

Всероссийская олимпиада школьников по английскому языку 2025-2026

Школьный этап. 9-10 классы

Listening (конкурс понимания устной речи)

Вариант 1

Task 1

Speaker A. You know, when you move away from home, arrive in a new place, there are loads of different challenges, and for me the biggest one was eating. Well, not eating, but cooking. I mean, I could make a salad or a sandwich, but not cook anything, like, I couldn't boil an egg. I know that sounds silly, but I simply had no idea. Anyway, I looked at some books and also found some excellent 'how to cook' videos online. To be honest, the books didn't help, but I started to teach myself with the videos. I wasn't very good at first - the first time, I didn't manage to make anything at all; I just watched the video and then ordered a takeaway! But, I never gave up. I kept practising. And when my parents came to see me six months later, I managed to cook them a really tasty meal. They were so surprised.

Speaker B. I really hate standing up in front of people to give a talk or a presentation. So, when my brother asked me to make a speech at his wedding, I didn't know what to do. I couldn't say no to him. Luckily a friend of mine, an actor, helped me. Basically, we created a character for me to play when giving the speech, so that I didn't think it was actually me standing up to speak. Also, I learnt my speech by heart so that I didn't need to use any notes. Just like an actor. On the big day, I wasn't able to stop my hands shaking, but I remembered everything and I played that character. And, incredibly, I was able to complete the speech. That was a big day for me, as well as for my brother.

Speaker C. I worked as a volunteer in a village school in China for about six months, and the language was my biggest problem. I was able to speak very basic Chinese, but I couldn't remember many new words. I studied each day, but didn't achieve much - the words went in one ear and then straight out the other! Then, I had a great idea. I had my guitar with me, so I started to write simple songs with all the new words. They were kind of like children's songs. I asked a Chinese friend to check my grammar was correct, and then tried to learn the songs. And, you know what, it worked. Each day, I was able to remember those new words, and I even started singing the songs to the kids. I was actually pretty nervous the first time I sang to them, but I managed to do it without mistakes, although I think my pronunciation was pretty poor, from the way the kids were laughing at me.

Speaker D. When I was a child, I never learnt to swim, and, when I started going on beach holidays, I really regretted that. My friends spent ages swimming in the sea, but I wasn't able to swim. All I could do was sunbathe! So, I asked my sister to teach me. She was very patient, but, after a few months, I gave up because I still couldn't

swim. Then, after another holiday just sitting on the beach, I decided to try again. This time, I paid for lessons at the local pool. And yes, after a few more months, I finally managed to swim 50 metres. That felt so good. And then, that next holiday, I was finally able to swim in the sea with my friends - that felt incredible. A real achievement!

Task 2

Extract 1

A: So, what happened last weekend?

B: Well, we were taking our boat along the river, when we passed a pair of swans, with a nest nearby. One swan just carried on feeding, but the other one - the male I think - decided to come and investigate.

A: Oh, fantastic. I've never seen a swan's nest close up. I expect he was hungry.

B: Well, actually it was immediately obvious from his body language that he had other things on his mind. He was flapping his wings really hard, and approaching at incredible speed. And I guess we'd gone too close to the nest. I'd never have done that if I'd known what would happen.

A: Gosh, amazing. I've never heard of swans behaving like that before. So what did you do? Row like mad?

B: Well, we got out onto the bank, but he followed us up, and then stood between us and the boat for about an hour! We just couldn't frighten him away.

A: No, I suppose not. Still, I'm sure he wouldn't have hurt you.

B: Are you kidding? You should have seen the way he moved - swans can be really aggressive at nesting times.

A: Hmmm.

Extract 2

A: Bruce, at school, you discovered you had a natural talent for art.

B: Yes, I inherited my dad's gift for drawing. I wanted to do representational art; paint portraits. But every college I went to - and there were three who accepted me - all the college tutors said, 'Forget representational art, get a single lens reflex 33-millimetre camera, hit the shutter, crash, there's your picture. Not even Rembrandt could get that accuracy, so it's not worth it.'

A: And you believed them?

B: I did. That was my biggest mistake. I haven't picked up a paintbrush since.

A: How did your father react, when you told him you weren't going to art college?

B: His face was white with rage. He said, 'Right, that's it. You could have made something of going to college. You won't get another chance. Now I've got a perfectly good job for you on the factory floor. You start this week - take it or leave

it.' I said, 'No, I'm going to start a business next.' He said, 'Well, at your own expense, then.'

A: He refused to support you any more?

B: That's it, and so...

Вариант 2

Task 1

Speaker A. I really want to save some money to have driving lessons and eventually buy a second-hand car. So my parents suggested that I should open an account with the bank. I put money into it at the start of each month – even if it's only a small amount. And I've promised my parents that I won't withdraw any money from the account without asking them first. I check my bank statement at the end of every month – it's great to see the money going up. A lot of my friends are doing the same as well – we've turned it into a bit of a competition to see who can save the most.

Speaker B. There are lots of different things that teenagers can do to make some money – you just have to be a bit creative. One way is to charge people in your neighbourhood for doing jobs for them around the house – you know, like looking after their pets, doing some gardening, or cleaning their cars. Some of my friends have even looked after young children while their parents are out, but that's not really for me. And my mum and dad sometimes give me cash to do housework at home – but they won't pay me to clean my bedroom, I still have to do that for nothing!

Speaker C. It can be hard to save money when you're young. One of the most difficult things for me is resisting the idea that I have to copy my friends all the time. That can be expensive, and I don't think it always makes you happy in the end. Everyone knows about the 'fear of missing out'; it's natural that if your friends are going out somewhere, or someone's bought some new clothes, then you want to join in or copy them. But you don't have to be like everyone else. There are always going to be people with more money than you. I think it's a useful lesson to learn early in life.

Speaker D. I realised recently that I was spending more money than I could afford and I needed to do something about it. So I had a look on the internet for some suggestions and I found some great ideas. One of them was searching for free events – there are loads of activities out there and you might find something you hadn't considered before. Another idea was cooking your own snacks instead of buying them – it can be healthier too. And you can share costs with your friends on things like magazines and books – then you can talk about them as well. I also realized that I spend more money when I'm bored, so now I'm finding different things to fill my time and saving my cash.

Task 2

Extract 1

Woman: This is such an unusual place because there's no public transport to the island - I came here in your fishing boat. The result is a paradise - rich marine life, unspoilt countryside. Yet you want to let the world in - you've campaigned to start up a ferry service from the mainland. Why?

Man: There isn't enough work to support our population. If visitors come to the island - and we have a lot to offer them - catering for them would create employment. Also our young people would be able to commute to jobs on the mainland.

Woman: Don't you think it's risky? These beaches could be covered with holiday houses and hotels; your visitors will complain because there are only a few shops. And a ferry service won't be enough. People will want to fly here, and you'll have to build an airport. No more paradise!

Man: We can build a small airport without impacting on our quality of life here, and it makes economic sense. Our shops can cope with more people on the island - it'll be seasonal anyway. And why would we build on the beaches? It'd be crazy.

Woman: I hope you're right.

Extract 2

A: So, Alan, what's the best way to get good public architecture?

B: Well, people don't want to be challenged by architecture, that's understandable in a way; I'm not one for saying necessarily that public buildings are an appropriate area where people should have a vote to say that this building should go ahead or not. Many of our greatest and most glorious buildings wouldn't exist if that happened. Take St Paul's Cathedral in London - at the time, people were very antagonistic and hated its horrid foreign style. Now everyone adores it; it's a landmark, a sort of emblem of the city, that wouldn't have existed if public opinion had had its way.

A: Do other countries do better than us - either in terms of imagination, or in terms of the kind of decision-making we've been talking about?

B: Yes, they do - in recent history anyway. The Netherlands is a prime example. A number of the world's leading architects happen to come from there, but the important thing is that the people are very knowledgeable; they learn about architecture in school. They do have a good record for town-planning as well, but that's hardly the point.

Вариант 3

Task 1

Speaker A: Most people think that if they eat healthily and exercise, they will live forever. These people never drink coffee or sugary drinks. They spend hours working out in the gym or doing yoga. And none of this matters if you have the wrong genes. I think the key to a healthy life is to enjoy yourself. If you focus all your energy on what to do and what not to do, you'll be unhappy eventually. There is no question that happy people live longer. I'd much rather go out and have a pizza with friends than spend time in the gym.

Speaker B: It's ridiculous to get too worried about healthy eating and exercise! My grandfather lived until he was 95, even though he never exercised. He ate lots of sugar and never had salads. He was brought up in a different world. He had different habits. He certainly never went to a gym. Yes, I'm sure that genes are more important than our lifestyle. Of course, I'm not going to take up smoking or eat fast food every day. It means I should keep fit, because it makes me feel better – but I won't allow it to take over my whole life.

Speaker C: Well, first of all, I prefer to exercise and eat well. What's wrong with being healthy? I also think that you won't know whether you have the right genes or not until you get ill. So why take the risk and be unhealthy? Also, don't forget that you might get the flu or a cold much more easily when you don't eat proper food or exercise. I'd say that it's always better to have a healthy lifestyle. Also, there is no doubt that bad health habits increase the chances of getting a serious illness.

Speaker D: I look around and I see overweight children. No matter how good your genes are, these children will not be able to enjoy a long and healthy life unless they give up chips, chocolate bars, sugary drinks ... Well, it's great that some people can live to be 100 and do whatever they want in their lives, but most of us don't have great genes and we have to be careful to take care of ourselves.

Task 2

Extract 1

A: Sorry to be late. This club's a bit off the beaten track, isn't it? Thought I'd never find it!

B: You don't have an in-car satellite navigation system, then?

A: A sat-nav? No I don't, though I suppose I should invest in one. I often have this sort of trouble - getting to a town's a piece of cake, but after that... well. It's not so much the cost- my friends all have them and tell me the price is going down all the time. But electronic gadgets aren't my favourite things. Fine when they work; nightmare when they don't. A little black box could hardly have been less useful than my map today, though!

B: I wouldn't be without mine now. I won't try and blind you with science, but I do know quite a bit about satellites. The technology's amazing - position can be pinpointed to within a metre. Of course, accuracy's down to the mapping companies who do the updating work, but new models come out all the time.

A: It's entirely up to you of course, but imagine never having to ask for directions again!

B: That'd be good - I'll certainly give it some thought!

Extract 2

A: If you're English, a nice sad nineteenth-century romance is very useful if you're on holiday and you get attacked by homesickness because it conjures up dripping English autumn days perfectly.

B: I always take something by this chap who's written a number of books about the criminal underworld of Boston, Massachusetts, which is hardly culturally or geographically a place that I know, but I find it fascinating. There's no doubt about it if you compile, as I do, dictionaries of slang for a living, one is drawn inevitably not alas to the great classics, who are on the whole rather light on slang, but to someone like this fellow who has this amazing ability, far beyond quoting, of writing 20 or 40 pages of dialogue in almost incomprehensible slang, which I have the most wonderful time going through. I find it very alluring.