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How to ... listen for cues

1a Read sentences a–f and their paraphrases. Underline the paraphrase that matches the phrase in italics each time.

Example: Some reference to scientific research *is recommended*.
It would be preferable if students referred to scientific research in their presentations.

- a) A qualification in art is *essential* for this job.
 In order to apply for the job all candidates are required to have an art degree.
- b) The artist's ambitions were at first considered *unrealistic*.
 Initially, everyone believed it unlikely that the artist would achieve her ambitions.
- c) Pupils *are not allowed* on the school trip without a sunhat.
 Participation in the school trip is not permitted for pupils who do not have a sunhat.
- d) *A lack of evidence* meant that people didn't believe the professor's claims.
 People weren't convinced by what the professor said as there simply wasn't enough evidence.
- e) Full-time students *pay less* for bus tickets.
 Bus travel is available at a greatly reduced price for those who study full time.
- f) *A large part* of each lesson will be dedicated to speaking practice.
 It is planned that speaking practice will make up a significant proportion of every lesson.

Boost your score!

Paraphrases are words and expressions with similar meaning. They are often used to cue the answers in the recording.

1b Choose four of the paraphrases you underlined and put each one in a new sentence.

Example: required to have

In my country drivers are required to have their driving licences with them whenever they drive.

2a Cues are words or expressions which tell you that the answer is coming.

Example: *The language course begins on (i)*

The start date for the language course is Tuesday at 9 am.

↑
cue

2b  Listen to the following extracts, and use the listening cues to help you identify the answers. Write **ONE WORD** only in each gap.

- a) Professor Shaw worked with a to write her first textbook.
- b) The college is near a
- c) One well-known piece of art in the museum is made of
- d) New technology has allowed more for most students.
- e) Some students failed to find a which would have helped them complete their homework.
- f) Pupils should submit a before beginning their essay.

2c  Now look at the transcript on page 110 and underline the cue that comes before each of the answers.

Boost your score!

In sentence and note completion tasks, you will need to listen for paraphrases of the notes on the question paper. The paraphrases will help to cue the answers.

 **EXAM TASK**

3a  **Listen to a lecture about the work of sculptor, Anish Kapoor.**

Write **ONE WORD ONLY** in each gap.

- 1 Kapoor's sculptures are well-known for their eye-catching
- 2 Kapoor is originally from
- 3 One artwork with a surface is on display in Chicago.
- 4 In 2009, Kapoor created a work in the shape of a in New Zealand.
- 5 The red sculpture is made of and steel.
- 6 Kapoor worked with an to build a sculpture for the London Olympics.
- 7 A performance venue in Japan is unusual because it can be
- 8 A key feature of Kapoor's work is people's with it.

Boost your score!


In sentence completion tasks, look at the words around the gap carefully before you listen. These will help you to identify the cues when you hear them.



Orbit



Anish Kapoor

3b  **Look at the transcript on page 110 and identify the cues for each answer. What examples of paraphrasing can you find?**

How to ... approach completion tasks

- 1 Look at the headline and introductory text about a plant. Now read the article once through and find out why this plant is significant. (Don't look up any unfamiliar vocabulary.)
- 2 Work in pairs and discuss the general argument of the article.

INVASIVE pollen

Ragweed gives off pollen that plays havoc with the human immune system

One of America's most irritating weeds threatens to spoil the summer months for thousands of Britons who are prone to crippling hay fever attacks. Ragweed has established a beachhead in central Europe and is spreading westwards towards Britain. A single ragweed plant can spew out a billion, highly allergenic pollen grains in just one season.

American ragweed has been present in Europe for about a century but it emerged as a seriously invasive plant species in Hungary during the 1990s. An increasing number of Europeans are showing signs of ragweed allergy as the plants spread from Hungary to the fields of Italy, Austria, France and more northerly regions bordering the English Channel. Scientists fear it might only be a matter of time before the common ragweed, *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*, gains a foothold in Britain where it could become an invasive species with the help of warmer summers, milder winters and the formidable reproductive powers of the plant itself.

A scientific conference in Vienna this week has been called to address the problems posed by the plant species, which spreads with frightening rapidity along roadside verges, railway lines and newly cleared land.

'Common ragweed is not an issue here in the UK – yet. As global temperatures rise we are seeing very rapid spread of this highly invasive plant and it may only be a matter of time before it appears in the UK,' said Dr Clare Goodess, of the Climatic Research Unit at the University of East Anglia.

Common ragweed, which grows to a height of about a metre, is particularly irritating to the human immune system, producing pollen grains that are highly allergenic. Warmer summers extend the pollen season and higher concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere have been shown to boost the production of ragweed pollen.

In the US, ragweed pollen is one of the most common causes of hay fever and asthmatic attacks – 75 per cent of Americans who are allergic to pollen are allergic to ragweed pollen. It can also travel long distances, being found 400 miles out to sea and two miles up in the atmosphere – although the highest concentrations are found close to where the plants flower in late summer.

The northern limit of ragweed in Europe is moving further north with climate change, according to Dr



Jonathan Storkey, a plant ecologist at Rothamsted Research in Harpenden, Hertfordshire. 'The English Channel won't be a barrier to it,' he said. 'The concern about ragweed centres on the health issue rather than the problem of its invasiveness. We have invasive plant species already but this species has pollen that is highly allergenic – it's bad news for hay fever sufferers.'

Like other types of hay fever allergies, ragweed symptoms include a runny nose, sneezing, puffy or irritated eyes, and a stuffy or itchy nose and throat. Because ragweed releases its pollen between late summer and the first autumn frosts, it can significantly extend the hay fever season.

Tests by European scientists published two years ago showed that up to 60 per cent of people in Hungary show allergic sensitivity to ragweed pollen. High rates of sensitivity were also found in Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany and about a quarter of those showing ragweed pollen allergy also had symptoms of asthma.

Professor Torsten Zuberbier, of the Charite University of Medicine in Berlin said that ragweed pollen sensitivity was currently affecting about 2.5 per cent of the wider European population, which is the current threshold for a 'high prevalence' allergy.

The University of East Anglia will use its climate models to assess how rapidly ragweed is likely to spread further north in Europe given that the plant requires a long, hot summer to produce its pollen. Ian Lake, a climate modeller at East Anglia, said: 'We will analyse the likely impact of changes in climate, land use and air pollution on pollen-induced allergy over the coming decades and devise adaptation and prevention strategies to minimise the impact on global health.'

3a Read the summary paragraph below. Does it include the same information you discussed?

Common ragweed is a very common plant in the USA which is not native to Europe. Ragweed thrives in the increased temperatures caused by global climate change. Scientists predict that the weed, which is now present in Central Europe, could soon reach the UK where the milder climate as well as the rapid reproduction for which the plant is notorious could mean it spreads swiftly. However, it is not the problem of the plant's invasive nature which is concerning scientists, but its potential impact on hay fever sufferers, since the plant is known to cause strong allergic reactions.

3b How would you describe the language that is used in the summary? Can you think of reasons for this?

4 Look at this information below. Find the same information in the summary paragraph. Underline the language features which are used to condense this information in the summary.

Example:

a) Ragweed thrives in increased temperatures. Increased temperatures are caused by global climate change.

Ragweed thrives in the increased temperatures caused by global climate change.

b) The weed is now present in Central Europe. Scientists predict it could soon reach the UK. The milder climate in the UK could mean it spreads swiftly. It is also notorious for its rapid reproduction.

c) There is potential for an impact on people who suffer from hay fever and this is concerning scientists.

5 Read some more sentences summarising information from the article. What type of word is needed to fill each of the gaps? Find the section of the article where each piece of information is given. Can you find ONE WORD in the section which could be used to complete each gap?

a) Ragweed is an invasive plant capable of producing a huge quantity of pollen in a single year.

b) Scientists are concerned at the issues raised by the at which the plant is spreading on certain types of land.

c) Sneezing and irritated eyes are symptoms caused by ragweed in common with other of allergenic plants.

d) Ragweed pollen, which affects 75% of American hay fever sufferers, is produced late in the year, prolonging the hay fever

e) Researchers at the University of East Anglia are developing to reduce the health risks of pollen sensitivity.

6 Find synonyms in the sentences in exercise 5 for the following words or phrases.

a) itchy

b) release (pollen)

c) a non-native plant likely to cause environmental imbalance

d) speed

e) extend

f) people who are sensitive to plant pollen

g) causing an allergic reaction

h) the time of year when pollen is present

i) grow over a large area

j) have an impact on

k) just one

7 Look at the headline and introductory text. What do you think this passage is about?

8 Read the passage once through. How does the information in this passage differ from that in the previous passage?

GET READY FOR THE SNEEZING SEASON

Hay fever is on the rise

Hay fever is already the curse of summer for around a quarter of people in the UK, but a new report claims that by 2030 one in two people living in towns and cities could be suffering from the illness. According to Professor Jean Emberlin, director of the National Pollen and Aerobiology Unit at the University of Worcester, who wrote the Hay Fever Health Report commissioned by Kleenex, 39 per cent of the UK population could succumb to the condition by 2030, affecting as many as 32 million people.

Otherwise known as allergic rhinitis, hay fever is caused when the body's immune system overreacts to pollen, an otherwise harmless substance, producing histamines which in turn cause the symptoms that can plague sufferers throughout the summer months.

The symptoms of hay fever are very similar to those you get when you have a cold. The natural reaction is to sneeze, as the body tries to rid itself of the pollen. But if sneezing fails, the pollen causes an allergic reaction and releases histamines which inflame the lining of the throat, nose and eyes. This causes a runny nose, sore and itchy throat and eyes and even pain in the sinuses as they become congested by the increased mucus. As a result of these symptoms, sufferers can find it difficult to concentrate, and sleep patterns can be disturbed too.

Hay fever affects some people much more than others. It has long been seen as a young persons' illness – 38 per cent of UK teenagers suffer from it as opposed to 25 per cent of the general population – and young sufferers tend to grow out of it as they get older. But this situation may be changing as the condition is affecting greater numbers

of sufferers in middle age or later. Scientists suggest development of symptoms in later life could be triggered by new allergens or an increased pollen load in the air.

According to Professor Emberlin, lifestyle choices play a huge part in our susceptibility to hay fever. She says city living is one of the main culprits, because lack of exercise, lack of sleep and stress can all exacerbate the symptoms. Professor Emberlin explained: 'If you are stressed, then your body will produce more of the stress hormone cortisol. This has all sorts of effects on the body, including on the immune system, so it will tend to make your hay fever symptoms worse.'

Urban lifestyles are just one factor. Air pollution from vehicle exhaust fumes also plays a significant part, both directly and indirectly. Professor Emberlin explains that certain pollutants will stop the body from ridding itself of the allergens as effectively as it normally would. She said: 'Nitrous oxides will slow down the beating of the cilia so that allergens will stay in the respiratory tract, and also certain air pollutants will affect the permeability of the membrane so they will leak into the lining of the respiratory tract more easily.'

The increased sunlight and dry hot summers resulting from climate change will affect our susceptibility to hay fever since photochemical smogs will become more frequent and intense, exacerbating pollution and hay fever. But increased pollution will not be the only consequence. According to a new study presented to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, higher temperatures may lengthen the time pollen is produced for certain plants. Estelle Levin from the academy said: 'Longer pollen seasons and high levels of pollen certainly can exacerbate symptoms for people with allergic rhinitis (hay fever) and for those who previously had minimal symptoms.'

Boost your score!

Remember: the exact word you use to fill each gap must appear in the passage. You should not change the form of the word to fit the gap.

EXAM TASK

9

Questions 1–5

Complete the summary below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

Hay fever, or allergic rhinitis, is on the increase in the UK, **1** teenagers and older people alike. Hay fever is the body's allergic reaction to pollen, triggering the release of histamines by the **2** which irritate the lining of the throat, nose and eyes. Symptoms include sneezing, itchy eyes and painful sinuses, which may also disrupt a person's concentration and **3** The rising number of hay fever sufferers is being blamed on the increased pollen load in the atmosphere as well as **4** air pollution, which aggravates the symptoms. Higher levels of sunlight and extreme summers brought on by climate change **5** the pollen season for some plants.