

Listening Part 1

1. I really like this apartment, but it is way out of my rent price range. What do you think I should do?
2. Should more young people be encouraged to follow their dreams regardless of the job prospects?
3. Could you give me directions to Jenny's house?
4. How was your blind date last night?
5. How was your flight to Denmark?
6. Are you coming to the lake with us this weekend? It will be fun!
7. I am thinking of applying for a summer internship in France.
8. I am afraid that something happened to James, he has not called me back all week.
9. I would like to book two tickets for the 9 pm screening.
10. James lives so far away from work. How does he get there every day?

Listening Part 2

Anna: Hello, you have called Planet fitness, my name is Anna, what can I help you with?

Client: Good morning, I am interested in joining your gym and I would like some information about the group programmes.

Anna: Of course! Is there a specific programme you are interested in or a type of exercise?

Client: I am interested in the pilates classes and maybe if you have a suggestion on another group class. I am trying to lose some weight and my doctor advised me to do some form of exercise.

Anna: The pilates class is a great way to lose some weight and have fun, our group programmes are created by specialists in gymnastics and every class lasts one hour and fifteen minutes, including a break for water and rest. We offer the group class three times a week: on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 7pm. I would advise you to make a booking a few days before the class, to be able to attend. Every class has a maximum capacity of ten people.

Client: Well that could work for me since I work until 5 pm during the week. Do I need to bring my own equipment for the class?

Anna: You are welcome to bring your own equipment, however if you wish, you can rent the equipment here for 2 euro/ per class. You will need a medium sized towel, a large pilates ball and a pair of weights of your choice.

Client: I do have my own equipment actually, but what about another programme?

Anna: You could either do some aerobics and free weights at the main gym area or we could look at another group class. What do you prefer?

Client: I think I prefer a group class I find it makes working out more tolerable.

Anna: At the moment we offer a TRX group class, which is the fastest way to lose fat in the whole body, Hips and Abs programmes, which focus on the abdominal and leg area and the yoga class which is good for physical and mental balance.

Client: I was planning to do another intense workout class, but the yoga sounds fun. Which days is it on?

Anna: Yoga is a great way to relax and focus, as well as strengthen the entire body and increase flexibility. If you wish to do the pilates class, it will be a good second option. I think that two intense classes might tire you out. The class is scheduled on Tuesdays at 9 pm and Saturdays at 10am. Sometimes on Saturdays we move the class outside and practice yoga at the park.

Client: That sounds dreamy! I think you convinced me. Do you have a monthly subscription?

Anna: We have a monthly subscription of £49.99 , where you can attend as many group classes as you like and use the main gym area for the whole month. If you only want to do the group classes, it would be £39.99 per month and you also get two complimentary spa treatments of your choosing.

Client: Hmm I see, I do not think I have the time to come to the gym daily, maybe just the classes would be enough. The spa treatments sound great. What time do you close on weekdays?

Anna: We are open every day from 6 am to 11pm, except for Saturdays when we close at 6pm.

Client: Oh, alright then I can come by after work and sign up! Thank you very much, you were very helpful.

Anna: We look forward to seeing you in person. Have a nice day!

Listening Part 3

The night sky has always been a sight to behold, fascinating the curious minds of people throughout time. Even now that we know much more about the wonders of the universe compared to the past, stars are a symbol of hope for all the people that turn their gaze to the skies.

One of the brightest stars in the sky, is actually a massive sun, which has been named Betelgeuse. As one of the ten brightest objects in the sky, it has been observed and recorded for many years, yet now due to new scientific breakthroughs, we finally have a clear picture of that massive giant. Betelgeuse belongs in the Orion galaxy and is one of the biggest stars ever observed. It is estimated that it is 1400 times bigger than our own Sun. To put things into perspective, if Betelgeuse were to replace the Sun in the center of our solar system, its diameter would engulf Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars and potentially reach all the way to Jupiter. Despite the great distance that separates us from this great star, it remains one of the kings of the night sky, overshadowing stars that are much closer, all due to its massive size.

Another interesting fact about this giant, is that it is constantly pulsating, meaning that it expands and contracts in irregular intervals, expelling huge amounts of radiation outwards. That cycle of dimming and brightening up has caused astrophysicists around the world to speculate that Betelgeuse is reaching the end of his lifespan and is about to explode into a supernova, if it has not already exploded. This particular star is 700 light years away from our solar system, meaning it could have exploded years or even decades ago and it would still take centuries before the final light of this monstrous star reached us. Still, if it has, it is certain that, when it becomes visible to us, it will be a spectacular show, unlike anything we have ever seen in the past. Like the greatest show of fireworks, it is estimated that it will be visible for a long time, even years, and it will completely reshape our view of the sky.

The universe is as wondrous and massive as it gets, and we have only been able to scratch the surface of it. There are many things to see, many wonders to explore and an infinite amount of knowledge waiting to be tapped into. We are nothing but tiny specs of dust, trying to make sense in a world of unimaginable scope. Though, that is exactly what should motivate all people to become even more curious about the truth of the world.