

Preparing for listening: Focus on distractors

- 1 Match each sentence beginning 1-5 with an appropriate ending a-e.
- ① My brother was so scared he couldn't watch the film
 - ② **Although** most critics agreed that the film was her best ever
 - ③ **Although** snow is now unlikely
 - ④ My daughter wanted me to help her with her homework
 - ⑤ **Whereas** in most of his other films he plays the 'baddie'
- a we can expect a certain amount of rain later on.
 - b in this one he's definitely the good guy.
 - ③ **whereas** I didn't find it at all frightening.
 - d I was rather disappointed by her performance.
 - e **but** I told her to ask her mother.

d-
a-
e-
b-

- 2 Now decide on the correct alternative in each of the following interpretations of the sentences in exercise 1. Give reasons for your answers.

The speaker in sentence...

- 1 A was frightened by the film. B was not frightened by the film.
- 2 A loved the film. B was not enthusiastic about the film.
- 3 A says it will probably rain. B says it will probably snow.
- 4 A helped his daughter. B didn't help his daughter.
- 5 A says the actor is the villain. B says the actor is the hero in the film.

b-
b-
a-
b-
b-

The incorrect answers in exercise 2 are typical of the distractors you might find in a Part 1 Listening task. The ideas in them are similar to the information in exercise 1 but not the same. Note the use of contrast linkers, written in **bold**.

Listening:
FCE Part 1

Multiple choice 

You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1-8, choose the best answer, A, B or C.

Don't forget!
In this Part 1 exercise you will hear distractors of the type you met in the Preparing for listening section.

- 1 Listen to this woman talking about an actor. What is her opinion of him?
A He is handsome.
B He is fashionable.
③ C He is rude.
- 2 You overhear this conversation between two friends. What type of film are they going to see?
A an historical drama
③ B a romance
C a thriller
- 3 You hear a conversation in a video hire shop. How long has the customer had the video for?
A one day
B two days
③ C three days
- 4 You hear an actress talking about her performance in a play. How does she feel?
③ A tired
B disappointed
C excited
- 5 You overhear this man talking on the telephone. Who is he talking to?
A an old school friend
③ B a work colleague
C a relative
- 6 You hear a young woman talking to her friend about a film. Why didn't she like it?
③ A It was too slow.
B There was too much violence.
C It was very predictable.
- 7 You hear a woman telephoning a bookshop. What is she doing?
A making a complaint
③ B making a suggestion
C apologizing
- 8 You hear this young man talking on the phone. What does he have in common with his girlfriend?
A They were born under the same star sign.
B They share the same taste in music.
③ C They have the same sense of humour.

Listening: Tapescript

One

I used to think he was so good looking – those sparkling blue eyes and that sexy smile – although now of course the wrinkles have taken over and he's lost it completely. Call me old-fashioned, but I really don't think that somebody of his age should be wearing tight trousers and flowery shirts. It's obscene. And the way he talks to the press! I mean, 'politeness' is just not a word he understands. I'm not surprised they get upset and give him bad reviews.

Two

Man: So, have you decided which film we're going to see, then?

Woman: Well, I really wanted to see the new Fiona Miller film which everyone is raving about.

Man: Oh, please, no! I couldn't stand another costume drama.

Woman: No, this one's very different from her others. She plays the part of an out-of-work spy who decides to turn to crime and begin a life as a jewel thief. But anyway, Katie says it's not her cup of tea, so I'm afraid it's 'get your handkerchief ready for another tear-jerker'. You know the plot already: boy meets girl, girl meets another boy, first boy gets upset – all that kind of nonsense.

Three

Shopowner: I'm afraid I'm going to have to ask you to pay an extra £3.

Customer: Why?

Shopowner: Well, you're only supposed to have the video out for two days: it says on the box – 48 hours only.

Customer: Right, and I took it out on Saturday.

Shopowner: And today's Tuesday, so that's one day overdue. Hence the extra £3.

Customer: But, you're not open on Sundays, so that day doesn't count. Saturday to Monday, one day, and Monday to Tuesday, two days.

Shopowner: I'm very sorry, sir, but that's not how we work.

Four

Drained, darling, absolutely drained. And have you read what the critics wrote about it? I don't know how anyone could say it was 'disappointing'. I mean, OK, so it's not the most exciting part I've ever had to play, but I gave it my all, absolutely everything. One look at my face will tell you just how utterly exhausted I am. I could sleep for a week.

Five

What do you think we should get him? ... An atlas! That's not very much ... I know he's interested in geography, but he's been with the company for nearly 25 years ... huh ... I really don't think an atlas would express our appreciation for all he's done for the firm. He's been like a father to us all ... bah ... I don't know, something that will remind him of us in his retirement, something he can use every day. How about a palm top or something?

Six

Man: What was it like?

Woman: Oh, don't ask. I certainly wouldn't recommend it to anyone.

Man: Too violent for you, was it?

Woman: Quite the opposite. I mean, at first there was

the usual dose of gratuitous violence – basically what you'd expect from that type of film, and partly why I went to see it. After that, though, not a great deal happened. From what I can remember – when I wasn't falling asleep, that is – the script seemed to focus on an analysis of the protagonist's inner self.

Man: A kind of 'non-action film', then.

Woman: Exactly.

Seven

Hello, yes, it's about a book I bought in your shop last week. A Katharine Adams novel. I just wanted to point out that there were one or two pages missing ... No, no, there's really no need to apologize. I mean it's not as if it was the last page or anything. And I got the gist of what was happening without the pages. I just thought you ought to know so you can check the rest of your stock, or talk to the publishers or something ... That's OK ... Yes, pages 60 to 64 ...

Eight

Well, we were born in the same month, but I'm a Leo, as you know, whereas her birthday's at the beginning of July, which makes her a Cancer. I don't know if that's good or bad. We certainly seem to laugh at the same things; the same jokes, the same comedy programmes ... Sorry? ... Oh, next Friday. We're going to a jazz concert, although I can't say it's my favourite type of music. She's really into it, and she wanted me to go, so ...