

**Всероссийская олимпиада школьников по английскому языку  
2025-2026**

**Школьный этап. 11 класс**

**Listening (конкурс понимания устной речи)**

**Вариант 1**

**Task 1**

My name's Martin and I'd like to tell you about my recent trip, a kayaking tour around islands off the coast of Croatia, in southern Europe.

I'd done a little kayaking before - paddling along in a small narrow boat for one or two people. But I knew I'd need to up my fitness levels before this trip, which would be physically tough. So I went running every day, and also started strength training at my gym. Without the guidance of my trainer, I wouldn't have had the muscle power to keep paddling! And the swimming I did every evening probably helped too.

Arriving at the Croatian coast, I joined the kayaking group on one of the ferries across to the main island. The stretch of sea seemed relatively quiet, but I did spot some speedboats roaring past on occasion and thought they could pose a threat to us kayakers. There were a few sailing boats, too, although they were safely anchored.

On the island, we met our guide, Karl. I was worried because the sky looked very grey that day, as if a storm was approaching, and the wind had apparently been strong before we'd got there. That'd subsided, luckily, as we were due to start kayaking the following day. But then the next morning, we awoke to thick fog! However, it quickly disappeared, just as Karl assured us it would.

So we were finally ready for our first kayaking trip. I thought the sea looked far from calm, so I'd been anticipating a bumpy trip. However, we were in double kayaks, which made the ride feel more stable than in a single. As it turned out, we did hit some rough water in our kayaks, but generally it was ok.

So, we headed out from the island, and Karl initially let us paddle around for a while to learn how to handle the kayaks, before heading into open water. Karl had mentioned he might take us diving, which I was looking forward to. But then I could see we were actually paddling towards some cliffs, and Karl asked us if we'd like to join him to do some climbing - which I hadn't expected! Most of the group, including me, just enjoyed the chance for some photography from our kayaks, but a few brave people did take part!

After that, we paddled around the cliffs and into a cave, invisible from the shore. It looked pretty similar to many I'd visited before, with mysterious, oddly-shaped stones inside, but there was also a strange blue light, an effect none of us will forget. It was apparently created by the sun's rays entering

through a crack in the cave wall. Then we paddled out again and headed back.

On the second day, some of our group wanted to relax, so Karl dropped them at a beach with a restaurant, close to our accommodation. The rest of us headed for another island nearby. The island featured a truly magnificent high rock close to the shore, on top of which was a castle. It had once been used in a film, apparently, but it was all quite derelict now, so we couldn't go inside it.

Finally, we paddled around a ring of other, smaller, islands. I'd already checked these out on a map the night before, and thought they resembled a necklace, from their position in the sea, so it was fascinating to actually see them. And we did manage to observe some wildlife - plenty of seabirds and some fish visible beneath the waves. The area's also home to some dolphins, but none of them chose to appear, sadly. However, we did spot some turtles, which made up for that.

We eventually arrived back on shore, to find Karl's assistant waiting with some photos of us in our kayaks. He'd also very thoughtfully brought some cake to celebrate the end of the trip. There were some souvenirs to buy, too - so plenty to remind us of our great trip!

## **Task 2**

### **Speaker A**

I don't seem to meet a lot of new people where I live, so making new friends doesn't happen often. However, it's different when I'm abroad. There, you're in a situation where everyone's on their own and everyone's feeling a bit uncomfortable. Last year, I met a couple of girls from Italy, and we really hit it off. We spent the whole two weeks together and because of us our families got to know each other as well. It was a shame when we all had to go home. We've kept in touch, though, and I'm looking forward to seeing them again.

### **Speaker B**

I've got two best friends, Sophie and Anna, and I spend so much time with them that I don't meet new people often. When I do meet new people, I don't really know where to begin. However, I'm on one or two social networking sites, and I'm more relaxed there. I don't know - maybe it's because I can't see the person I'm communicating with. When I get a friend request, I look at their profile and see if they know anyone I know. I don't become friends with anyone who doesn't know one of my friends.

### **Speaker C**

I've got a few close friends who I spend most of my time with, and I've known them for years, so I don't really try to make new friends very often. I find it tough because I'm quite quiet and don't really know what to say. I think some people just have the right kind of personality to cope with that sort of thing. You know, if you're a confident person then I think you find it quite easy because you're not afraid of anything. Me, I'm the opposite, really. But I'm happy with the social circle I've got, so it's not a problem.

### **Speaker D**

I know everyone has to learn how to make new friends, despite how difficult it can be. It's an important skill that you'll need all your life. I've had one or two problems with it, to be honest, and I can get quite anxious around people I don't know. It began when I tried to start a conversation with someone on a train once. They just ignored me, and I felt really embarrassed. Since then, I haven't really tried again. I guess I will at some point, but for now I prefer to just stay quiet.

### **Speaker E**

It's not so difficult to make new friends if you just remember that everyone else feels as shy or as nervous as you. My mum's in the army, and that meant that she was sent all over the place, and of course the rest of the family followed. I'd often find myself in a class of strangers, so I had to either make new friends or be on my own. I soon got better at making friends, even though it can still be hard work. And now it doesn't bother me. Just smile, say: 'Hello, I like your bag' or whatever and you'll soon be chatting away.

## **Вариант 2**

### **Task 1**

Welcome to my cycling podcast. I'm Dave. I'm a taxi driver, and when I'm not driving a cab around the city, I'm cycling, getting fit and seeing new sights. My last cycling trip was to Jersey, one of the islands between England and France.

I was desperate to be somewhere different from the city for a few days - I just wanted to be somewhere without pollution. I've got used to the noise and bustle, and the feeling of sitting in a cab all day, and even the pressure from passengers worried about getting to their destination on time. I still look forward to my holidays though.

The ferry journey from the English coast takes over ten hours and it was early evening when the boat drew into Jersey's harbour just after sunset. England's south coast is known for its vast white cliffs, but the dark ones

of Jersey looked just as stunning. The ferry sailed in past rocks reflecting the lights of the harbour.

I cycled off the ferry to the hotel I'd booked, where I bedded down after a quick ride and a fish and chip dinner. The hotel was right next to a restaurant, so you could hear customers coming and going till late. It was September, so the breeze was cool, and with my head on the pillow the sound of waves was really calming despite the seagulls squawking noisily. I woke up early and looked out of my window and noticed a light mist was hanging across the water. Thank goodness, there was clearly no chance of the showers the forecast had predicted. In fact, by around nine the sunshine was quite strong.

I set off after breakfast and was soon out of town riding along country lanes, before heading down to one of the coastal routes. Jersey's great for cyclists, and I'd heard about the speed restrictions for cars that make it really safe for people of all ages to enjoy a bike ride. If I'd known how many signs there are wherever you go, I needn't have worried so much about planning my routes beforehand.

Then I cycled down a long beach path - something I regretted. First I got loads of sand in my bike chain, but I saw what was going on and came off the path to check. It was only then I spotted some damage. It was to the paintwork... maybe from a stone thrown up by a wheel. If I'd seen it, I'd have come off the path earlier.

Up on a higher path, I sat down to gaze up at the blue skies and around at the blue sea. The bay all around was truly beautiful, but when I set off again, I almost hit a pedestrian, as I wasn't paying attention to where I was going. That was 'cos of a castle. It had just come into view and looked really amazing.

I had some options when making up my mind where to take a break from cycling. I was sorely tempted by the museum, though I'd also heard about the radio tower. After much hesitation, that eventually appealed most. It's high up, and you can see the lighthouse out on the rocks. Definitely worth it. I reckon anyone with kids'd be better off opting for the fun park though. I was hoping to come across some animals in Jersey. It's known for its red squirrels, which are visible at certain times of year, but I must have missed the season. Jersey's rich creamy milk is legendary and a herd of cows blocked my path at one point. I wished I'd had time to take a boat trip too, as the dolphins are another popular sight.

I discovered just how good Jersey is for cycling, and there were quite a few other cyclists, groups and solo riders like me. It's got lots of hills. I'd always had this impression it was pretty flat from things I'd seen on TV, but I was wrong. Anyway, it's also full of walkers and joggers, as well as day-trippers who've come over on the ferry.

## **Task 2**

### **Speaker A**

I don't know, maybe I'm lucky. I've never had to actively look for friends, you know, like when someone goes to a new school and they are totally on their own. My closest friends are the ones I made when I was very young and we've grown up together. When a new student starts in our class, I am not one of those people who tries to help them feel at home. I'm happy with the friends I've got, so why bother making new ones? But to be honest, I don't know how I'd cope if I had to move to another place or attend a different school. I guess it must be hard to be a new 'kid' in town.

### **Speaker B**

Do you know the saying, 'Show me your friends and I'll tell you who you are'? There is a lot of truth in it. The people I hang out with are a reflection of myself. It's not hard to see why. Our shared interests are what made us friends in the first place. That's a pretty good starting point, I think. And then, once you get to know people a bit better, you tend to stick with the ones whose personality is most like yours. Maybe other people don't see it that way, but I couldn't imagine having friends who were hugely different to me.

### **Speaker C**

I'm not exactly the life and soul of the party, but I'm open, friendly and good company. The thing is, I used to be painfully shy. I would get tongue-tied around total strangers, wouldn't know what to say and then worry about long silences - they're so embarrassing! I envied people who knew how to break the ice. They seemed so relaxed and cool while I was a nervous wreck. At parties, I'd be the one helping in the kitchen. I know! What a dork! But luckily, I developed some confidence and things started to change.

### **Speaker D**

When my dad got a job with an American company, I was excited about living in the USA. Their schools - at least in films anyway - always looked more fun than ours. Lots more sport, after-school clubs and parties. I was pretty sure I'd make friends straightaway. When I got there, though, it was a different story. On the first day, a teacher introduced me to my classmates who politely said 'hello'. And that was it. No one offered to show me around or asked me to sit with them at lunch. In fact, they didn't pay attention to me at all.

## **Speaker E**

No, I don't make friends easily and it's not due to shyness. I'm wary of people. The thing is, they may seem alright at the start, but you don't really know, do you? I know because I was let down badly once. You see, I'd made a new friend in my first week at college. I was really pleased to have someone I could hang out with and, well, just feel a connection with. After all, no one wants to be all alone and look desperate! Well, this so-called friend, who I'd shared my problems with, was gossiping about me. It really hurt.

## **Вариант 3**

### **Task 1**

I'm Emma and I've got a small business doing something called 'upcycling'.

Upcycling's brilliant - taking something old - in this case, second-hand furniture - and improving its appearance, making it useable again by repairing broken bits, painting it, and so on. For me, the fact that it's environmentally friendly is what's so great about it. It can be cost-effective too, especially if you already have an item of furniture to do up.

You don't need any particular skills to get going! But you do need to be aware of things like wiping dust away so it doesn't get stuck on the furniture and ruin the finish... that's why preparation is key. If you're doing up old furniture you've already got, there's no huge investment required - you'll already have most of the stuff you need to do the job at home.

However, if you do want to purchase new tools to help you do your upcycling, put your money into decent brushes for painting. You could use rollers as well, though you won't be able to do finer details easily with those. Don't bother with special polishing cloths, though - old socks are brilliant when it comes to finishing your furniture!

You might have a piece of furniture that you think just looks old or old-fashioned and not much use. But you can give things a new purpose and this is where you have to be imaginative. An old stepladder might be great for displaying plants, or an old chair with worn fabric can be recovered with something more stylish. The possibilities are endless.

If, like me, you decide to start buying, doing up and selling items, then don't splash your cash on vintage pieces you see in shops. You'll be able to find something not too different at, say, street markets - that's where I head for pieces of furniture. Prices are lower, especially if the item's in poor condition. You can go to auctions, too, or even check websites - though it's better to see what you are buying in person, I think.

When it comes to appearance, some people say it's important to match the style of the upcycling to how the piece was when it was first produced, and I tend to think the same. However, there are no rules and your own personal taste is what matters as far as furniture for your own home is concerned. If you want to use contemporary patterns and textiles on old furniture, which would probably have been more subtle originally, then go for it!

When it comes to colour, you can take inspiration from the room the furniture's going to sit in. Consider your options carefully. Something bright or bold might clash if the other colours are more natural or earthy - like greens or browns. I tend to come back to delicate colours again and again - anything from pinks to greys.

I like lots of period furniture - furniture that was made during a particular era. Each piece from a specific period tends to be similar in style. Some of the most popular ones are Art Deco and mid-century - by which I mean the twentieth century.

Personally, I go for Arts and Crafts - that's what the period's called - and I find stuff from then particularly elegant.

Of course, you can change modern furniture to decorative items, too. Maybe it's something you bought that doesn't fit with your decor the way you thought it would and you never got round to returning it. Don't waste it! You might upcycle a picture frame. I actually did up a mirror - it was in really bad condition, but it's ended up being my biggest achievement.

You don't have to stop at furniture for your home, either. If you have a garden, you also need somewhere to sit - benches, chairs and tables and so on. I don't know whether your boss would be happy about you upcycling the office furniture, though, so you may want to draw the line at that!

## **Task 2**

### **Speaker A**

Oh, hello. Well, I'm not sure how to explain this. It's just that my boss - a hospital administrator - is really demanding and sometimes I think she is intentionally trying to make my life difficult. Oh, I know it sounds stupid and paranoid, but that's how her actions come across to me. She gives me too much work. I'm up to my eyes in it every minute of every hour of every day at work. She couldn't possibly expect me to complete it all and to her high standards! That's why I think she is doing it on purpose. You know, to have a reason to fire me. The thing is, it's not exactly something I can prove, is it? So what should I do? Speak to her or go straight to her boss?

### **Speaker B**

Hi, yeah, well... it's not really a problem... yet. Everything is fine at the factory where I work. Good boss, good colleagues and all that, but I want

to do something else with my life. I was thinking of signing up for a class. I don't know what yet - maybe to learn a new skill that could lead to a career. The thing is, we're expected to work overtime one week every month and well, I think that's going to clash with any night classes I want to take. Everyone at work does their overtime without making any fuss about it even though it means giving up their evenings. But how can I do both? I don't want to let my boss down, but I don't want to let myself down either.

### **Speaker C**

Hi, there. I hope you can help me. Well, basically, I've got a colleague who's driving me crazy. All she does is talk and she tries to have conversations with me even when it's obvious that I'm snowed under. At first, when I was new at the company, it was nice to see a friendly face and have a little chat during my coffee break or at lunch, but it's got out of hand. My review is coming up and I don't want to be assessed badly because of her. At the same time, she's actually a sweet person, so I just don't know how to tell her to back off. The last thing I want to do is hurt her feelings.

### **Speaker D**

I'm in a real dilemma. You see, I got this job after applying to loads of places. It wasn't my first choice, though certainly not the last either, and when I was offered the position, I accepted. I was really pleased they'd decided to take a chance on me rather than employ someone more experienced, and I couldn't thank them enough. Anyway, that was three months ago. Yesterday, I got a call from the company that had been my first choice, offering me a job - my dream job. It's the biggest tech company in the country so I am going to accept but I feel awful. I know I am letting down the people I currently work for, but what can I do?

### **Speaker E**

Hello. Um... I'm a sales manager with a large supermarket chain. We're really successful as is our main competitor, so we're always trying to outdo each other. Needless to say we're sort of 'enemies'. Well, last weekend, I was visiting a friend and we went out for a bite to eat. At first, I thought I must have been mistaken, but I wasn't. I saw a colleague of mine shaking hands with one of the big bosses from the other company. They also exchanged an envelope. 'Hello!' I thought, 'What's going on here?' Back at work on Monday, I asked my colleague about his weekend. He said he'd been sick and hadn't left the house at all. I know he's lying! But how should I deal with it?