

IELTS LISTENING – Winridge Forest Railway Park S47T2



IELTS listening Winridge Forest Railway Park listening practice test has 10 questions belongs to the Leisure & Entertainment subject.

**WOMAN:** For the second in our series about locally-run businesses, we meet Simon Winridge, co-founder of the hugely-successful Winridge Forest Railway Park. Welcome, Simon. Now, perhaps you can begin by telling us a little bit about how it all started.

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Questions 11-13

Choose the correct letter A, B or C.

Win-ridge Forest Railway Park

11 Simon's idea for a theme park came from

☐ A his childhood hobby.

☐ B his interest in landscape design.

☐ C his visit to another park.

12 When they started, the family decided to open the park only when

☐ A the weather was expected to be good.

☐ B the children weren't at school.

☐ C there were fewer farming commitments.

13 Since opening, the park has had

☐ A 50,000 visitors.

☐ B 1,000,000 visitors.

☐ C 1,500,000 visitors.

**MAN:** Well, during the 1970s, my wife, Liz, and I had just acquired 80 acres of sheep-farming land, and we decided to settle down and have children. Pretty soon we had a daughter, Sarah, and a son, Duncan. The place was wonderful for the kids: they particularly loved trains and gradually built up an enormous network of miniature railway track. I began to develop larger-scale models of locomotives but we didn't think anything more of it until I went on a **q11 trip to a theme park** near Birmingham and decided we could do a much better job! So we set up a small one ourselves based on the miniature railway and we opened to the public for just a month that year, 1984 – in July – our driest month – because our children said they **q12 didn't want our guests to have a miserable, wet visit**. I dealt with Park business and Liz carried on with the farm work.

It soon became clear that we were onto a winner. We began to extend the railway track and lay it among more interesting landscape by planting trees, which in turn attracted more wildlife, and by making cuttings through the rock.

Nowadays, we're open all year round and we're pleased to say that Winridge is one of the most popular visitor attractions in the area – with 50,000 visitors a year – **q13 a million and a half people** have been through our doors since we opened.

What is currently the main area of work of each of the following people?

Choose FIVE answers from the box and select the correct letter A-H next to questions 14-18.

Area of work

A advertising

B animal care

C building

D educational links

E engine maintenance

F food and drink

G sales

H staffing

People

14 Simon (the speaker)

15 Liz

16 Sarah

17 Duncan

18 Judith

Questions 19-20

Complete the table below.

Type ONE WORD AND/OR NUMBERS for each answer

| Feature       | Size                                       | Biggest challenge            | Target age group                                  |
|---------------|--|------------------------------|---|
| Railway       | 1.2 km                                     | Making tunnels               |   |
| Go-Kart arena | 19 <div>Type correct answers here</div> m2 | Removing mounds on the track | 20 <div>Type correct answers here</div> year-olds |

All these visitors mean we have had to expand our operation and it's now a truly family concern. I'm near to retirement age so I only concern myself with looking after the **q14 mechanical side** of things – keeping the trains going. Liz now devotes all her energies to recruiting and supporting the large **q15 squadron of workers**, which keep the place running smoothly. We're really pleased that after some years away teaching, Sarah has now returned to the park and makes sure the visitors are kept **q16 fed and watered**, which keeps her pretty busy as you can imagine. Our son, Duncan, has been a stalwart of the park for the last ten years, taking over from me in the **q17 area of construction** – and I'll say a little bit more about that in a moment – and his new wife, Judith, has also joined the team in **q18 charge of retail**. That's becoming a tremendous growth area for us – a lot of people want to buy souvenirs.

**WOMAN:** So have you finished your development of the site for the moment?

**MAN:** Not at all! We're constantly looking for ways to offer more to our visitors. The railway remains the central feature and there's now 1.2 kilometres of the line laid but we'd like to lay more. Because of the geology of the area, our greatest problem is digging tunnels. But we're gradually overcoming that. We're also very pleased with a new installation of the Go-Kart arena which is **q19 120 square metres** in area. Again the problem is the geology; we had to level the mounds on the track for safety reasons. We wanted to enable **q20 5-12year olds** to use the go-karts. And the main attraction here is the Formula 1 Kart. We've known fights to break out over who gets it! And then finally to our most recent development which is the landscaped...

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