

IELTS LISTENING – Laura’s work placement  
S17T3



IELTS Listening Laura’s work placement listening practice test has 10 questions belongs to the Leisure & Entertainment subject.

**TIM:** Hi, Laura – could you spare a few minutes to talk about the work placement you did last summer? I’m thinking of doing one myself ...

**LAURA:** Hi, Tim. Sure.

**TIM:** Didn’t you do yours at an environmental services company?

**LAURA:** That’s right ... It’s only a very small company and they needed someone to produce a company brochure, and I wanted to get some business experience because I’m interested in a career in occupational psychology in a business environment. It was good because I had overall responsibility for the project.



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**TIM:** What kind of skills do you think you developed on the placement? I mean, apart from the ones you already had ... Did you have to do all the artwork for the brochure, the layout, and everything?

**LAURA:** We hired the services of a professional photographer for that. I did have to use my IT skills to a certain extent because I cut and pasted text from marketing leaflets, but that didn’t involve anything I hadn’t done before.

**TIM:** **Q21 Do you think you got any better at managing your time and prioritizing things? You always used to say you had trouble with that..**

**LAURA:** Oh, definitely. There was so much pressure to meet the project deadline. **Q22 And I also got better at explaining things and asserting my opinions, because I had to have weekly consultations with the marketing manager and give him a progress report.**

**TIM:** It sounds as if you got a lot out of it then.

**LAURA:** Absolutely. It was really worthwhile ... But you know. the company benefited too ...

**TIM:** Yes, they must have done. After all, if they’d used a professional advertising agency to produce their brochure instead of doing it in-house, presumably they’d have paid a lot more.

**LAURA:** Oh, yes. I worked it out – **Q23 it would have been 250 percent more.** And I thought the end result was good. even though we did everything on-site. The company has quite a powerful computer and I managed to borrow some scanning software from the university. The new brochure looks really professional; **Q24 it enhances the image of the company straight away.**

**TIM:** So in the long run it should help them to attract clients, and improve their sales figures?

**LAURA:** That’s the idea. Yeah.

**TIM:** Well. all in all, it sounds very positive – I think I will go ahead and apply for a placement myself. How do I go about it?

**LAURA:** It’s easy enough to do because there’s a government agency called STEP – S-T-E-P- that organizes placements for students. You should start by getting their booklet with all the details – I expect you can download one from their website.

**TIM:** Actually, they’ve got copies in the psychology **Q25 department** – I’ve seen them there. I’ll just go to the office and pick one up.

**LAURA:** Right. And then if I were you after I’d looked at it I’d go over all the options with someone ...

**TIM:** I suppose I should ask my tutor’s advice. He knows more about me than anyone.

**LAURA:** One of the **Q26 career officers** would be better, they’ve got more knowledge about the jobs market than your personal tutor would have.

**TIM:** OK ...

**LAURA:** And then when you know what you want you can register with STEP – you’ll find their address in the booklet. And once you’ve registered they assign you to a mentor who looks after your application.

**TIM:** And then I suppose you just sit back and wait till you hear something?

**LAURA:** They told me at the careers office that it’s best to be proactive, and get **Q27 updates** yourself by checking the website for new placement alerts. Your mentor is supposed to keep you informed, but you can’t rely on that.

**TIM:** I don’t suppose it’s a good idea to get in touch with companies directly, is it?

**LAURA:** Not really ... But it is the company who notifies you if they want you to go for an interview You get a letter of invitation or an email from **Q28 personnel departments.**

**TIM:** And do I reply directly to them?

**LAURA:** Yes, you do. STEP only gets involved again once you’ve been made a job offer.

**TIM:** Right ... So once you’ve had an interview you should let your **Q29 mentor** know what the outcome is? I mean whether you’re offered a job, and whether you’ve decided to accept it?

**LAURA:** That’s right. They’ll inform the careers office once a placement has been agreed, so you don’t have to do that.

**TIM:** Is that all then?

**LAURA:** More or less. Only once you’ve accepted an offer you’ll probably have to supply a reference, because the placement will be conditional on that. And that’s something you should ask your **Q30 own tutor** to provide. He knows about your academic ability and also about your qualities, like reliability.

**TIM:** Well, thanks very much for the information – I’m starting to look forward ...

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