

LISTENING COMPREHENSION C1

Task 1 INTERNET BROWSERS.

You will hear a talk from a programme about internet browsers. Read the statements below and choose the right answer. You will hear it TWICE.

1- The European Commission:

- a) made a decision about internet browsers 10 years ago.
- b) took a long time to make a decision.
- c) made a ruling against Opera browsers.

2- The European Commission criticised:

- a) the Internet Explorer browser.
- b) The Windows operating system.
- c) Microsoft's policy.

3- As a result of the European Commission's decision:

- a) Internet Explorer can be downloaded.
- b) other browsers can be bought.
- c) other browsers can be downloaded.

4- Another consequence for consumers is that:

- a) Internet Explorer will be updated.
- b) using Firefox means more development on the web.
- c) a greater variety of browsers means more development.

5- Microsoft will:

- a) lose money due to this decision.
- b) definitely lose control over its customers only in Europe.
- c) lose some control over its customers.

Task 1 Internet Browsers

KEY

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TRANSCRIPT

Listening Nº 1 Internet Browsers

(Man) About ten years ago, Opera, which is a Norwegian company that makes its own web browser, complained to the European Commission about Microsoft and the fact that Microsoft includes Internet Explorer, its own browser, bundled into Windows, that if you buy Windows then you find Internet Explorer is already there, already set up; and they complained that this was anti-competitive.

It's taken an enormously long time for the European Commission to grind this out, but .. it's finally determined... it had determined that it didn't like this, that it was anti-competitive, that it didn't create an open market for browsers, the Competition Commissioner said it was rather like going to a supermarket and finding there was only one brand of shampoo to buy.

They've now got a decision which allows people who are using Windows XP, Vista or Windows 7, that will be presented with what's called a "Ballot screen", which will show about a dozen different browsers that people can download and use instead of Internet Explorer.

(Woman) So, it's a real "David versus Goliath" moment here, with the little guys winning their battle, but what difference will it make to consumers?

(Man) Well, for consumers, it should mean that people will be using a different browser, and there are definitely benefits to that. A big problem in the early part of the 2,000's was that Internet Explorer was the most dominant browser, and because there wasn't any real competition from other browsers, development on the web pretty much died... er, Internet Explorer just sat on it and killed it.

And it was only really with the launch of Firefox, which is a free alternative browser, that things really started hotting up, people started developing things for it, things that really changed, we've got things like Google Maps and so on. And that's made a big difference... so for consumers, they'll start to see more choice, which actually means you're more secure, because a lot of the sort of scams, a lot of the what are called "drive-by downloads" which are security exploits against browsers, a lot of those are targeted at Internet Explorer; so, you see more security you get more choice and actually it should mean that the web becomes something which is much more standard spaced.

(Woman) But it all goes back to Microsoft in the end, I mean, how damaging is this for them? Or will this not really make a dent?

(Man) It's not damaging in the sense that it's not (sic) taking money away from them directly, but it takes some of their control over what they were able to make people go to and where they were able to make people look at, it takes some of that away from them. And it means that they can't rely, at least in Europe, on being able to drive things on the web in the way they want to simply by what they include in Internet Explorer. They now have to think rather differently about what it is that the web does and how they interact with the web, certainly in Europe.

Task 2 THE ETHICIST.

You will hear a talk from a programme about legal and ethical issues. Read the statements below and choose the right answer. You will hear it TWICE.

1. The first female speaker

- a. wonders whether her friends' actions are legal.
- b. says her friends like to take pictures of comical situations.
- c. is concerned that personal data might be included within the captions.

2. The male speaker in reply

- a. dismisses these students' behaviour as a stress-coping technique.
- b. demands more safeguards should be taken.
- c. explains that patients are not really likely to recognise themselves.

3. Also, he

- a. seems to be an expert counsellor in medicine.
- b. has resorted to other people for their opinion and information.
- c. establishes a difference between punch lines and cartoons.

4. The underlying consequence of these acts is that they

- a. might lead to an improvement in patient - doctor relationships.
- b. have prompted several medical schools to consider these issues more deeply.
- c. might develop a tendency in soon-to-be doctors to overlook their patients' humanity.

5. As for the second issue, the female speaker

- a. asked her father-in-law to pay for her car repair.
- b. told him she would give him his money back.
- c. wished she hadn't been told about it.

6. According to the reply,

- a. there would be no problem in asking the shop to charge the bill to her own account.
- b. she should ask someone else for help.
- c. what is shocking is the reason why she told him off.

Task 2 THE ETHICIST. KEY

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LISTENING N° 2. With The Ethicist, I'm Randy Cohen.

Letter number 1

Some of my [Facebook](#) friends are medical students who post cellphone pictures of patients with what these friends believe to be comical maladies, with captions like “A 5-foot-9 Hispanic male walks into a bar . . .” under a picture of a patient with a piece of rebar piercing his abdomen. The postings don’t include faces or names but still seem questionable. Doesn’t this violate patient privacy? NAME WITHHELD, NEW YORK

Were these soon-to-be doctors engaging in such gallows humor only among themselves, it might be a harmless way to cope with deeply disturbing situations. But although these med students rightly strive to disguise their human punch lines — no, sorry, patients, patients — that is insufficient. It is essential that those photographed are not identifiable to others, of course, but it is also important that the patient does not recognize himself online. A doctor should not embarrass a patient or otherwise add to his discomfort, a likely outcome should the patient encounter such a posting. The chances of that happening increase as the injuries depicted grow more grotesque and less commonplace. How many 5-foot-9 Hispanic males are impaled with reinforcing rod? It will not improve the doctor-patient relationship when that Facebook image goes viral and the latter learns that the former treats him like a cartoon.

A doctor that I consulted acknowledges that battlefield humor can be a benign response to harrowing circumstances but tells me in an e-mail that “public displays of such humor on the Internet, along with photos that even if not identified could be identifiable, is inappropriate and unprofessional.”

There is a deeper problem. Rather than simply giving doctors sufficient emotional distance to function effectively, this sort of horsing around might harden their hearts, making them less able to regard a patient as fully human. Such a transformation is not inevitable, but it is worth considering, particularly in a doctor’s training. And that’s what many med schools do, says the doctor I consulted: “At my own institution, our anatomy professor has paid great attention

to this issue right from Year One, when students confront their cadavers in the gross anatomy lab, with a series of well-conceived educational efforts.”

Letter number 2

While visiting from out of state, my father-in-law generously paid for some expensive repairs to my car. After he put away his credit card, he asked if I would mind if he wrote this off as a business expense to his trucking company in another state. Flustered, I scolded him not to tell me if he was going to break the law. Should I have also made the shop refund his money and paid the bill myself?
NAME WITHHELD, OREGON

You are appropriately reluctant to participate in your father-in-law’s little scam, but you’re not in a position to demand much from the repair shop — probably not the removal of a charge from someone else’s credit card. The person you must persuade to let you quit the gang and go straight is your father-in-law himself (assuming he wasn’t just making one of those jokes that isn’t quite a joke). I concede that it can be awkward to challenge someone you hope will pass you the gravy at the next family dinner. (Perhaps your spouse can gently intervene). It is disconcerting that you scolded your duplicitous in-law not for being dishonest, not for involving you in dishonesty, but for telling you what he was up to. You might strive for more than preserving your ignorance in a satisfyingly pristine state

Task 3 WIKILEAKS

You will hear seven extracts from a programme about Wikileaks. Read the statements below and match them with the relevant extract. There can be more than one statement for some of the extracts. You will hear each extract TWICE.

- a) Russian politicians don't mind corruption being discussed in abstract terms.
- b) Conflicting loyalties in times of war.
- c) Biased opinions on the releasing of sensitive information.
- d) Diplomatic problems for a declining empire.
- e) Unsurprising information which had not previously been so openly stated.
- f) Russian politicians feel cornered by some attitudes coming from the West.
- g) Unexpected information about North Korea.
- h) Bribery is widespread in Russia.
- i) The dirty side of diplomacy.

Extract	Statement(s) for each extract
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

Task 3 WIKILEAKS KEY

Extract	Statement(s) for each extract
1	e
2	g
3	d
4	c
5	b, i
6	f
7	a, h

LISTENING N° 3 WIKILEAKS TRANSCRIPT

EXTRACT 1

The Arab states cables that we published on day one were fairly extraordinary, not, not because it would have come as any great surprise to President Ahmadinejad, but just seeing the names of kings and prime ministers attached to these remarks was very stark. I think the North Korea cables, here the Chinese speak very frankly; I think the extent of the detail in the Russian cables is pretty stark too, so I think wherever you look there are things that either we suspected to be the position but had never seen quite so frankly expressed before, or where we had really learned new things.

EXTRACT 2

Well, I for one certainly didn't know that the Chinese were willing to see a reunification of Korea. I was quite startled at that discovery and as I read the papers saying that belligerence was ramping up between North and South Korea, that altered my perception of the events a lot.

EXTRACT 3

It hasn't changed a great deal of substance, apart from some of the revelations on North Korea, but it has shown the United States struggling to get its way in the world, it's shown a super power beginning, I think, what is going to be a long period of relative decline. And you see an American diplomatic machine thrashing around, really struggling in different parts of the world to impose its will; you see American diplomats being remarkably courageous in speaking truth to power, I do applaud that, it's not always the case that diplomats are prepared to tell their capital things that they don't want to hear.

EXTRACT 4

Well, it just shows you the way that everybody takes from these cables the message they want to take, so here we have somebody saying, "the message from these is two-fold: first of all, this is a bad person doing a bad thing; and secondly, oh it says in here

that Iran is a terrible danger, and I agree with that and it is good that we should all know it”.

Oh, we had that kind of split when the Afghan and Iraq war diaries came out as well, when the White House was saying “Oh, it's all dreadful, we deplore all this, and by the way, those things he says about Pakistan being very untrustworthy.... oh, we're right behind that”.

So, I think what you just hear is people mouthing off, frankly.

EXTRACT 5

And I, in my time have had lots of requests from, from our own agencies,.. I remember during the Falklands War they discovered that a distant cousin of mine was an Argentine diplomat, and they asked me if I would approach him, and I said that I was not prepared to ask him to betray his country. That wasn't gathering intelligence, it was asking us to help with the...basic laying the foundations of gathering intelligence, and I, I don't find that illegitimate, it's slightly distasteful, but it's, I'm afraid, part of the grubby business of *Realpolitik*.

EXTRACT 6

I think, if anything, the recent cables will merely increase Russia's, you know, scarcely hidden kind of hostility, I think towards, well not exactly towards the West, but certainly their suspicion that there are forces in the West and in countries like the US, but also in Britain that are kind of out to get Russia, if you like, to kind of destabilize it in some way; um, on the other hand, I think, well the cables from Russia are really rather sensational; of all the Wikileaks revelations, the Russian ones are absolutely kind of gob-smacking. I think they kind of confirm what actually Russians know intuitively, but really never see kind of broadcast on their own state-controlled TV or read in their newspapers which are basically all kind of pro-Kremlin, so it's a kind of revelatory moment. But the other thing to say is, of course, is that most Russians won't find out anything about this whatsoever because this story is being roundly ignored in Russia and it's been eclipsed by Russia's 2018 World Cup triumph.

They are pretty unembarrassable, but I think what is damaging for the Russian government is the sheer level of detail; it's not merely allegations of corruption, I mean...

EXTRACT 7

...that Dimitri Medvedev as Russia's President and Vladimir Putin....they're happy to talk about corruption as a kind of abstract metaphysical concept, what they're less happy about is seeing very senior US diplomats detailing how exactly the system works, and how the system works is that

Russia's intelligence agencies, its interior ministry, its police, prosecutors, Kremlin officials, are all involved in this kind of network, if you like, of, of kind of sleaze; and if you're a business in Moscow, for example, if you're someone who has a large corporation, you have to pay bribes. If you don't pay bribes, then you risk losing your business or imprisonment, and it's a very depressing picture, but speaking as someone who's been living in Moscow for four years, I think it's entirely accurate...