Transcript & Vocabulary for Listening Test #1

This is listening test #1.

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

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Dialogue #1

I bet (that)… = to be very confident that something is true

- "I bet he'll be late as usual"

I doubt (that)… = to be very confident that something is not true

- "I doubt he'll be on time"

Must = a modal to express confidence that something is true at the moment without knowing for sure

- "Everyone is wearing heavy jackets. It must be cold outside."

What's going on = what's happening

- "I don't know what's going on"

What does the speaker confidently think is not going to happen?

> I just heard that our flight is now delayed. I bet it's the weather. It's snowing a lot outside. It's supposed to keep snowing heavily for the next two hours so I doubt we'll be departing any time soon. I'll ask someone at the gate for more information. They must know what's going on.

Answer: he confidently thinks "departing any time soon" is not going to happen (from the phrase "I doubt we'll be departing any time soon")

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Dialogue #2

…would be ideal = expressing a preference in an indirect way

- "If you could come here at 3pm, it would be ideal"

Preferably = a way of introducing your preference

- "I'd like to travel somewhere, preferably a place with nice beaches"

Beggars can't be choosers = if you are in a desperate situation you should accept anything you are given without complaining, even if it's not exactly what you want

- I needed a car for my trip, and my brother agreed to lend me his car. It's not very big, but beggars can't be choosers"

Imperative = very important

- "Wearing a seatbelt is imperative for your safety"

Which factor is most important for the speaker with regard to a new job?

> I'm looking for a new job these days. Something that provides 8 hours a day would be ideal, preferably morning and afternoon but I realize that beggars can't be choosers. On the other hand, a minimum salary of $40k a year is imperative. I can't live on any less.

<u>Answer</u> = he thinks that a minimum salary of $40k a year is the most important factor (from the phrase "a minimum salary of $40k a year is imperative")

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Dialogue #3

<u>While</u> = a conjunction to link two contrasting or opposite points

- "While I like watching sports, I don't like playing them"

<u>To be nothing to write home about</u> = not impressive

- "the hotel that we stayed at was nothing to write home about"

<u>All things considered</u> = a way to introduce an overall opinion after thinking about different factors

- "The story was kind of predictable, but the acting was very good, and it had a good ending. All things considered, I liked the movie"

<u>I'd rather</u> = a way of expressing a preference

- "I'd rather eat pizza than pasta tonight"

What was the speaker not impressed with at the restaurant?

We tried the new Italian restaurant that opened on fourth street. <u>While</u> the interior design was nice and the service was better than average, the food <u>was nothing to write home about</u> compared to the delicious cuisine I was expecting for their prices. <u>All things considered, I'd rather</u> go elsewhere next time we want Italian.

<u>Answer</u>: he was not impressed with the food (from the phrase "the food was nothing to write home about")