

Transcript & Vocabulary for Listening Test #4

This is listening test #4.

Remember that you can find the transcript to the dialogues in today's listening test as well as the vocabulary from the test on my website www.accelerateenglish.com/podcast

Dialogue #1

Out of the blue = without warning; unexpectedly

- My best friend from high school called me out of the blue yesterday just to say "hi". I hadn't heard from him in years.

To be caught off guard = to be surprised with a situation that you didn't expect

- At the end of today's class, my teacher asked me to repeat what we had learned in the lesson. I was caught off guard and couldn't remember much.

To be out of the loop = to not have updated information

- I don't know what my ex-wife is doing these days. We don't talk anymore so I'm out of the loop.

To fill someone in = to provide someone with updated information

- I missed the meeting this morning, but my coworker filled me in.

1st time

Was the speaker expecting the news that he heard?

I just learned that my best friend is moving abroad. You know, you'd expect to hear something about that kind of decision well in advance, but it was entirely out of the blue. I was completely caught off guard when he told me. Apparently, he's been planning this move for months, but I've been out of the loop. He just filled me in yesterday and he's leaving next week.

2nd time

Was the speaker expecting the news that he heard?

I just learned that my best friend is moving abroad. You know, you'd expect to hear something about that kind of decision well in advance, but it was entirely out of the blue. I was completely caught off guard when he told me. Apparently, he's been planning this move for months, but I've been out of the loop. He just filled me in yesterday and he's leaving next week.

3rd time

Was the speaker expecting the news that he heard?

I just learned that my best friend is moving abroad. You know, you'd expect to hear something about that kind of decision well in advance, but it was entirely out of the blue. I was completely caught off guard when he told me. Apparently, he's been planning this move for months, but I've been out of the loop. He just filled me in yesterday and he's leaving next week.

Answer: no, it was entirely out of the blue so he was caught off guard

Dialogue #2

To cost an arm and a leg = to be expensive

- My trip to Australia cost an arm and a leg. All my savings are gone.

To my relief = a way of introducing good news after being worried about something

- I thought I had lost my passport, but to my relief, it was just in my jacket pocket.

To be worth every penny = to have excellent value for the price that you paid

- My mattress was expensive but it's worth every penny. I've never slept so well in my life.

It's a small price to pay = a way of saying that the price or inconvenience of doing something is worth it from the result

- I always buy travel insurance when I go abroad. It's a small price to pay to know that my expenses will be covered if something happens to me while I'm traveling.

1st Time

Is the speaker happy with his investment in writing classes?

I signed up for a creative writing class and I've already attended three times. The class costs an arm and a leg, as the instructor is well-known in the world of writing. Actually, I was quite hesitant to risk making such a big investment in the classes but to my relief it's been worth every penny. I can already feel a significant improvement in my structure and use of language. There's been a lot of homework, which I find very time consuming, but it's a small price to pay to get significant results.

2nd Time

Is the speaker happy with his investment in writing classes?

I signed up for a creative writing class and I've already attended three times. The class costs an arm and a leg, as the instructor is well-known in the world of writing. Actually, I was quite hesitant to risk making such a big investment in the classes but to my relief it's been worth every penny. I can already feel a significant improvement in my structure and use of language. There's been a lot of homework, which I find very time consuming, but it's a small price to pay to get significant results.

3rd Time

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Answer: yes, it's been worth every penny and it's a small price to pay to get significant results

Dialogue #3

To be into (something) = to enjoy something as a hobby or interest

- I'm into adventure movies, but I'm not into horror movies

To be a big fan of (something) = to like something

- I'm a big fan of classical music but I'm not a big fan of country music.

It isn't my cup of tea = to not be interested in something as a hobby or interest

- Camping outdoors isn't my cup of tea. I don't like dealing with all of the bugs.

Something doesn't do much for me = to not enjoy something

- Cooking doesn't do much for me. I prefer to order food in from a restaurant.

1st Time

Which sport does the speaker dislike?

I'm into watching all kinds of sports, especially soccer and basketball. Even golf appeals to me, despite its reputation for being pretty boring to watch at times. I'm not a big fan of tennis though. It just isn't my cup of tea. Originally baseball didn't do much for me either, but I've found a new appreciation for it and enjoy watching the odd game on TV.

2nd Time

Which sport does the speaker dislike?

I'm into watching all kinds of sports, especially soccer and basketball. Even golf appeals to me, despite its reputation for being pretty boring to watch at times. I'm not a big fan of tennis though. It just isn't my cup of tea. Originally baseball didn't do much for me either, but I've found a new appreciation for it and enjoy watching the odd game on TV.

3rd Time

Which sport does the speaker dislike?

I'm into watching all kinds of sports, especially soccer and basketball. Even golf appeals to me, despite its reputation for being pretty boring to watch at times. I'm not a big fan of tennis though. It just isn't my cup of tea. Originally baseball didn't do much for me either, but I've found a new appreciation for it and enjoy watching the odd game on TV.

Answer: he isn't a big fan of tennis. It isn't his cup of tea.