

Transcript & Vocabulary for Listening Test #3

This is listening test #3.

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

To blow someone away = to strongly impress someone

- The magician blew us away with his amazing magic tricks.

To rub someone the wrong way = to annoy someone without intending to

- She rubbed me the wrong way when she kept asking me questions while I was trying to work

To second guess yourself = to have doubts about your original opinion

- I quit my job last week but I'm already second guessing myself. It might have been a mistake.

To make the right call = to make the right decision

- You made the right call by taking the subway today. Traffic was terrible!

1st time

Is the speaker confident about his decision regarding the job applicant?

I interviewed someone for the office manager position a few days ago, and I must say that his qualifications blew me away, having worked in some extremely successful companies over his 30-year career. However, for some reason he seemed to think jeans were appropriate attire for the situation, which rubbed me the wrong way, so I ended up saying no. The problem is that I'm second guessing myself now, but it's too late I'm afraid. I hope I made the right call.

2nd time

Is the speaker confident about his decision regarding the job applicant?

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3rd time

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Answer: no, he's second guessing himself now.

Dialogue #2

To be/get off to a rocky start = when a situation has a difficult beginning or has started in the wrong way

- Our flight got off to a rocky start as there was a one-hour delay on the runway.

At the last minute = the latest possible time to do something

- I always postpone doing my taxes and submit them at the last minute because I hate doing them.

To cut someone some slack = to not judge or criticize someone too strongly because of empathizing with them

- My sister is in a bad mood today, but I can cut her some slack because it must be difficult to be 8-months pregnant.

To give someone a break = the same as “to cut someone some slack”

- I didn't get perfect grades in college, but my parents gave me a break because I was also working a job at the time.

1st Time

Is the speaker going to blame the person he hired?

We recently hired someone to redo the floors in our kitchen but it's off to a rocky start. He's cancelled at the last minute twice already, which is delaying the project. It's a big inconvenience to have our kitchen in such a mess. Normally I wouldn't cut him any slack, but to be fair, he's giving us a great price, so I'm willing to give him a break.

2nd Time

Is the speaker going to blame the person he hired?

We recently hired someone to redo the floors in our kitchen but it's off to a rocky start. He's cancelled at the last minute twice already, which is delaying the project. It's a big inconvenience to have our kitchen in such a mess. Normally I wouldn't cut him any slack, but to be fair, he's giving us a great price, so I'm willing to give him a break.

3rd Time

Is the speaker going to blame the person he hired?

We recently hired someone to redo the floors in our kitchen but it's off to a rocky start. He's cancelled at the last minute twice already, which is delaying the project. It's a big inconvenience to have our kitchen in such a mess. Normally I wouldn't cut him any slack, but to be fair, he's giving us a great price, so I'm willing to give him a break.

Answer: no, he's willing to give the person a break (because the person is giving him a great price)

Dialogue #3

To have a blast = to have a great time/experience

- I had a blast at my brother's wedding. The party didn't end until 4am.

To have the time of your life = same meaning as "to have a blast"

- I had the time of my life when I was in university. It was so much fun every day.

A drawback = a disadvantage

- One drawback of playing sports is the risk of injury.

Aside from that = other than that (a way of excluding one detail from your main point)

- Aside from the noise, I like living in the city.

1st Time

Did the speaker have a good experience at the wedding?

I had an absolute blast at the amusement park Fun World last Saturday. It was my first time there and it made quite the impression on me. The only drawback was that we were outside all day and it was intensely hot, but aside from that, my wife and I had the time of our lives.

2nd Time

Did the speaker have a good experience at the wedding?

I had an absolute blast at the amusement park Fun World last Saturday. It was my first time there and it made quite the impression on me. The only drawback was that we were outside all day and it was intensely hot, but aside from that, my wife and I had the time of our lives.

3rd Time

Did the speaker have a good experience at the wedding?

I had an absolute blast at the amusement park Fun World last Saturday. It was my first time there and it made quite the impression on me. The only drawback was that we were outside all day and it was intensely hot, but aside from that, my wife and I had the time of our lives.

Answer: yes, he had an absolute blast and his and wife and he had the time of their lives