

B1 Listening

10 Practice Tests

Student's Book

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A Guide to Part I of the Listening Tests

In this part of the exam, you will hear short recorded conversations between two speakers. Each item is followed by a question and accompanied by three picture answer options. Candidates choose the picture (A, B or C) that answers the question correctly. Candidates should listen carefully to the whole dialogue before answering each question. The conversations will be heard only once.

The dialogues in the exam cover a wide range of topics. A list of those most commonly examined is given below:

- **ANIMALS** - pets, farm animals and animals found in a zoo or in the wild
- **PRESENTS** - buying and receiving presents
- **BUYING OR DESCRIBING PERSONAL ITEMS** - clothing, shoes and accessories
- **SHOPPING** - supermarket items, furniture and electrical goods
- **TIME** - schedules (work, travel, meetings, etc.)
- **ODD JOBS** - outdoor (gardening) and indoor (do-it-yourself)
- **SEQUENCE** - putting tasks or visits to various locations (bank, office, hairdresser's, supermarket, etc.) in correct chronological order
- **FILLING IN FORMS** - applications for jobs, club membership, etc.
- **PERSONAL APPEARANCE** - hairstyle, height, clothes, etc.
- **DIRECTIONS** - how to get to various locations (cinema, hospital, station, etc.) (often a sketch map)
- **DATES** - appointments, paying bills, etc.
- **WEATHER** - temperatures and various weather conditions (often in the form of a graph)
- **SPORTS** - on TV, at school, game and match results
- **HOBBIES** - reading, drawing, dancing, etc.
- **FOOD** - ingredients, cooking, restaurants, parties, etc.
- **LOCATIONS** - where people/objects/towns/buildings/etc. can be found
- **FEELINGS AND EXPRESSIONS** - recognizing anger, happiness, laughter, etc.
- **FREE TIME** - various activities, visits to cinemas, theaters, exhibitions, etc.
- **HOLIDAYS** - packing, destinations, weather, etc.
- **NUMBERS** - bills, hotel room prices, prices of shopping items, lending or borrowing money, etc. (often requiring simple calculations)

To ensure adequate preparation, candidates are advised to increase their knowledge of vocabulary relevant to the above topics.

In addition, to serve as a guide for easier reading and understanding, a list of the question types most commonly used in the exam is given below.

1. **A General Example Showing Multiple Questions and Answers**
2. **An Implied Picture**
3. **Reversion to the Original Answer**
4. **Alternating Answer**
5. **Negative Questions**
6. **Sequence**
7. **Detailed Pictures**
8. **Hesitation and Uncertainty**

Exercise 1. A General Example Showing Multiple Questions and Answers.

Topic used: PETS

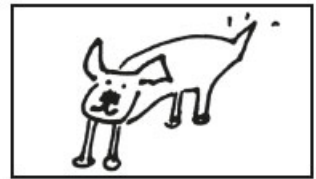
In this general example, one dialogue is given with three possible questions and answers.



A



B



C

F: Oh, Jim, wouldn't it be wonderful if we had a dog?

M: No, way, Mary. A dog isn't happy shut up all day in an apartment ... and cats can damage your furniture when they feel lonely.

F: Mmm ... I suppose you're right.

M: Look, we could get a goldfish. That's a nice little pet.

F: OK, I suppose it'll do.

Question 1: What will they buy?

Answer 1: "B" a goldfish.

Question 2: What did the woman originally want?

Answer 2: "C" a dog.

Question 3: Which pet could cause damage to the furniture?

Answer 3: "A" a cat.

The above example illustrates the need for you to listen to the whole dialogue before answering.

Exercise 2. An Implied Picture

Topic used: PRESENTS

In this type of question, the subjects in only two of the pictures are definitely mentioned while the subject in the third picture is not specifically referred to (it is implied). Three possible questions and answers are given.



A



B



C

M: I brought you a little something from my visit to one of the islands.

F: Oh, what is it? One of those illustrated guidebooks full of pictures?

M: No, ...

F: Oh, I know! I bet it's some of the local wine.

M: No, it isn't. Look.

F: Oh, what a surprise! I had no idea you knew I collected these things.

Question 1: What was the first item mentioned?

Answer 1: "C" an illustrated guidebook.

Question 2: What did the woman think he had brought for her?

Answer 2: "B" local wine.

Question 3: Why was the woman surprised?

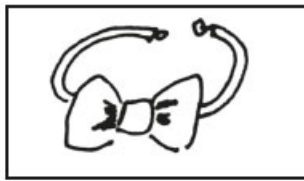
Answer 3: "A" shells.

The word "shells" is not given in the dialogue but we are told the woman collects something. This answer is implied.

Exercise 3. Reversion to the Original Answer

Topic used: BUYING CLOTHING

In this type of question, one of the speakers gives a clear, positive answer then retracts it and considers the remaining two options, only to revert his initial answer at the end of the dialogue. Listen carefully. Three different questions and answers are given.



A



B



C

M: Hi, I'm looking for a tie ... dark with a thin light stripe in it.

F: Certainly. What about this one?

M: Oh, yes. That's exactly what I want. I'll take it. How much is it?

F: \$100.

M: What? That's too expensive. There's no way I can buy it. Have you anything cheaper?

F: Yes, this one but the stripe is much thicker.

M: Mmm ... I suppose I should buy this cheaper one but ...

F: We have this one, too. A bow tie.

M: No, that's not suitable for what I want. Oh ... I'll go with the first one!

Question 1: Which tie will the man buy?

Answer 1: "C" the original one he wanted but then decided not to buy because of the price.

Question 2: Which tie did he think he should buy?

Answer 2: "B" because it was cheaper.

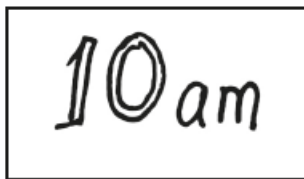
Question 3: Which tie was not suitable?

Answer 3: "A" the bow tie.

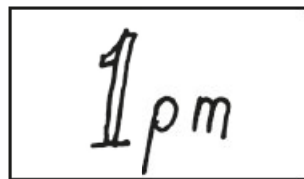
Exercise 4. Alternating Answer

Topic used: TIME

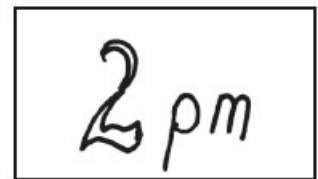
In this type of question, the speakers alternate between all three answer options, so pay careful attention. Three possible questions and answers are given.



A



B



C

M: So, what time is your flight?

F: Er ... 10am.

M: Good. You'll be there in time for lunch.

F: Well, I'm not sure. Maybe I should catch the 1 o'clock flight.

M: In that case, you would have to go straight to the office there. Better catch the 10 o'clock flight.

F: You know there's another plane at 2 o'clock. That'd give me plenty of time to get to the airport. I wouldn't have to rush in the morning.

M: Mmm ... yes, but you'd only just be in time for the meeting. Better stick to the original one.

F: Mmm ... right.

Question 1: Which flight will she get?

Answer 1: "A" the 10am one.

Question 2: Which flight would allow her not to rush in the morning?

Answer 2: "C" the 2pm one.

Question 3: What was the time of the second flight she mentioned?

Answer 3: "B" 1pm.

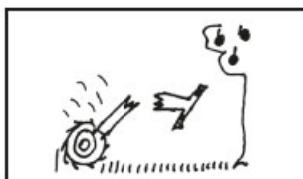
Exercise 5. Negative Questions

Topic used: OUTDOOR ODD JOBS

In this type of question, you will be asked a negative question even though you may expect a positive one. As before, three possible questions and answers are given.



A



B



C

F: It would be a good idea if you cut the grass this weekend instead of going to play football.

M: Sorry, honey, the lawnmower doesn't work. It's broken.

F: Oh, then, you could water the fruit trees and pick some of the fruit for us!

M: Sorry again. The weather forecast calls for rain this weekend. I can't do the gardening in the rain!

F: So, you won't be able to play football then.

M: Er ... that's different.

Expected Question: What will he do this weekend?

Answer: "C" play football.

Negative Question 1: Why won't he pick some fruit?

Answer 1: "A" it will rain.

Negative Question 2: Why won't he cut the grass?

Answer 2: "B" the lawnmower is broken.

Exercise 6. Sequence

Topic used: JOBS TO BE DONE

In this type of question, you will hear the speakers discussing the order (sequence) in which they should do something. It is a good idea to put numbers 1, 2 and 3 next to the pictures in the order they are referred to. Then, put a small "a", "b" and "c" when the speakers definitely state the sequence in which they will visit each place (first to last). Help is provided in the printed dialogue and four possible questions and answers are given.



A



B



C

F: Let's go to the supermarket and get our shopping done. (Put 1 next to the picture of a supermarket)

M: Er ... that's not a good idea. The banks will be closing soon. We should go there first. (Put 2 next to the picture of a bank)

F: Well, we can't go riding around in a dirty car. We'll have to go to the car wash first. (Put 3 next to the picture of a car wash)

M: I agree. We'll go there first. (Put "a" next to the car wash, "b" next to the bank and "c" next to the supermarket)

Question 1: Which place was mentioned first?

Answer 1: "B" the supermarket.

Question 2: Which was the second place mentioned?

Answer 2: "A" the bank.

Question 3: Where will they go first?

Answer 3: "C" the car wash.

Question 4: Where will they go last?

Answer 4: "B" the supermarket.

Exercise 7. Detailed Pictures

Topic used: AN APPLICATION FORM

In this type of question, the candidate is usually presented with a variety of information in the three pictures. The first thing to do is look at the pictures closely and find where the differences are. It is there that the answer will be found. The best way to proceed with this type of question is to cross out the irrelevant parts of the pictures as the dialogue progresses. An example of this is provided in the printed dialogue. One question and one answer are given.



A



B



C

M: Er ... could you help me with this form, please? I've already filled in my name, address and home phone number.
F: We don't want your home phone number (cross out "home tel" in picture "A"), we prefer your cell phone number. Oh, and don't forget to put your post code with your address.
M: Oh, OK, done. Do you need my office number?
F: No, (cross out "office tel" in picture "C"), but you can add your email if you have one.
M: Yes, ... I'll write it now.

Question: What should his application form look like?

Answer: "B"

Exercise 8. Hesitation and Uncertainty

Topic used: PERSONAL APPEARANCE

In this type of question, the characters may not explicitly state what they feel or want. Many of these dialogues end in a vague phrase or sentence and the student is left with a general idea rather than a specific statement. As before, three different questions and answers are given.



A



B



C

F: I was thinking of having my hair dyed two colors. What do you think?
M: What? Er ... I mean ... er ... well, at your age ... honey?
F: Hmm ... Well, if you don't like the idea I suppose I could have my hair cut and permed ... without the rest.
M: Ugh! A perm? I don't mean ... Well, it wouldn't suit you.
F: OK, I get it! Just cut?
M: Well, if you like ... but don't let me stop you, you know.
F: Yeah, yeah, I know. So, I suppose that'd be my best bet, then.

Question 1: What will the woman have done at the hairdresser's?

Answer 1: "B" a haircut.

Question 2: What idea shocked the man?

Answer 2: "A" two colors.

Question 3: What style did the man think wouldn't suit the woman?

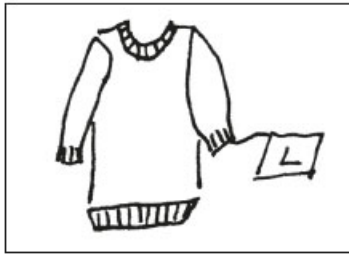
Answer 3: "C" a perm.

The above dialogues and questions should be seen as a sample of those given in the exam and should not be considered comprehensive. The best way to prepare is through constant practice. Remember, "Practice makes perfect". Good luck!

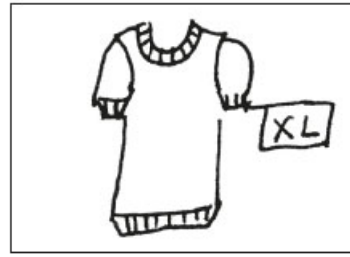
Listening Test 1

Part 1

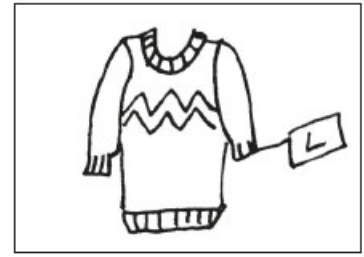
1.



A

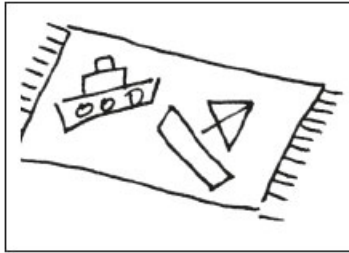


B

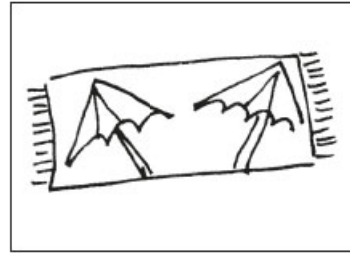


C

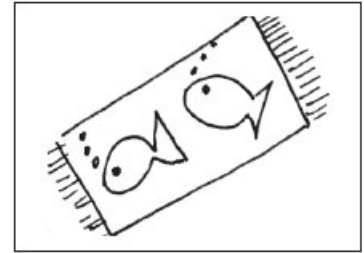
2.



A



B



C

3.



A

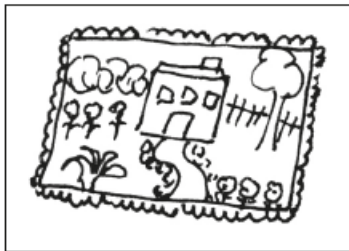


B

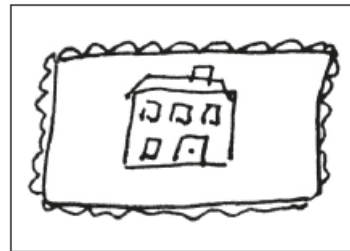


C

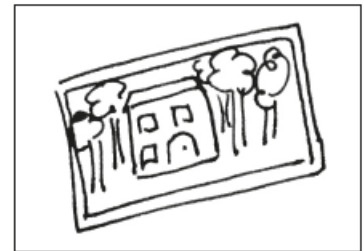
4.



A



B



C

5.



A

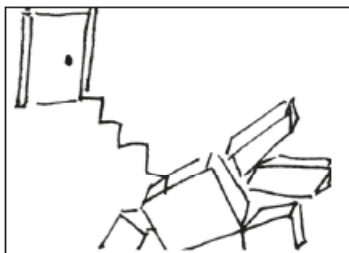


B



C

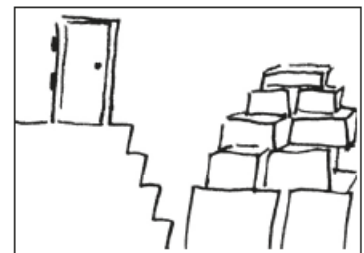
6.



A

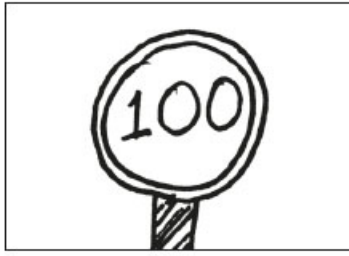


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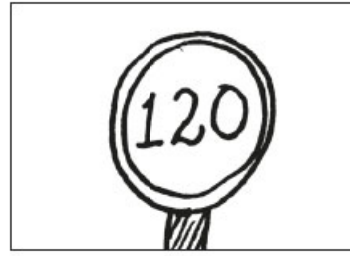


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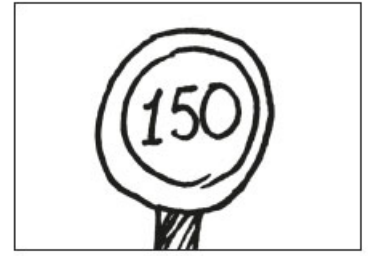
7.



A



B

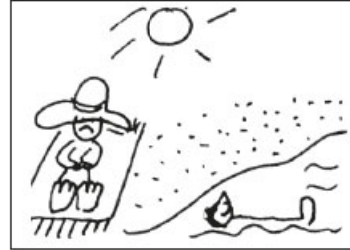


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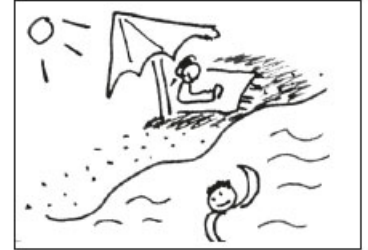
8.



A



B



C

9.



A



B

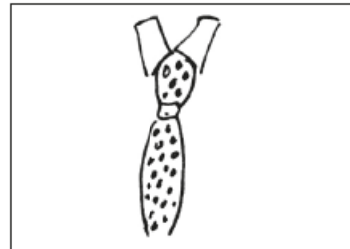


C

10.



A



B

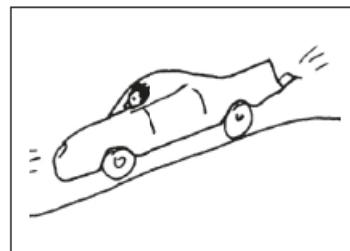


C

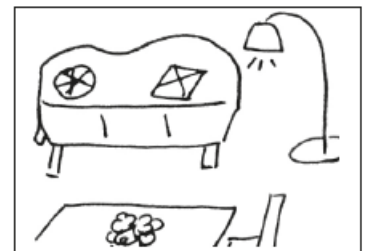
11.



A

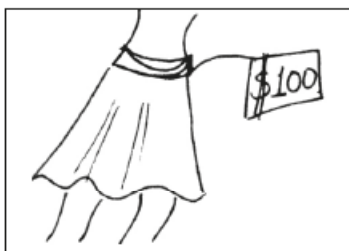


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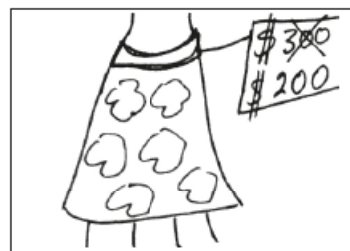


C

12.



A



B

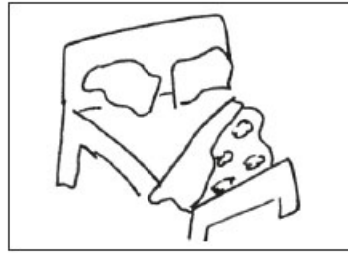


C

13.



A

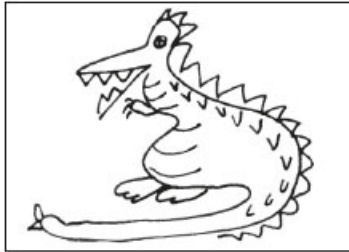


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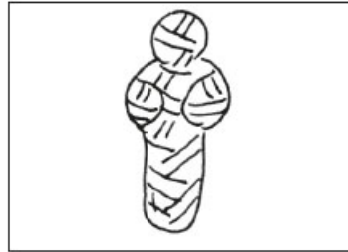


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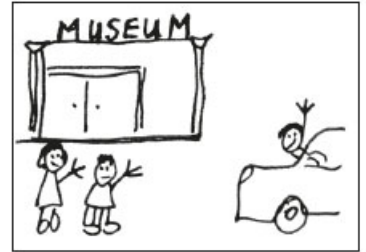
14.



A



B



C

15.



A

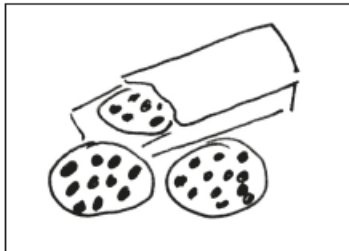


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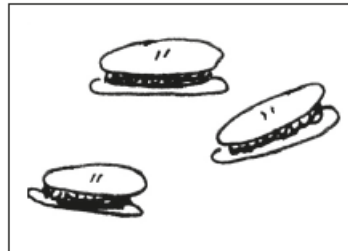


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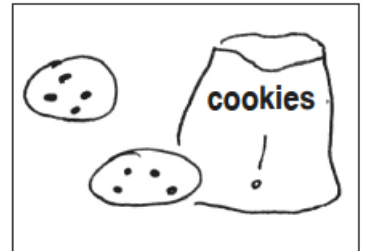
16.



A

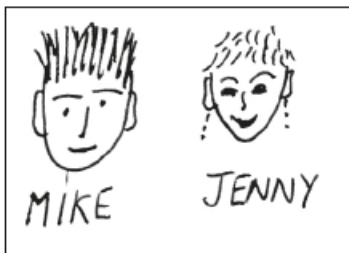


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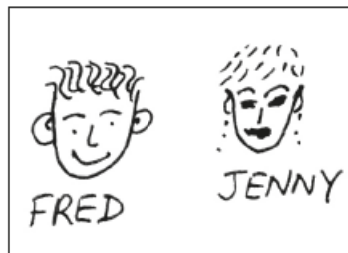


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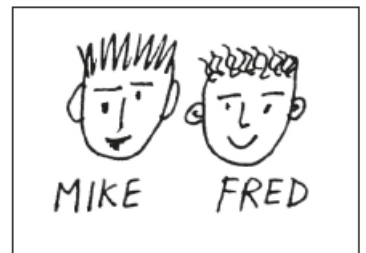
17.



A

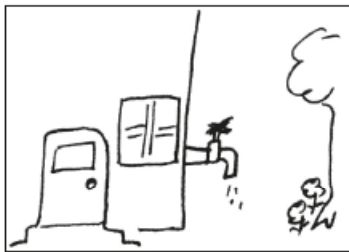


B



C

18.



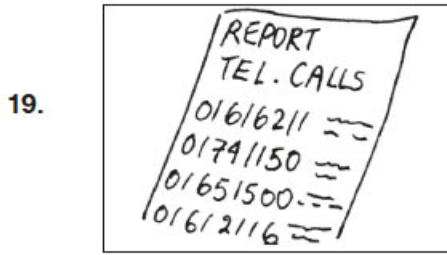
A



B



C



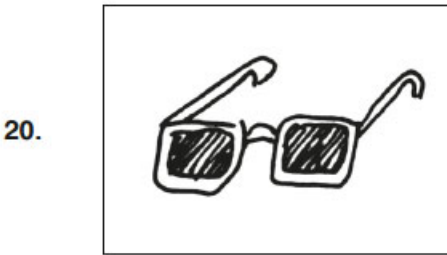
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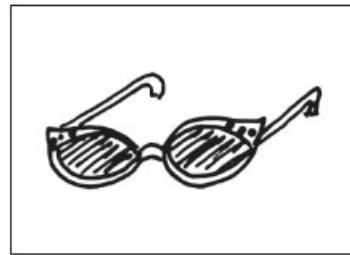
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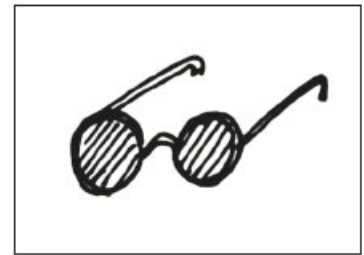
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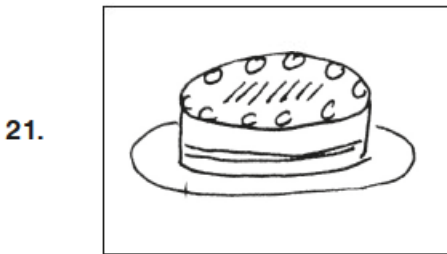
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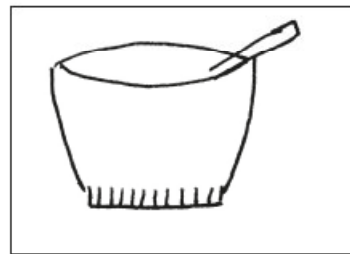
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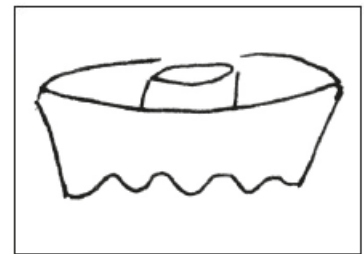
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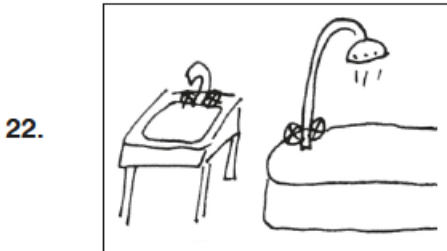
A



B



C



A



B



C



A



B



C



A

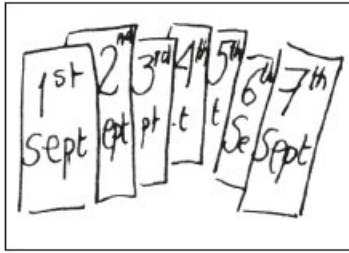


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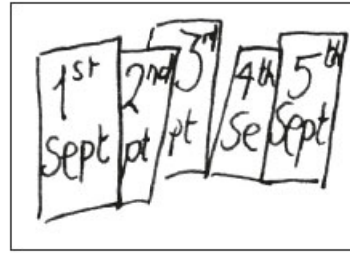


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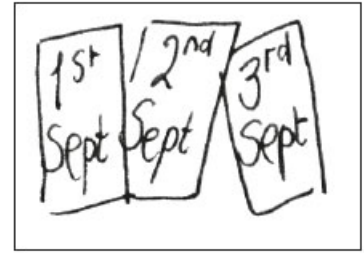
25.



A



B

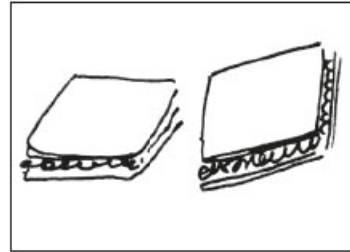


C

26.



A

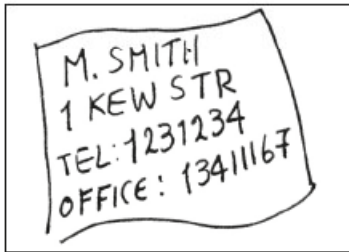


B

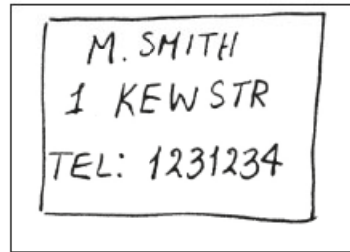


C

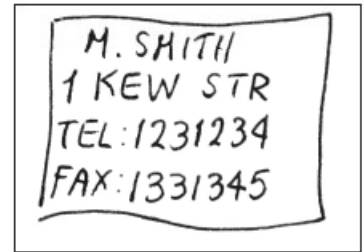
27.



A

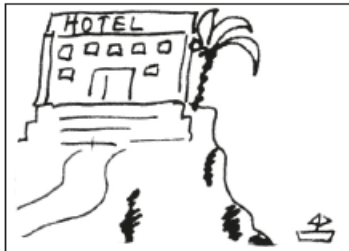


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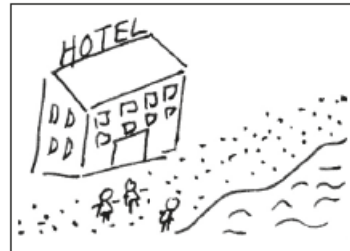


C

28.



A

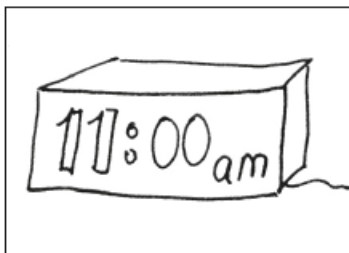


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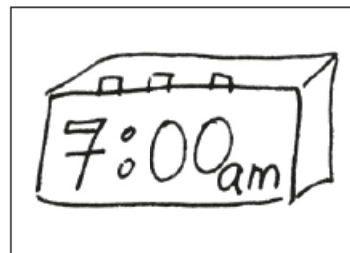


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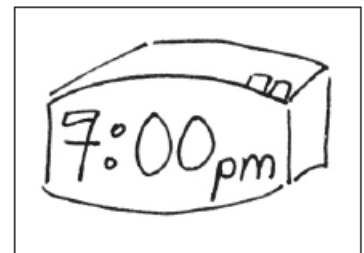
29.



A

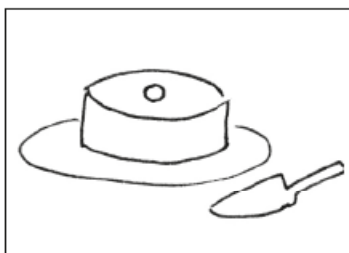


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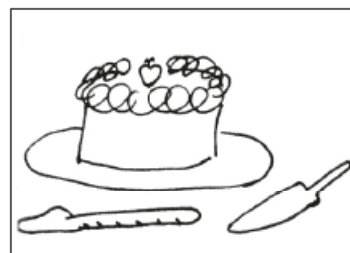


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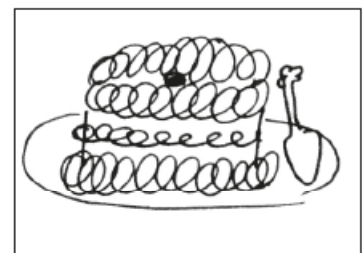
30.



A



B



C