

Listening Practice #4

Comprehension Questions

You'll hear three speakers talking about an event that they attended. Answer the question for each speaker below:

Speaker 1: What two unexpected things happened at the festival?

Speaker 2: What does the speaker plan to do in the future?

Speaker 3: What did the speaker do successfully without preparation?

Vocabulary and Phrases

Speaker 1

Head out: to leave or depart for a destination

- We'll **head out** early to beat the traffic.

Show up: to arrive at a place

- He **showed up** late to the meeting and missed the intro.

Get off to a rocky start: to begin with problems or difficulties

- Their relationship **got off to a rocky start** but improved over time.

Last minute: refers to something happening at the latest possible time before a deadline or event, often unexpectedly or with little time to prepare.

- She booked her flight **last minute** and barely made it to the airport on time

Buzzing: full of excitement or energy

- The café was **buzzing** with people during the lunch rush.

Catch up: to talk with someone you haven't seen in a while and share news

- Let's grab coffee next week and **catch up** properly.

Hang around: to stay in a place without doing much

- We **hung around** the mall until the movie started.

Turn out: to happen in a particular way, often unexpectedly

- The hike **turned out** better than I expected despite the rain.

Speaker 2

Check out: to look at or visit something interesting

- You should **check out** the new exhibit at the science museum.

Bring (something) to life: to make something feel vivid, exciting, or real

- The actor's performance **brought the character to life**.

Steal the show: to attract the most attention or praise in a performance

- The youngest dancer **stole the show** with her energy.

Drum up: to generate or increase interest or support

- They're trying to **drum up** donations for the animal shelter.

Pitch in: to help out or contribute effort

- Everyone **pitched in** to clean up after the event.

Pick up steam: to gain momentum or become more active

- The campaign **picked up steam** after the viral video.

Speaker 3

Bring back memories: to cause someone to remember past experiences

- That song always **brings back memories** of summer camp.

Drag on: to last longer than expected and feel tedious

- The meeting **dragged on** for over two hours.

Hit up: (Informal) to go to a place or contact someone

- Let's **hit up** that new taco place after work.

Get roped into: to be persuaded or pressured into doing something

- I **got roped into** helping with the school fundraiser.

Catch (someone) off guard: to surprise someone when they're not expecting it

- The sudden question **caught me off guard** during the interview.

Pull (something) off: to succeed in doing something difficult

- He **pulled off** the presentation despite the technical issues

Transcripts

Speaker 1:

Last weekend, I headed out to a music festival with some friends. We showed up early to grab good spots near the stage, but things got off to a rocky start when one band canceled last minute. Still, the crowd was buzzing, and we danced the night away. I didn't expect to run into my cousin there, but we ended up hanging around together and had a lot of time to catch up. It turned out to be a blast.

Speaker 2:

Last night, I checked out a community play at the local theatre. I didn't expect much, but the cast really brought the story to life. One actor stole the show with his comic timing. I chatted with the director afterward, and it turns out they're trying to drum up support for future productions. They need financial donations so I'm going to pitch in. It's nice to see that the arts are picking up steam around here.

Speaker 3:

I went to my daughter's graduation last week to watch her receive her college degree. The ceremony dragged on a bit, but when she finally walked across the stage, we all got emotional. Afterward, we hit up a nearby restaurant to celebrate. I got roped into giving a toast, which caught me off guard, but I think I pulled it off. It was a proud moment, and I'm glad I didn't miss it.

Answers:

Speaker 1: A band cancelled last minute, and the speaker ran into their cousin.

Speaker 2: She will make a financial donation to support future theatre productions.

Speaker 3: He gave a successful toast.