

***Real Lives* – a new language examination series**

The **Real Lives** exam series is a brand new format for testing practical, applied language skills in real life scenarios. Focussing this year on listening skills, the series has the potential to be extended to all skills in future. It will be of interest to students who are cadets (ACF, SCC, ATC or CCF) or are completing awards such as The London Challenge, Duke of Edinburgh, St John's Ambulance Brigade.

The following is a **sample question**, in English, from the Real Lives series, at A2 level which tests the listening skills of learners in French, Spanish and German in real-life, practical scenarios.

Offered for the first time in June 2018, the examination is suitable for learners in year 10 who are expected to have a minimum of Foundation Level GCSE, strong learners in year 9 or learners in other years with similar level skills.

The exam, which has two strands (Service Lives and Saving Lives), consists of three listening tasks. All are real-life situations requiring the ability to understand everyday language as it is used in the real world, in situations learners could encounter as part of their day to day lives. Both strands have the first two listening tasks in common but a different third task. The audio will be heard in the foreign language. The questions and answers are always in English.

The following is an example of a Question 1, common to both strands, which is heard only once, as is often the case in real life. Questions 2 and 3, however, both have the two hearings which are standard in listening tests.

Service Lives

Service Lives is a real world multiple choice listening comprehension exam suitable for cadets, testing their language skills in adventure and leadership situations linked to the services, in which situations require clear and accurate communication and understanding.

Saving Lives

Saving Lives is a real world multiple choice listening comprehension exam suitable for those taking a Duke of Edinburgh award, the London Challenge or anyone with an interest in the outdoor world, helping others and the emergency services.

Further information about the examination is available at www.ciol.org.uk/real-lives or by emailing info.real-lives@ciol.org.uk.

The IoL Educational Trust is the associated Awarded Organisation of the Chartered Institute of Linguists.

Question 1

You are about to hear a real conversation during a rescue operation between an accident victim, Helen, and her rescuer, Mark. Your task is to answer the questions below. The conversation lasts about 3 minutes. A beep indicates that the conversation is about to start. You may take notes on rough paper at any time but your final answers must be entered in this answer booklet.

You now have time to read the questions in English below after which you will hear the conversation. You will hear **only once** so it is important that you make notes while you are listening.

Please read the questions. You have 2 minutes.

Now listen carefully to the conversation.

[The audio transcript follows these questions for reference. Correct responses are shown in italics.]

- 1) What has Helen hurt?
 - a. Her arm
 - b. *Her leg*
 - c. Her head

- 2) Why couldn't Tim speak to the rescue services?
 - a. No-one answered the call
 - b. *His phone didn't work*
 - c. He had lost his phone

- 3) The couple had managed to climb to
 - a) *7,500 m*
 - b) 8,120m
 - c) 7,120m

- 4) What details should you be ready to give to a rescue team when you call?
 - a) Your name and date of birth
 - b) Your equipment and your age
 - c) *Your location and any injuries*

- 5) Why did Mark join the rescue team?
- a) Because his dad convinced him to do so
 - b) *Because he knew about the job from his dad*
 - c) Because he was 28 and unemployed
- 6) How many people are part of Mark's team?
- a) About 80
 - b) About 28
 - c) *About 40*
- 7) Last year, compared to previous years, the rescue team
- a) *received more calls*
 - b) was better equipped
 - c) had more responsibilities
- 8) What is the best way for Helen to avoid another accident?
- a) Check for good weather conditions
 - b) Learn some orientation skills
 - c) *Carry good equipment which she knows how to use*

SAMPLE AUDIO Q1

(H=Helen, M=Mark)

Helen	Hello, I'm so happy to see you. I have fallen and hurt my leg but it took a long time to call someone for help.
Mark	Helen, my name is Mark, I'm here to help you. Please stay still for now and I'll take a look at your leg. Put your head on this coat and rest. Is this your husband?
Helen	Yes, this is Tim. He tried so often to call the rescue services but our phone didn't work very well. Eventually he managed to speak to my mother who telephoned the rescue services.
Mark	Ok. Please don't move. Can you tell me exactly what happened?
Helen	We were trying to climb the the mountain. We wanted to reach the top at 8,120 m but we got stuck here at seven and a half thousand metres. We knew we needed help to descend the mountain because the weather was very bad. We were very cold and when we started this morning, I fell and hurt my leg. We have a satellite phone and we tried to call the emergency number for help but the phone didn't work very well. Then Tim tried to call my mother and suddenly the phone worked.
Mark	You were lucky. You should always carry an extra battery for your phone. Tim did the right thing and your mum told us all the right information. She knew the location of the accident; the number of people involved and that you were injured. She did a great job!
Helen	My leg is hurting. Is it serious?
Mark	Helen, please stay calm. You have a simple leg injury which is easy to treat. Help will be here soon.
Helen	How are you going to get me off the mountain?
Mark	I'm going to call for a helicopter, Helen. It's good that you didn't reach the top of the mountain or a rescue would be very difficult. The helicopter will be here in about 20 minutes.
Helen	Thank you for helping me. Do you like working for the rescue services?
Mark	Oh yes. I've been working with Mountain Rescue for over 28 years, now. My Dad was a member of the team. He was working with them for about 6 years before I joined, so I knew a bit about it before I started. You'd be surprised what we see - people fall off cliffs, jump from planes... or get caught in floods. So please don't worry, we will have help here very quickly.
Helen	I feel so silly. There must be a lot of other accidents which you need to attend to.

Mark	Don't worry. We have a lot of people in the team - about 40 in the team in total. We receive a lot of calls each year. We had about 80 last year but usually it is about 60 or less. You did the right thing. If you are in danger or injured, you must call the rescue service. Mountains are very dangerous places.
Helen	What can I do next time to avoid another accident?
Mark	It is advisable to climb only in good weather but the most important thing is good equipment. Your telephone didn't work because you didn't have a strong battery. And you must know how to use the equipment.
Helen	Thank you so much. Without you, who knows what would have happened?

SAMPLE