

Transcript & Vocabulary for Listening Test #7

This is listening test #7.

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

Take on (a job) = accept and start a new job

- I've taken on a job as a waiter at a local restaurant just to earn a little money on the weekends.

Show (someone) the ropes = help someone learn how to do something properly

- When I went to the gym for the first time, I hired a personal trainer to show me the ropes so that I knew which equipment to use and which exercises to do.

Get the hang of (something) = to get more familiar and better at doing something new with practice over time

- When I started speaking French, I was really slow but now I'm getting the hang of it. I've become a lot more fluent.

A snowball effect = a process where the results help the process improve and become more powerful over time

- Meeting new friends in this city has created a snowball effect for me because I eventually meet their friends, which results in even more friends for me, so I can grow my friend network quickly.

Has the speaker gotten better at making sales on the phone?

I recently took on a new job at a call center, where I have to call people and try to sell them one of the company's services. I was terrible at first but luckily some of my more experienced co-workers have shown me the ropes and now I feel like I'm getting the hang of it. The more sales I make, the more confidence I have with my calls, which helps me make even more sales so it's a bit of a snowball effect.

Answer: Yes, he is getting the hang of it and it's become a bit of a snowball effect

Dialogue #2

Splurge on (something) = to spend a lot of money on something unnecessary that makes you happy

- Sometimes I splurge on some nice clothes to treat myself for working hard.

See eye to eye about (something) = to agree about something

- My roommate and I don't see eye to eye about parties in our apartment. I like to host parties, but he doesn't want them here.

Talk (someone) into (something) = to convince someone to do something

- I originally didn't want to go to the casino, but my friends talked me into it, so I joined them.

Buy into (something) = to accept an idea or plan because you think it will be good

- Our house is too small for our family. I'm going to recommend moving to a bigger one. I hope my family buys into it.

Did the speaker convince his wife about buying a boat?

I have always wanted a boat, and I know they're expensive but sometimes you have to splurge on things that make you happy. The problem is that my wife and I don't see eye to eye about it and she thinks it would be a waste of money. I tried to talk her into it by saying how we could save money on trips by sailing ourselves instead, but she didn't buy into it.

Answer: No, he tried to talk her into it, but she didn't buy into it.

Dialogue #3

An uphill battle = a situation where success is difficult to achieve

- I'm trying to lose weight but it's an uphill battle. Every time I lose 5 pounds I gain it all back the next week.

Foot the bill = to pay for the full cost of something for other people (instead of dividing the cost)

- Whenever my team goes out for dinner together, our coach always foots the bill.

Find the middle ground = to find a compromise that is good for both sides in a conflict or negotiation

- I am negotiating my employment contract with my new company, and we have different perspectives about salary, but I think we can find the middle ground and reach an agreement.

Work (something) out = to find a resolution to a conflict or negotiation that both sides can accept

- Although my client and I had different interests, eventually we were able to work something out.

Has the speaker found a resolution to the conflict with his neighbour?

I've been trying to negotiate with my neighbour about putting up a new fence between our properties, but it's been an uphill battle. I thought that dividing the cost of the fence so that we each pay half was fair, but they want me to foot the bill. I am hoping that we can work something out because it would be great to have a fence, but they have to be willing to find the middle ground.

Answer: No, not yet, but he is hoping that they can work something out