

# Listening Skills – a fun exercise to discover how well you listen

*Thank you to the colleague who recommended this exercise*

Each question will be read twice. The answers are at the bottom of the doc. No peaking!

## Questions

1. A simple arithmetic problem – divide 40 by a half and add 15.
2. In Scotland, is a man allowed by law to marry his widow's sister?
3. Which is the correct English? 9 and 5 is 13 or 9 and 5 are 13?
4. If it takes two men two days to dig two holes, how long will it take one man to dig half a hole?
5. When an ocean-going liner is repainted, it receives 25 coats of paint – primers, undercoats and topcoats. The question is, which coat goes on the first?
6. How many animals of each species did Moses take into the Ark?

Please write your answers below.

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....
5. ....
6. ....

**Check whether anyone got all 6 correct (unlikely).**

- 🚩 Ask what got in the way of them getting the correct answers.
- 🚩 Selective listening will have been having a great time.

## Answers

1. 95. If anyone answered 35, they divided 40 by 2, not a half.
2. If a man has a widow, he's dead and won't be marrying anyone!
3. 9 and 5 make 14, not 13. The correct English is "is" as it is a formula.
4. It is impossible to dig half a hole. As soon as the first spade full of earth has been lifted from the ground, you have a 'whole' hole.
5. The second coat goes on the first. The question wasn't "which coat goes on first?", it was "which coat goes on the first?", which is the second coat.
6. None at all – it was Noah, not Moses.