrect, partial credit scoring applies. This item type affects the scoring of the following:

Overall score		✓
Communicative skills		
Listening	✓	Speaking
Reading		Writing
Enabling skills		
Grammar		Spelling
Oral fluency		Vocabulary
Pronunciation		Written discourse

Listening skills

Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers tests your listening skills in an academic environment. Any of the following listening skills could be tested by this item type:

- **Main idea or gist:** Listen for and identify the main idea or theme of the recording. For example, "What aspects of commercial airline travel does the speaker discuss?"
- **Detailed information:** Listen for and identify specific details, facts, opinions, definitions or sequences of events. For example, "According to the speaker what are the benefits of flexitime?"
- **Speaker's purpose:** Listen for and understand the function of what the speaker says, or identify the reasons why the speaker mentions specific pieces of information. For example, "Why does the speaker say 'music is language'?"
- **Organization:** Listen for and identify the overall organization and connections between pieces of information. This evaluates your ability to link different parts of the recording together. For example, "How does the speaker link the opening to the main argument of the lecture?"
- **Inference:** Listen for information that helps you infer meanings, form generalizations, make predictions, find relationships or draw conclusions. For example, "What can be inferred about the role of small businesses in the United States described by the speaker?"
- **Stylistics:** Listen for and identify the speaker's attitude, feelings or degree of certainty on an issue. For example, "What are the speaker's attitudes towards electronic surveillance systems?"

Your speaking and writing skills are not tested by this item type, and your reading skills are only used to read the instructions, prompt and response options.

Strategies

Before listening

- Read the prompt carefully. This will help you understand what to listen for.
- Skim the response options quickly.

While listening

- Take notes using the Erasable Noteboard Booklet and pen if you want to. Focus on key words. Do not attempt to take notes word-for-word. You may miss important information if you try to write too much.
- Continue listening until the end of the recording, even if you think you have already heard the information you need. Sometimes speakers revise what they have said, or add extra information.

After listening

- Re-read the prompt.
- Read the response options and select the correct ones.
 - First eliminate any response options which you feel sure are incorrect.
 - Then eliminate response options containing information that is not mentioned.
 - Do not select an option just because it contains words from the recording. Sometimes incorrect options contain the same words from the recording.
- Do not change your first responses unless you feel sure that they are incorrect.

Practice

Below is a *Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers* item for you to respond to.

Pearson Test of English Academic - Katherine Marie Garcia

Time Remaining 25:52
Item 1 of 15

Listen to the recording and answer the question by selecting all the correct responses. You will need to select more than one response.

Status: Beginning in 7 seconds.

Volume

Which of these countries use electronic voting machines?

☐ South Africa

☐ India

☐ Indonesia

☐ Holland

☐ The United Kingdom

Next



11

Read the prompt. Then listen to the recording only once and select all the correct responses.

Which of these countries use electronic voting machines?

- ☐ South Africa
- ☐ India
- ☐ Indonesia
- ☐ Holland
- ☐ the United Kingdom

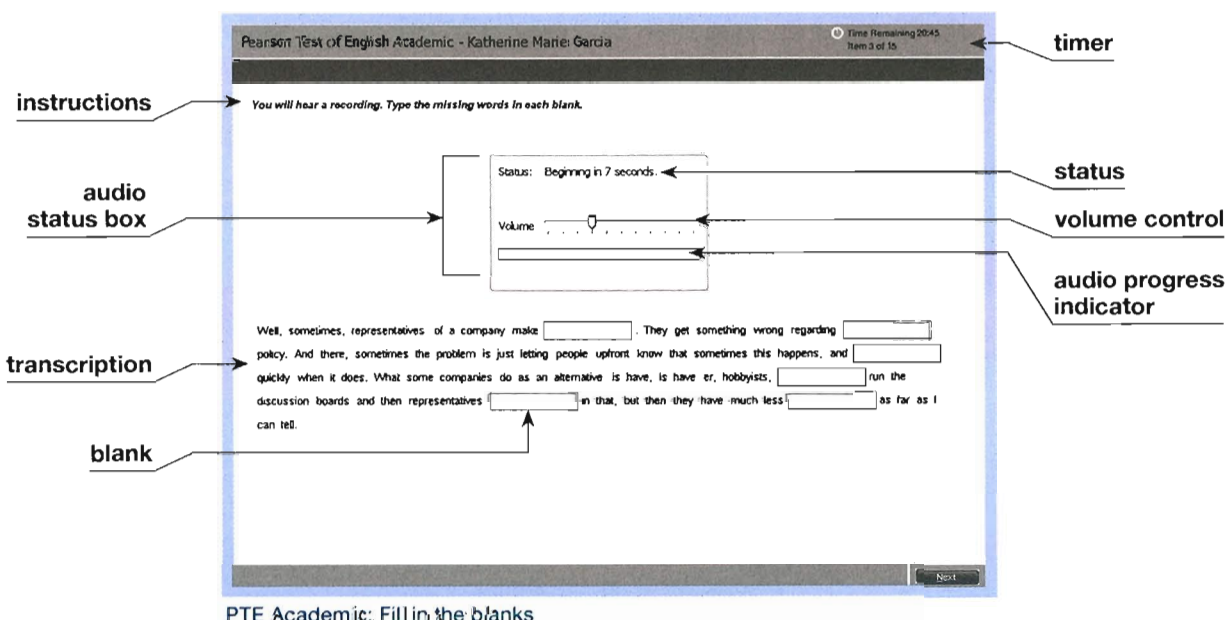
Remember, during PTE Academic you will give your response by clicking on responses at a test delivery workstation.

Answer key **p.186** Now check the Answer key.

Fill in the blanks

Task

Fill in the blanks is an item type that tests your ability to listen for missing words in a recording and type the missing words into a transcription. It assesses both listening and writing skills. The image below shows the item type.



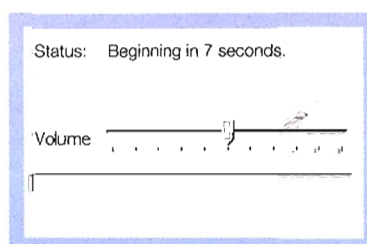
PTE Academic: Fill in the blanks

Below are the features of *Fill in the blanks*.

- 1 Instructions are presented at the top of the computer screen.

You will hear a recording. Type the missing words in each blank.

- 2 In the audio status box, the status will count down from seven seconds. Then a recording will play automatically.



The audio progress indicator represents the entire duration of the recording. So if the recording is short, the bar moves faster. If the recording is long, the bar moves slower.

The status will change to “Playing.” To adjust the volume of the recording, move the slider left to decrease and right to increase. You can adjust the volume at any time while the recording is playing. The audio progress indicator features a blue bar that will gradually move to the right as the recording continues. When the recording finishes, the status will change to “Completed.”

3 A transcription of the recording with up to seven blanks follows.

Well, sometimes, representatives of a company make misstatements. They get something wrong regarding policy. And there, sometimes the problem is just letting people upfront know that sometimes this happens, and quickly when it does. What some companies do as an alternative is have ... , aficionados run the discussion boards and then representatives participate in that, but then they have much less as far as I can tell.

To respond, type the missing words into the blanks. To change your response, select your original response and then retype it. You can also use the “Tab” key on your keyboard to move the cursor between the blanks.



12 Play the CD to listen to the recording that goes with this item.

4 Click on the “Next” button to go to the next item. The timer for the listening part will continue running.

The recordings for this item type run for approximately 30–60 seconds. Each recording will play only once. There are two to three *Fill in the blanks* items in the listening part of PTE Academic, depending on the combination of items in a given test. They are presented together in a single block.

Scoring

Your score on *Fill in the blanks* is based on the following factor:

► **Content:** Does your response include all the missing words?

Content is scored by counting the number of right words with correct spelling in your response. Each correct word spelled correctly scores 1 point.

If all blanks are filled with the right word spelled correctly, you receive the maximum score points for this item type. If one or more blanks are filled incorrectly, partial credit scoring applies. This item type affects the scoring of the following:

Overall score		✓
Communicative skills		
Listening	✓	Speaking
Reading		Writing
Enabling skills		
Grammar		Spelling
Oral fluency		Vocabulary
Pronunciation		Written discourse

Listening and writing skills

Fill in the blanks is an integrated skills item type that tests both your listening and writing skills in an academic environment. Below are the key skills tested:

Listening

- identifying words and phrases appropriate to the context
- understanding academic vocabulary
- comprehending explicit and implicit information
- following an oral sequencing of information

Writing

- writing from dictation
- using words and phrases appropriate to the context
- using correct grammar
- using correct spelling

Your speaking skills are not tested by this item type, and your reading skills are only used to read the instructions and the transcription.

Strategies

Before listening

- **Skim the text quickly.** This will help you understand what you hear.
- **Place the cursor in the first blank** so that you are prepared to type.

While listening

- **Follow the written text** as you hear it spoken.
- **Take notes** using the Erasable Noteboard Booklet and pen if you want to, and fill in the blanks after listening.
- **Type a word in the first blank.** Do not stop to re-read what you have typed.
- **Move the cursor to the next blank** so you are prepared to type.
- **Continue filling in the blanks** until the recording stops.

After listening

- **Check your responses** and correct them if necessary.
 - Do the completed sentences make sense?
 - Do the words you have typed fit the sentences grammatically?
 - Are the spellings of the words you have typed correct?
- **Make changes** only if you are sure that the words you typed are incorrect.

Practice

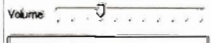
Below is a *Fill in the blanks* item for you to respond to.

Pearson Test of English Academic - Katherine Marie Garcia

Time Remaining: 20:45
Item 3 of 13

You will hear a recording. Type the missing words in each blank.

Status: Beginning in 7 seconds.
Status: Beginning in 7 seconds.

Volume: 

Ok, we're going to begin our lectures today on the _____ basis of mental life. Psychology was defined at the very beginning of the _____ of the science by William James as the science of mental life. As I _____ last time, James argued that the whole purpose of psychology is to try to understand the _____, emotional and motivational processes that _____ human experience, thought and action. But because the brain is the _____ basis of the mind, the mind is what the brain does, James began his famous _____ on psychology with a discussion of brain function.

Next



13 Listen to the recording only once. As you listen, write the missing words in the blanks of the transcription.

OK, we're going to begin our lectures today on the [] basis of mental life. Psychology was defined at the very beginning of the [] of the science by William James as the science of mental life. As I [] last time, James argued that the whole purpose of psychology is to try to understand the [], emotional and motivational processes that [] human experience, thought and action. But because the brain is the [] basis of the mind, the mind is what the brain does, James began his famous [] on psychology with a discussion of brain function.

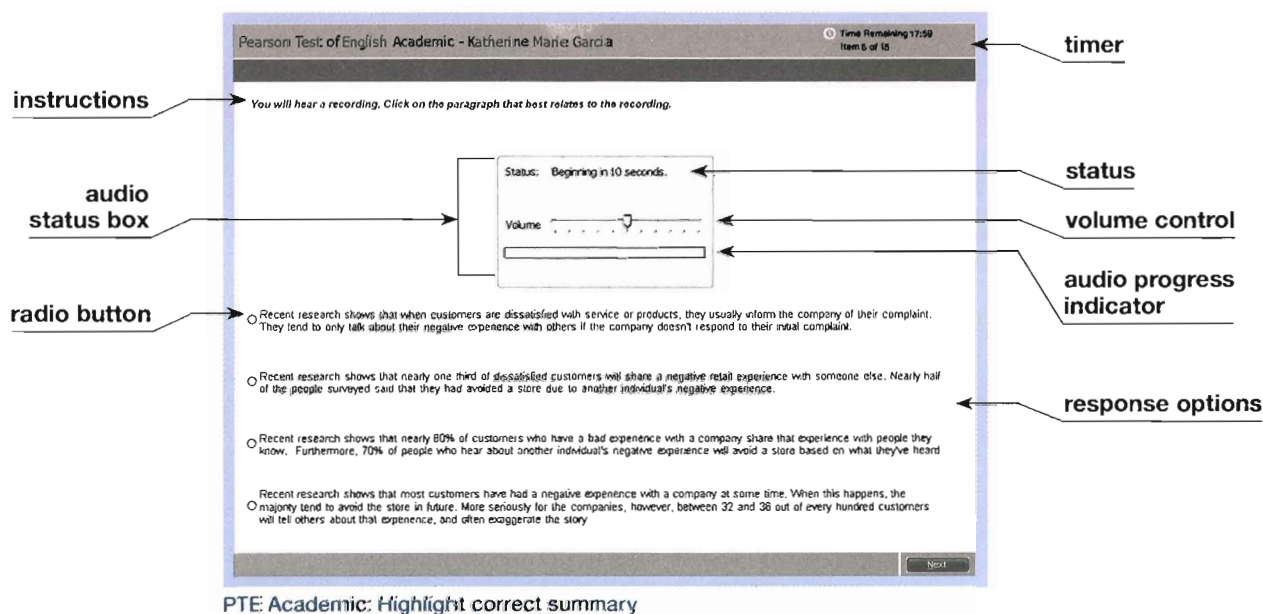
Remember, during PTE Academic you will give your response by typing words into blanks at a test delivery workstation.

Answer key [p.188] Now check the Answer key.

Highlight correct summary

Task

Highlight correct summary is an item type that tests your ability to comprehend, analyze and combine information from a recording and identify the most accurate summary of the recording. It assesses both listening and reading skills. The image below shows the item type.

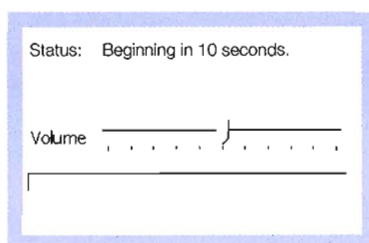


Below are the features of *Highlight correct summary*.

- 1 Instructions are presented at the top of the computer screen.

You will hear a recording. Click on the paragraph that best relates to the recording.

- 2 In the audio status box, the status will count down from 10 seconds. Then a recording will play automatically.



The audio progress indicator represents the entire duration of the recording. So if the recording is short, the bar moves faster. If the recording is long, the bar moves slower.

The status will change to “Playing.” To adjust the volume of the recording, move the slider left to decrease and right to increase. You can adjust the volume at any time while the recording is playing. The audio progress indicator features a blue bar that will gradually move to the right as the recording continues. When the recording finishes, the status will change to “Completed.”

3 Three to five paragraphs follow.

- ☐ Recent research shows that when customers are dissatisfied with service or products, they usually inform the company of their complaint. They tend to only talk about their negative experience with others if the company doesn't respond to their initial complaint.
- ☐ Recent research shows that nearly one third of dissatisfied customers will share a negative retail experience with someone else. Nearly half of the people surveyed said that they had avoided a store due to another individual's negative experience.
- ☐ Recent research shows that nearly 80% of customers who had a bad experience with a company will share that experience with people they know. Furthermore, 70% of people who hear about another individual's negative experience will avoid a store based on what they've heard.
- ☐ Recent research shows that most customers have had a negative experience with a company at some time. When this happens, the majority tend to avoid the store in future. More seriously for the companies, however, between 32 and 36 out of every hundred customers will tell others about that experience, and exaggerate the story.

To select a paragraph, click on the corresponding radio button or the paragraph itself. Your response will be highlighted in yellow. To deselect your response, click on the radio button or the paragraph again. To change your response, click on a different radio button or a different paragraph.



14 Play the CD to listen to the recording that goes with this item.

4 Click on the “Next” button to go to the next item. The timer for the listening part will continue running.

The recordings for this item type run for approximately 30–90 seconds. Each recording will play only once. The paragraphs for this item type are up to 60 words in length. There are two to three *Highlight correct summary* items in PTE Academic, depending on the combination of items in a given test. They are presented together in a single block.

Scoring

Your response is scored as either correct or incorrect. No credit is given for no response or an incorrect response. This item type affects the scoring of the following:

Overall score		✓
Communicative skills		
Listening	✓	Speaking
Reading	✓	Writing
Enabling skills		
Grammar		Spelling
Oral fluency		Vocabulary
Pronunciation		Written discourse

Listening and reading skills

Highlight correct summary is an integrated skills item type that tests both your listening and reading skills in an academic environment. Below are the key skills tested:

Listening

- identifying the topic, theme or main ideas
- identifying supporting points or examples
- understanding academic vocabulary
- inferring the meaning of unfamiliar words
- comprehending explicit and implicit information
- comprehending concrete and abstract information
- classifying and categorizing information
- following an oral sequencing of information
- comprehending variations in tone, speed, accent

Reading

- identifying supporting points or examples
- identifying the most accurate summary
- understanding academic vocabulary
- inferring the meaning of unfamiliar words
- comprehending concrete and abstract information
- classifying and categorizing information
- following a logical or chronological sequence of events
- evaluating the quality and usefulness of texts

Your speaking and writing skills are not tested by this item type.

Strategies

Before listening

- **Watch the status in the audio status box** and be prepared to focus on listening when the recording begins.
- **Skim the response options quickly.**

While listening

- **Concentrate on what you hear.** Do not read the paragraphs.
- **Take notes** using the Erasable Noteboard Booklet and pen if you want to. Focus on key words. Do not attempt to take notes word-for-word. You may miss important information if you try to write too much.

After listening

- **Read the paragraphs carefully.** Choose the one that best summarizes the recording.
 - First eliminate the paragraphs containing incorrect information.
 - Then eliminate the paragraphs containing information which is not mentioned in the recording.
 - Eliminate the paragraphs which contain details, but omit the main points.
- **Attempt the item** if you are not sure which is the correct paragraph. It is better to attempt the item than to leave it unanswered.

Practice

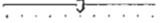
Below is a *Highlight correct summary* item for you to respond to.

Pearson Test of English Academic - Katherine Marie Garcia

Time Remaining 17:59
Item 6 of 15

You will hear a recording. Click on the paragraph that best relates to the recording.

Status: Beginning in 11 seconds.

Volume 

☐ The speaker explains the difference between electrochemistry and chemical metallurgy. The similarities and differences between the two are discussed, as well as factors that determine the differences.

☐ The speaker explains the class objective and procedures to students. He also tells the class his background information and that they have the choice of attending a class either at eight AM or nine PM.

☐ The speaker gives his personal background related to the subject matter of the course. He discusses his background in education as well as research, and his experience teaching at this university.

☐ The speaker tells about his experience at the University of Toronto and his PhD studies in electrochemistry there. He explains why he stayed in Canada for a longer period of time than the two years that he had planned.

Next



15

Listen to the recording only once. Then select the paragraph that best relates to the recording.

- ☐ The speaker explains the difference between electrochemistry and chemical metallurgy. The similarities and differences between the two are discussed, as well as factors that determine the differences.
- ☐ The speaker explains the class objective and procedures to students. He also tells the class his background information and that they have the choice of attending a class either at 8 AM or 9 AM.
- ☐ The speaker gives his personal background related to the subject matter of the course. He discusses his background in education as well as research, and his experience teaching at this university.
- ☐ The speaker tells about his experience at the University of Toronto and his PhD studies in electrochemistry there. He explains why he stayed in Canada for a longer period of time than the two years that he had planned.

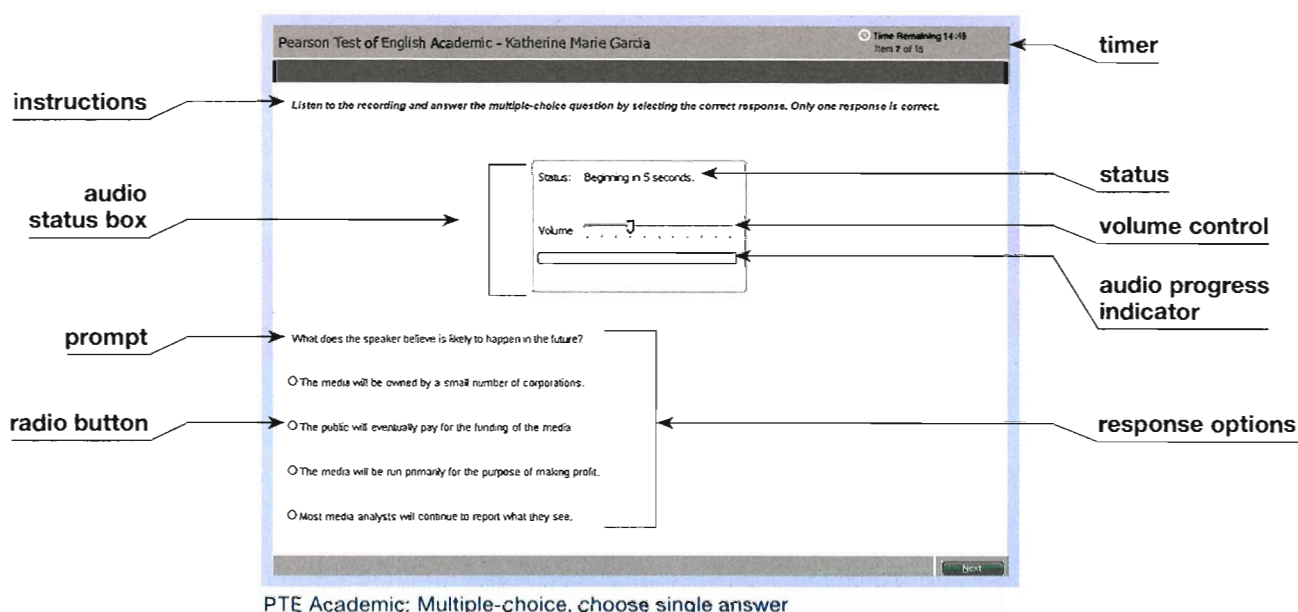
Remember, during PTE Academic you will give your response by clicking on a response at a test delivery workstation.

Answer key **p.188** **Now check the Answer key.**

Multiple-choice, choose single answer

Task

Multiple-choice, choose single answer is a multiple-choice listening item type with a single correct response. It tests your ability to analyze, interpret and evaluate a brief recording on an academic subject. It assesses listening skills. The image below shows the item type.

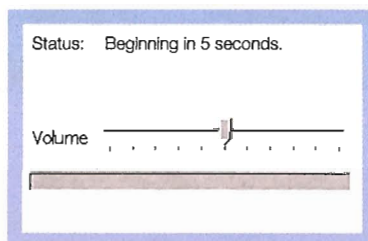


Below are the features of *Multiple-choice, choose single answer*.

- 1 Instructions are presented at the top of the computer screen.

Listen to the recording and answer the multiple-choice question by selecting the correct response. Only one response is correct.

- 2 In the audio status box, the status will count down from five seconds. Then a recording will play automatically.



The audio progress indicator represents the entire duration of the recording. So if the recording is short, the bar moves faster. If the recording is long, the bar moves slower.

The status will change to “Playing.” To adjust the volume of the recording, move the slider left to decrease and right to increase. You can adjust the volume at any time while the recording is playing. The audio progress indicator features a blue bar that will gradually move to the right as the recording continues. When the recording finishes, the status will change to “Completed.”

3 A prompt with three to five response options follows.

What does the speaker believe is likely to happen in the future?

- ☐ The media will be owned by a small number of corporations.
- ☐ The public will eventually pay for the funding of the media.
- ☐ The media will be run primarily for the purpose of making profit.
- ☐ Most media analysts will continue to report what they see.

To select a response, click on the corresponding radio button or the response itself. Your response will be highlighted in yellow. To deselect your response, click on the radio button or the response again. To change your response, click on a different radio button or a different response.



16 Play the CD to listen to the recording that goes with this item.

4 Click on the “Next” button to go to the next item. The timer for the listening part will continue running.

The recordings for this item type run for approximately 30–60 seconds. Each recording will play only once. There are two to three *Multiple-choice, choose single answer* items in the listening part of PTE Academic, depending on the combination of items in a given test. They are presented together in a single block.

Scoring

Your response is scored as either correct or incorrect. No credit is given for no response or an incorrect response. This item type affects the scoring of the following:

Overall score		✓	
Communicative skills			
Listening	✓	Speaking	
Reading		Writing	
Enabling skills			
Grammar		Spelling	
Oral fluency		Vocabulary	
Pronunciation		Written discourse	

Listening skills

Multiple-choice, choose single answer tests your listening skills in an academic environment. Any of the following listening skills could be tested by this item type:

- **Main idea or gist:** Listen for and identify the main idea or theme of the recording. For example, “Which of the following statements is the best summary of the speaker’s main point?”
- **Detailed information:** Listen for and identify specific details, facts, opinions, definitions or sequences of events. For example, “According to the speaker what is the main benefit of nuclear energy?”
- **Speaker’s purpose:** Listen for and understand the function of what the speaker says, or identify the reasons why the speaker mentions specific pieces of information. For example, “Why does the speaker say ‘globalization is nothing new’?”
- **Organization:** Listen for and identify the overall organization and connections between pieces of information. This evaluates your ability to link different parts of the recording together. For example, “How does the speaker link the opening to the main argument of the lecture?”
- **Inference:** Listen for information that helps you infer meanings, form generalizations, make predictions, find relationships or draw conclusions. For example, “What can be inferred about early childhood education described by the speaker?”
- **Stylistics:** Listen for and identify the speaker’s attitude, feelings or degree of certainty on an issue. For example, “What is the speaker’s attitude towards Tupper’s project?”

Your speaking and writing skills are not tested with this item type, and your reading skills are only used to read the instructions, prompt, and response options.

Strategies

Before listening

- **Read the prompt carefully.** This will help you understand what to listen for.
- **Skim the response options quickly.**

While listening

- **Take notes** using the Erasable Noteboard Booklet and pen if you want to. Focus on key words. Do not attempt to take notes word-for-word. You may miss important information if you try to write too much.
- **Continue listening until the end of the recording,** even if you think you have already heard the information you need. Sometimes speakers revise what they have said, or add extra information.

After listening

- **Re-read the prompt.**
- **Read the response options and select the correct one.**
 - First eliminate any response options which you feel sure are incorrect.
 - Then eliminate the response options containing information which is not mentioned.
 - Do not select an option just because it contains words from the recording. Sometimes incorrect options contain the same words from the recording.
- **Do not change your first response** unless you feel sure that it is incorrect.
- **Attempt the item** if you are not sure which is the correct response. It is better to attempt the item than to leave it unanswered.

Practice

Below is a *Multiple-choice, choose single answer* item for you to respond to.

Pearson Test of English Academic - Katherine Marie Garcia Time Remaining 14:48
Item 7 of 15

Listen to the recording and answer the multiple-choice question by selecting the correct response. Only one response is correct.

Status: Beginning in 5 seconds.

Volume
▢

According to the speaker, how did the Seven Years' War contribute to the start of the American Revolution?

- ☐ The British Parliament refused consent for higher taxes.
- ☐ It led Britain to monitor more closely its colonial interests.
- ☐ It caused the colonies to seek greater financial support from Britain.
- ☐ It enabled Britain to further stretch the boundaries of its empire.

Next



17

Read the prompt. Then listen to the recording only once and select the correct response.

According to the speaker, how did the Seven Years' War contribute to the start of the American Revolution?

- ☐ The British Parliament refused consent for higher taxes.
- ☐ It led Britain to monitor more closely its colonial interests.
- ☐ It caused the colonies to seek greater financial support from Britain.
- ☐ It enabled Britain to further stretch the boundaries of its empire.

Remember, during PTE Academic you will give your response by clicking on a response at a test delivery workstation.

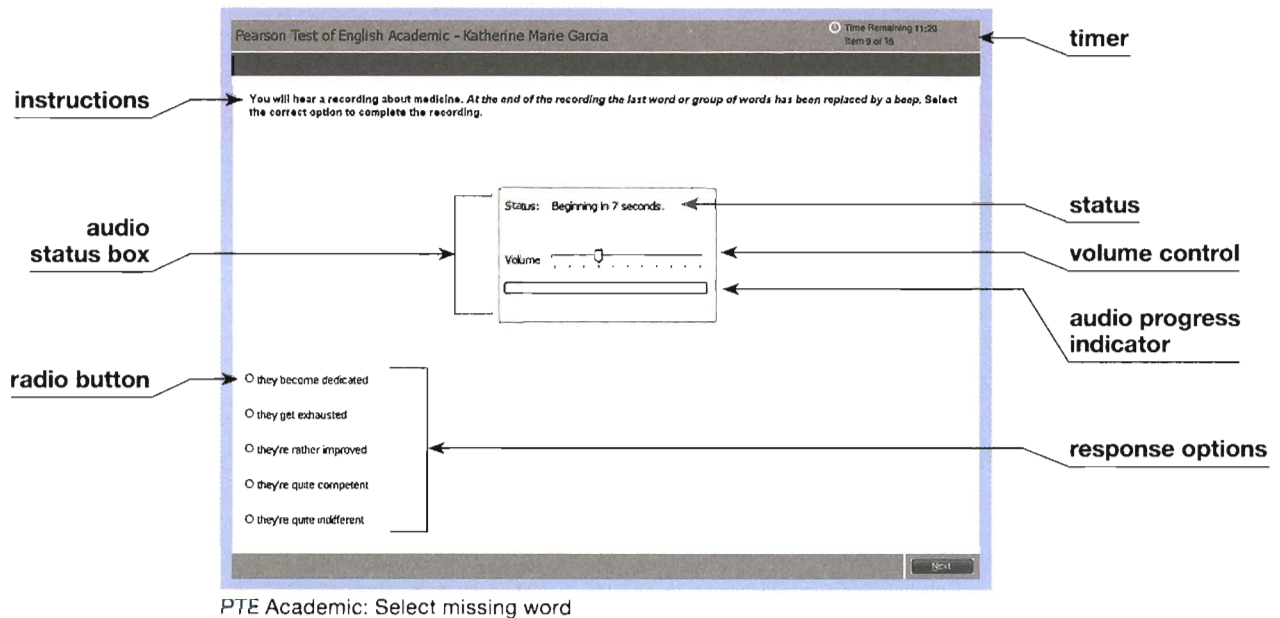
Answer key **p.190**

Now check the Answer key.

Select missing word

Task

Select missing word is an item type that tests your ability to predict what a speaker will say based on contextual clues in a recording. It assesses listening skills. The image below shows the item type.



Below are the features of *Select missing word*.

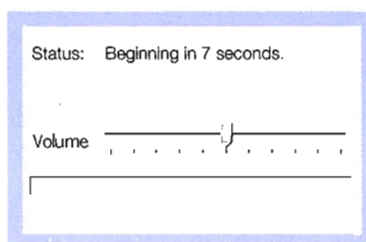
- 1 Instructions are presented at the top of the computer screen.

You will hear a recording about medicine. At the end of the recording the last word or group of words has been replaced by a beep. Select the correct option to complete the recording.

The topic of the recording will vary by item. The topic will be stated in the instructions.

While the topic may vary, the task will always be the same.

- 2 In the audio status box, the status will count down from seven seconds. Then a recording will play automatically.



The audio progress indicator represents the entire duration of the recording. So if the recording is short, the bar moves faster. If the recording is long, the bar moves slower.

The status will change to “Playing.” To adjust the volume of the recording, move the slider left to decrease and right to increase. You can adjust the volume at any time while the recording is playing. The audio progress indicator features a blue bar that will gradually move to the right as the recording continues. When the recording finishes, the status will change to “Completed.”

The last word or group of words in the recording is replaced by a beep.

3 Three to five response options follow.

- ☐ they become dedicated
- ☐ they get exhausted
- ☐ they're rather improved
- ☐ they're quite competent
- ☐ they're quite indifferent

To select a response, click on the corresponding radio button or the response itself. Your response will be highlighted in yellow. To deselect your response, click on the radio button or the response again. To change your response, click on a different radio button or a different response.



18 Play the CD to listen to the recording that goes with this item.

4 Click on the “Next” button to go to the next item. The timer for the listening part will continue running.

The recordings for this item type run for approximately 20–70 seconds. Each recording will play only once. There are two to three *Select missing word* items in PTE Academic, depending on the combination of items in a given test. They are presented together in a single block.

Scoring

Your response is scored as either correct or incorrect. No credit is given for no response or an incorrect response. This item type affects the scoring of the following:

Overall score		✓
Communicative skills		
Listening	✓	Speaking
Reading		Writing
Enabling skills		
Grammar		Spelling
Oral fluency		Vocabulary
Pronunciation		Written discourse

Listening skills

Select missing word tests your listening skills in an academic environment. Below are the key skills tested:

- identifying the topic, theme or main idea
- identifying words and phrases appropriate to the context
- understanding academic vocabulary
- inferring the meaning of unfamiliar words
- comprehending explicit and implicit information
- comprehending concrete and abstract information
- following an oral sequencing of information
- predicting how a speaker may continue
- forming a conclusion from what a speaker says
- comprehending variations in tone, speed, accent

Your speaking and writing skills are not tested by this item type, and your reading skills are only used to read the instructions and the response options.

Strategies

Before listening

- **Read the instructions.** The first sentence of the instructions describes the topic of the recording. Knowing the topic of the recording helps you prepare for it.

While listening

- **Focus on the general content of the recording.** You need to understand the main points as well as the details.

- Pay attention to the audio progress indicator. This helps you anticipate the end of the recording.

After listening

- Read the response options and select the correct one.
- Think about the option you have chosen. Does it have the right meaning to be the missing word? Is it the right part of speech to be the missing word?
- Attempt the item if you are not sure which is the correct response. It is better to attempt the item than to leave it unanswered.

Practice

Below is a *Select missing word* item for you to respond to.

Pearson Test of English Academic - Katherine Marie Garcia

Time Remaining 11:28
Item 9 of 15

You will hear a recording about heart disease. At the end of the recording the last word or group of words has been replaced by a beep. Select the correct option to complete the recording.

Status: Beginning in 7 seconds.

Volume

☐ blood

☐ mood

☐ damage

☐ failure

☐ heart

Next



19 Listen to the recording only once. Then select the correct response.

- ☐ blood
- ☐ mood
- ☐ damage
- ☐ failure
- ☐ heart

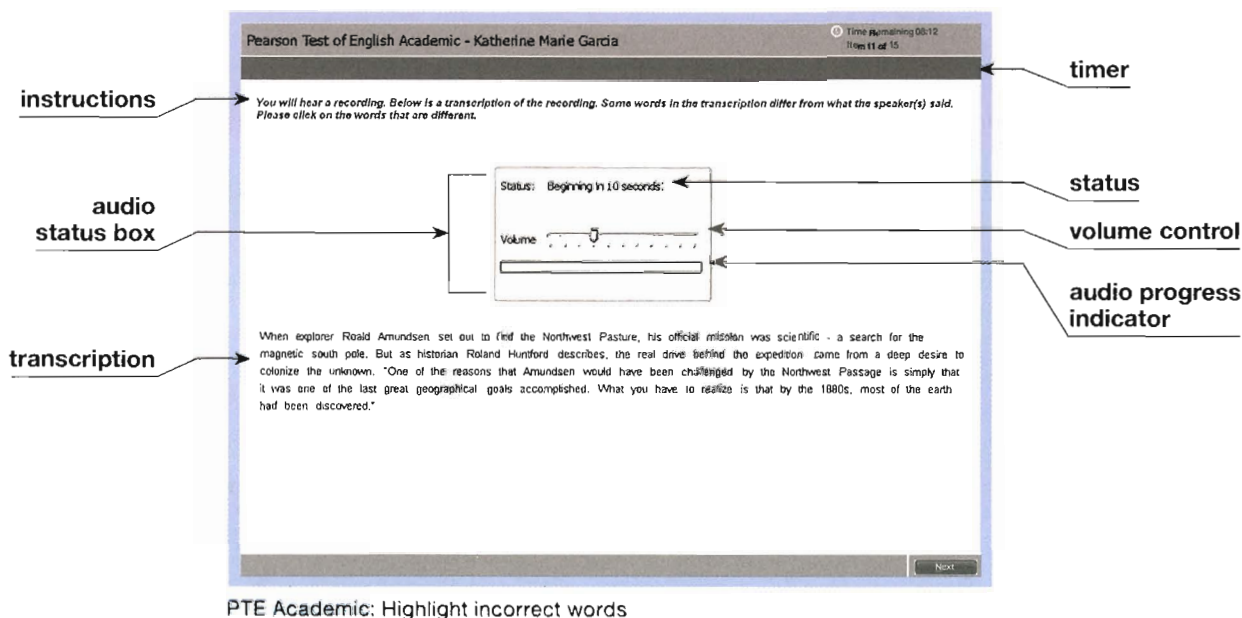
Remember, during PTE Academic you will give your response by clicking on a response at a test delivery workstation.

Answer key p.191 Now check the Answer key.

Highlight incorrect words

Task

Highlight incorrect words is an item type that tests your ability to listen for and point out the differences between a recording and a transcription. It assesses both listening and reading skills. The image below shows the item type.



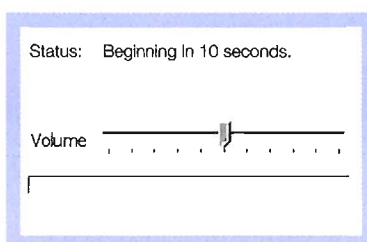
PTE Academic: Highlight incorrect words

Below are the features of *Highlight incorrect words*.

- 1 Instructions are presented at the top of the computer screen.

You will hear a recording. Below is a transcription of the recording. Some words in the transcription differ from what the speaker(s) said. Please click on the words that are different.

- 2 In the audio status box, the status will count down from 10 seconds. Then a recording will play automatically.



The audio progress indicator represents the entire duration of the recording. So if the recording is short, the bar moves faster. If the recording is long, the bar moves slower.

The status will change to “Playing.” To adjust the volume of the recording, move the slider left to decrease and right to increase. You can adjust the volume at any time while the recording is playing. The audio progress indicator features a blue bar that will gradually move to the right as the recording continues. When the recording finishes, the status will change to “Completed.”

3 A transcription of the recording with up to seven deliberate errors follows.

When explorer Roald Amundsen set out to find the Northwest Pasture, his official mission was scientific—a search for the magnetic south pole. But as historian Roland Huntford describes, the real drive behind the expedition came from a deep desire to colonize the unknown. “One of the reasons that Amundsen would have been challenged by the Northwest Passage is simply that it was one of the last great geographical goals accomplished. What you have to realize is that by the 1880s, most of the earth had been discovered.”

To respond, click on the words in the transcription that differ from what you hear on the recording. Each word you select will be highlighted in yellow. To deselect a word, click on the word again.



20 Play the CD to listen to the recording that goes with this item.

4 Click on the “Next” button to go to the next item. The timer for the listening part will continue running.

The recordings for this item type run for approximately 15–50 seconds. Each recording will play only once. Any word in the transcription may differ from the recordings. There are two to three *Highlight incorrect words* items in PTE Academic, depending on the combination of items in a given test. They are presented together in a single block.

Scoring

Each selected word is scored as either correct or incorrect. If all the selected words are correct, you receive the maximum score points for this item type. If one or more selected words are incorrect, partial credit scoring applies. This is the third of three item types where you can lose points if you choose any incorrect options. For any wrong options chosen 1 point is deducted, whilst correct options are given 1 point. Make sure you are confident in your choices. This item type affects the scoring of the following:

Overall score		✓
Communicative skills		
Listening	✓	Speaking
Reading	✓	Writing
Enabling skills		
Grammar		Spelling
Oral fluency		Vocabulary
Pronunciation		Written discourse

Listening and reading skills

Highlight incorrect words is an integrated skills item type that tests both your listening and reading skills in an academic environment. Below are the key skills tested:

Listening

- identifying errors in a transcription
- understanding academic vocabulary
- following an oral sequencing of information
- comprehending variations in tone, speed, accent

Reading

- understanding academic vocabulary
- following a logical or chronological sequence of events
- reading a text under timed conditions
- matching written text to speech

Your speaking and writing skills are not tested by this item type.

Strategies

Before listening

- **Skim the transcription quickly.** This will help you understand what you hear.
- **Position the cursor at the beginning of the text** so that you are prepared to click and select.
- **Watch the status in the audio status box,** and be prepared to follow the text with the cursor when the recording begins.

While listening

- **Focus on identifying words in the transcription.**
- **Move the cursor along the text as you hear the words.** Be prepared to click on any word which does not match what is said.
- **Do not make guesses.** Only click on a word in the text when you are sure it is different from the word in the recording.

Practice

Below is a *Highlight incorrect words* item for you to respond to.

Pearson Test of English Academic - Katherine Marie Garcia Time Remaining 08:12
Item 11 of 15

You will hear a recording. Below is a transcription of the recording. Some words in the transcription differ from what the speaker(s) said. Please click on the words that are different.

Status: Beginning in 10 seconds.

Volume
▮

So far in our discussion of chemical equations we have assumed that these reactions only go in one direction, the forward direction, from left to right as we read it in the equation. That's why our arrowhead points from left to right: reactants react together to make products. However, this is not exactly how things occur in reality. In fact, practically every chemical reaction is reversible, meaning the products can also react together to reform the reactants that they were made of. So instead of writing that single arrow facing from right to left, a more appropriate symbol would be a double arrow, one going from left to right and one going from right to left. Reactants are continually - continuously - reacting to form products. But at the same time as those products are formed, they remake the reactants. They're both going simultaneously, forming each other. This is what we would call a state of equality.

Next



21

Listen to the recording only once. As you listen, circle the words in the transcription that differ from what the speaker says.

So far in our discussion of chemical equations we have assumed that these reactions only go in one direction, the forward direction, from left to right as we read it in the equation. That's why our arrowhead points from left to right: reactants react together to make products. However, this is not exactly how things occur in reality. In fact, practically every chemical reaction is reversible, meaning the products can also react together to reform the reactants that they were made of. So instead of writing that single arrow facing from right to top, a more appropriate symbol would be a double arrow, one going from left to right and one going from right to left. Reactants are continually, continuously reacting to form produce. But at the same time as those products are formed, they remake the reactants. They're both going simultaneously, forming each other. This is what we would call a state of equality.

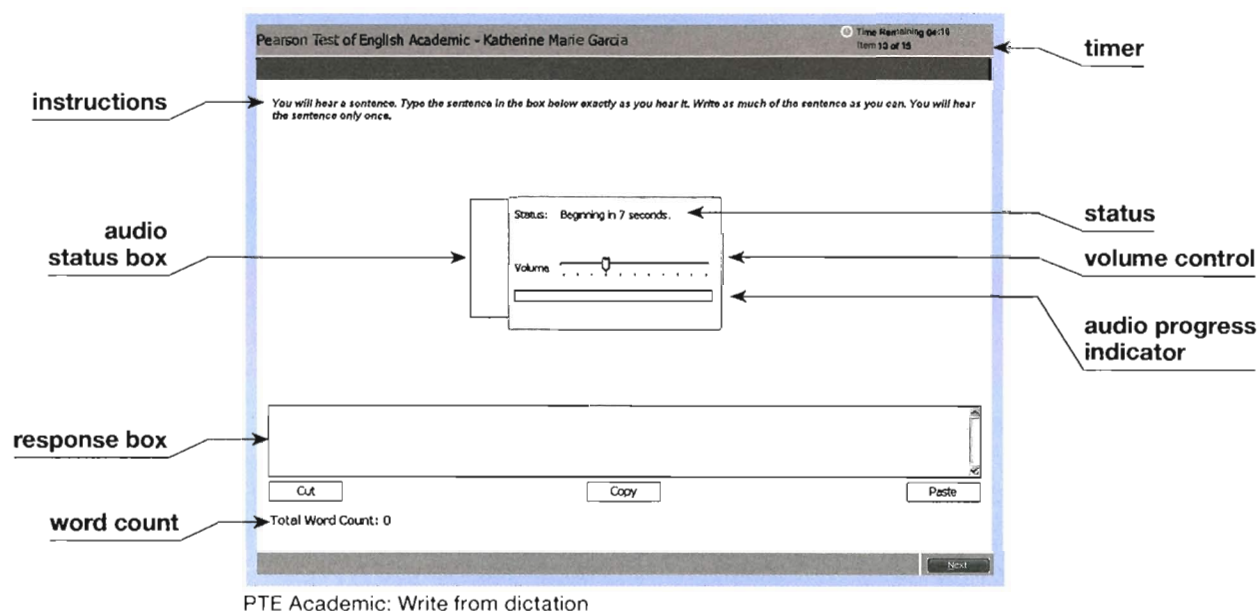
Remember, during PTE Academic you will give your response by clicking on words at a test delivery workstation.

Answer key **p.192** **Now check the Answer key.**

Write from dictation

Task

Write from dictation is an item type that tests your ability to understand and remember a sentence you hear, and then write it exactly as you hear it using correct spelling. It assesses both listening and writing skills. The image below shows the item type.

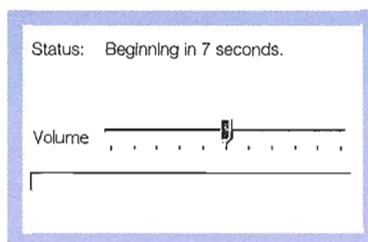


Below are the features of *Write from dictation*.

- 1 Instructions are presented at the top of the computer screen.

You will hear a sentence. Type the sentence in the box below exactly as you hear it. Write as much of the sentence as you can. You will hear the sentence only once.

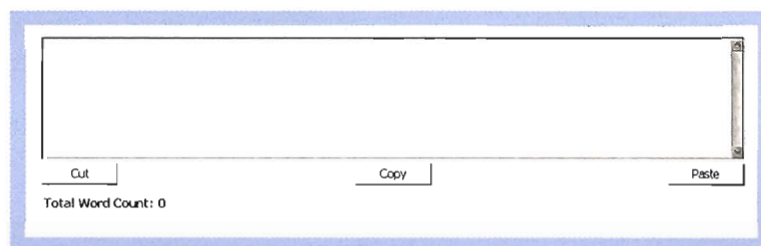
- 2 In the audio status box, the status will count down from seven seconds. Then a recording will play automatically.



The audio progress indicator represents the entire duration of the recording. So if the recording is short, the bar moves faster. If the recording is long, the bar moves slower.

The status will change to “Playing.” To adjust the volume of the recording, move the slider left to decrease and right to increase. You can adjust the volume at any time while the recording is playing. The audio progress indicator features a blue bar that will gradually move to the right as the recording continues. When the recording finishes, the status will change to “Completed.”

3 A response box follows.



Use this space to type the sentence. You can select text within the response box with the mouse, and use the “Cut,” “Copy” and “Paste” buttons to edit your response. The “Total Word Count” keeps track of the number of words written and updates as you type.



22 Play the CD to listen to the recording that goes with this item.

4 Click on the “Next” button to go to the next item. The timer for the listening part will continue running.

The recordings for this item type run for approximately three to five seconds. Each recording will play only once. There are three to four *Write from dictation* items in PTE Academic, depending on the combination of items in a given test. They are presented together in a single block.

Scoring

Your score on *Write from dictation* is based on the following factor:

- **Content:** Does your response include all the words in the sentence, and only these words?
Content is scored by counting the number of correct words in your response.

If all the words are right and spelled correctly, you receive the maximum score points for this item type. If one or more words are incorrect, partial credit scoring applies. This item type affects the scoring of the following:

Overall score		✓	
Communicative skills			
Listening	✓	Speaking	
Reading		Writing	✓
Enabling skills			
Grammar		Spelling	
Oral fluency		Vocabulary	
Pronunciation		Written discourse	

Listening and writing skills

Write from dictation is an integrated skills item type that tests both your listening and writing skills in an academic environment. Below are the key skills tested:

Listening

- understanding academic vocabulary
- following an oral sequencing of information
- comprehending variations in tone, speed, accent

Writing

- writing from dictation
- using correct spelling

Your speaking skills are not tested by this item type, and your reading skills are only used to read the instructions.

Strategies

Before listening

- **Place the cursor in the response box** so that you are prepared to type.

While listening

- **Focus on the meaning of the sentence.** This will help you remember it.
- **Write the sentence immediately.**
 - If you can type fast, type the sentence directly into the response box.
 - If you can write fast, write the sentence, or take notes using the Erasable Noteboard Booklet and pen. Type the sentence into the response box after listening.

- **Finish typing or writing the sentence** before correcting any mistakes you make.

After listening

- **Re-read the sentence** and correct any grammar, spelling, punctuation or capitalization mistakes.

Practice

Below is a *Write from dictation* item for you to respond to.

-  **23** Listen to the recording only once. Then write the sentence exactly as you hear it in the space provided below.

Remember, during PTE Academic you will type in your response at a test delivery workstation.

Answer key **p.192** **Now check the Answer key.**

Improving general listening skills

Effective listening

Effective listening, in both everyday and test situations, requires attention to the four areas listed below. Although not all of these areas will be tested in PTE Academic, improving your skills in each area will help your general language proficiency and improve your overall performance in the test.

► Context

- **Identify the context in which a speaking activity takes place** by recognizing words, phrases or commonly used utterances, or exchanges in different contexts. For example, the expression “What’s the special today?” might be heard in a restaurant. “We begin this evening with a discussion of Chapter 3” could be heard in a lecture hall.

► Topic and gist

- **Understand the topic and logical development** of a speaking activity.
 - Recognize the key words or phrases which provide clues to the topic, for example, “environmental problem” or “scientific solution.”
 - Understand the key expressions which help structure a speech. For example, recognize signposting words and phrases such as “first,” “finally,” “Our last point is about ...” Recognize cohesive devices such as “so that,” “if ... then ...,” “only if,” “consequently.”

► Specific information

- **Identify the key words or phrases that refer to specific information.** For example, understand references to day, time and place, key points in an argument, or facts in a presentation.
- **Identify and ask for specific information,** using clarification techniques. For example, “I’m sorry, could you remind me about where we’re meeting?”

► Speaker’s point of view

- **Understand the speaker’s point of view.** For example, recognize words and phrases such as “I think,” “In my opinion.”
- **Understand the speaker’s feelings** by recognizing stress, tone, intonation and body language that are used to convey emotion. For example, saying “told” with a higher tone in “I told you” may indicate impatience. Stressing “offer” in “The student did not even offer a reason for ...” may indicate indignation and disapproval of the student’s behavior.

Understanding your strengths and weaknesses

Improving your listening skills starts with an understanding of your own strengths and weaknesses. This will allow you to concentrate on areas which need to be improved in general, or specifically as preparation for taking PTE Academic. Use the checklist below to assess your current listening skills and to decide on priority areas for improvement.

Effective listening	My current proficiency level			Priority for improvement
	High	Medium	Low	
Context				
I can understand the context in which a speaking activity takes place.				
Topic and gist				
I can recognize the key words or phrases which provide clues to the topic or gist.				
I can understand the key expressions which help structure the speech.				
Specific information				
I can identify the key words or phrases about specific information.				
I can identify specific gaps in my listening comprehension, and ask questions appropriately to clarify what was said.				
Speaker's point of view				
I can understand the speaker's point of view and feelings by recognizing relevant words and phrases.				
I can understand the speaker's feelings by listening for stress, tone and intonation, and by noticing body language.				

Developing your listening skills

Follow the suggestions below to improve your general listening skills.

► Listen more. Look for opportunities to hear English.

- **Join English-speaking groups** to listen to English in a range of authentic settings.
 - Participants in these activities often come from different regions, so you have a chance to listen to different accents.
 - Note informal and idiomatic expressions that you hear.
- **Attend face-to-face presentations, lectures and discussion sessions** that are held in English. Some English language learning websites offer access to events that you can participate in online.

- Pay particular attention to the ways in which speakers organize their presentations, how they express their points of view and how they respond to questions.
 - Listen closely to questions to check the structures that are used and the ways in which polite questions are formulated.
 - **Listen to news broadcasts.** Aim to understand the topic of each news item without necessarily knowing the meaning of every word.
 - **Use free Internet listening resources and activities** on educational websites for learners of English as a foreign or second language (EFL or ESL).
 - **Watch or listen to TV or Internet programs** that you are interested in. Quiz programs, for example, provide useful practice in listening to questions and responses.
 - **Observe native English speakers** and listen to the language used for different purposes in different contexts. Pay attention to their body language, gestures and informal expressions.
- **Practice your listening skills.**
- **Use online listening comprehension courses or textbooks and CDs** to practice regularly. Work through the questions and check your answers with the answer key. Listen again to check your understanding when necessary.
 - **Practice predicting** what will come next when you are listening.
 - Think about how you predict what you will hear when you are listening in your first language. Then try it out in English. Pause the audio recording in the middle of a sentence. Ask yourself what might come next. Then play the recording to check.
 - **Take an online or classroom-based listening course.** This will allow you to get listening practice that is tailored to your proficiency level and needs.

Listening strategies

- **Be prepared to make inferences.**
- **Infer the meanings of unfamiliar words** using context clues. You can get a general idea of what is said without understanding everything you hear.
- **Use clarification and confirmation techniques.**
- **Use clarification techniques to check for information.** For example, “What time did you say?” or “Can you repeat the population figures?” Ask specifically for the information you need.
 - **Use confirmation techniques** to ensure that you are getting the message correctly. For example, in making arrangements, you might say “Right, that’s lunch at 12:30.” This gives you and your conversation partner the chance to confirm that you have understood correctly.

Sources of listening material

- **Online English courses or textbooks** with accompanying CDs or DVDs provide samples of authentic or adapted listening materials. Choose materials which have written scripts and/or answers to questions, so that you can check your listening comprehension.

- **English-speaking groups** offer the opportunity to practice both listening and speaking skills. Search for global groups on the Internet and find out about local clubs in your area.
- **The Internet** offers the opportunity to listen to a wide range of genres including presentations, lectures, descriptions, stories, commentaries and more.
- **Television programs** offer a range of situations in which authentic and scripted language is used. Some programs are subtitled, which can be helpful for overall comprehension and for exposure to a wide range of topics and language.
- **Radio broadcasts** provide listening material on a range of topics. News broadcasts provide exposure to short, well-organized presentations on a number of topics. Stories or dramas provide practice in following the gist of description or dialogue, including recognition of how emotions are conveyed in speech.
- **Face-to-face public lectures or short talks** are usually well-structured and are sometimes accompanied by written outlines, which can be helpful for both listening and speaking practice.

Preparing for PTE Academic

To prepare for PTE Academic, you should practice the listening skills that you will be assessed on in the test.

- Read Chapter 6 of the *Official Guide* to obtain information on all aspects of the listening item types in the test and practice responding to the example items.
- Use the CD-ROM included with the *Official Guide* to gain further practice in responding to listening items.
- Use the PTE Academic Tutorial available at www.pearsonpte.com to learn how to respond to these items in the actual test.
- Take a practice test available at www.pearsonpte.com.

Refer to the section “Resources” in Chapter 2 of the *Official Guide* for further information.