



## ŽUPANIJSKO NATJECANJE IZ ENGLESKOGA JEZIKA

za 8. razred osnovne škole

ŠKOLSKA GODINA 2023./2024.

### SLUŠANJE S RAZUMIJEVANJEM

**Good morning! This is the listening part of the county competition test, and it has two tasks – Task 1 and Task 2. You will have time to read each task before listening to the recording. You will hear each recording twice.**

**Open your tests to page 2 and look at Task 1.**

(short pause)

#### **Task 1**

**You will hear a recording about Ed Sheeran. For sentences 1 – 6 decide whether they are true or false. Write T for true and F for false. There is an example at the beginning (0). Write your answers (T or F) on the Answer Sheet.**

**You now have 30 seconds to go through the statements. ...**

(30 seconds)

**You will now hear the recording.**

(short pause)

.....

#### **Ed Sheeran**

How lucky do you think celebrities really are? Are they all born with a silver spoon in their mouth? Does everything in their life go smoothly?

No, of course not.

Not a single famous person's life started as a cake walk since their birth. It was all the ups and downs and the courage to face them boldly that made a difference in their life.

Let me give you an example of Ed Sheeran, an English singer, songwriter, guitarist, record producer, and actor.



He was born in Halifax, England. Initially, he tried his hands on the guitar and, thereby, soon began writing songs. Some of his super-hit songs include *Thinking out loud*, *Photograph*, *Shape of you* and *Perfect*.

However, Ed Sheeran's life story is not a bed of roses. Like all others, he too went through some hardship.

At the age of four, Sheeran was already a part of his local church choir. According to his own words, when he started school, he was bullied because of his ginger hair, his stutter and huge glasses. He looked weird to the other kids. Then, he learned to play the guitar and it was the first step on his way out of the difficult situation. However, there were still some who perceived him as "that weird ginger guy with the guitar".

The various musical concerts that his father used to take him to were an inspiration to him. He was greatly influenced by Van Morrison's *Irish Heartbeat*. It is this album that made him choose music as his career. Other maestros who were role models in his early life include Bob Dylan, Paul McCartney, and Eric Clapton.

In 2004, Sheeran released his first collection of songs in the album *Spinning Man*. He clubbed up with his fellow mate Passenger at the age of 15 and started creating beautiful tunes. Next, he shifted to London in 2008 and began\* singing in small places.

In April of 2010, Ed Sheeran attended a poetry night in Los Angeles. After listening to his performance there, the famous American actor and comedian, Jamie Foxx, was impressed and he allowed Sheeran to use his recording studio. Gradually, Sheeran's popularity started growing both offline and online. By this time, Ed Sheeran had become one of the biggest Internet sensations.

One of his most important works is the *Extended Play – No. 5 Collaborations Project*. In this album, he focused on keeping the songs free from girls. This means that the songs are based on car crashing, saying goodbye to someone, etc.

Ed Sheeran's success story is not only limited to the songs that he has made. By the age of 27, he has done a lot. He has launched the Gingerbread Man Records, a profitable record label that you will exclusively find on his YouTube channel.

He has lent his hand in charity as well. In 2015, Sheeran supported the *No Cold Homes* campaign and donated winterproof items to the people struggling with the cold. Furthermore, Sheeran is also a part of the *Band-Aid 40* charity group. Another surprising fact about Sheeran is that he joined the fund-raising campaign of *Stand Up to Cancer*.

Ed Sheeran's life story comes full circle with his string of relationships. Finally, in 2015, he started a relationship with his high school and childhood friend Cherry Seaborn, whom he later married.

(Adapted from: <https://vocal.media/beat/ed-sheeran-s-life-story-how-a-bullied-ginger-boy-became-britain-s-biggest-music-success>)

(Count silently to 5 and then say the following)

**You will now hear the recording again.**



(after the second recording say)

**This is the end of Task 1.**

(short pause)

**Now turn to Task 2.**

(short pause)

**You will hear six reviews of a Netflix series about the iconic Addams family, aptly named “Wednesday”.**

**Match each speaker (A - F) with one statement (1 - 9). There are three statements you will not need. There is an example at the beginning (0). Write your answers (1 – 9) on the Answer Sheet.**

**You now have 30 seconds to go through the questions. ...**

(30 seconds)

**You will now hear the recording.**

(short pause)

.....

### **Wednesday - a Netflix series**

**Speaker A:**

Rating: 9/10

Once in a while, a show comes along for which I go: “Wow, yes, this is what I am paying for. Now give me more!” The season is contained, but short. Ortega's Wednesday is exceptional, you will grow to love her and her supporting cast. The music and scenes set a great tone. And, yes, I am listening to Apocalyptica: *Nothing Else Matters* from episode 3 as I am writing this. The show is dark, with some clever wordplay to give it a lighter tone at times, as a tribute to the older shows, but it's not a comedy. Regardless, it kept me engaged right to the end and I look forward to more. I'd love to see longer seasons. A binge-worthy endeavour on part of Burton and the crew. They have done a masterful job with this series.



**Speaker B:**

Rating: 8/10

Loved the show. Didn't care much for Uncle Fester as he seemed like an unnecessary distraction. There were a few moments where Wednesday's attitude felt tedious, but overall, a perfect interpretation of the wit, ability and fearlessness of her character. Jenna Ortega did a masterful job as the stoic young woman where slight nuances of facial expression were subtle but expressive moments of character development. I enjoyed all the performances and the storyline was engaging enough. I remember watching the original Addams Family TV show and this in-depth story on Wednesday was a worthy performance of those characters and a lot of fun to watch.

**Speaker C:**

Rating: 6/10

I went into this out of nostalgia for both the original Addams Family show and the movie. Sure, some of the characters share the name and aesthetic, but that's about it. It's a show for grade schoolers only packaged in a dark aesthetic. Jenna Ortega as Wednesday was amazing and the saving grace of this show. She killed it every second she was on screen and most of the humour worked because of her delivery. The costume and set designs were striking, but then you have the actual plot and writing. The character development is non-existent. The dialogues are so simplified that they're downright childish. Some of the lines were good, but that was only because of Jenna Ortega's delivery. More often than not the show was simply cringey.

**Speaker D:**

Rating: 10/10

As a lifelong fan of the creepy and strange Addams family, I am very judgmental of every adaptation that comes our way, and I have to say that this mysterious and spooky series is amazing. Jenna Ortega shines as\* the oldest Addams' daughter, almost as\* if she was born to play the role. Ortega's transformation into Wednesday seems effortless, with all the quirks, coldness and mean insults associated with her, but in such expert hands, Wednesday does not seem cartoonish nor one-dimensional. She is portrayed with incredible depth. The supporting cast is amazing as well, especially Emma Myers as Enid - her colourful personality is surprisingly well-matched with our emotionless main protagonist. If you were a fan of Wednesday Addams before, you will love the series. If the character is new to you, this series will make you fall for her. A Gothic murder mystery with a twist of dark humour - there are not enough words to praise this series.



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Speaker E:

Rating: 2/10

This series has a few fatal flaws, but the main one among them is the fact that this series is no different than any modern Netflix series aimed at teens: anxious, unrealistic depictions of being a teenager, a random romantic subplot, nasty girl fights, etc. Wednesday herself has no real personality other than "I'm a goth!" The worst of the worst, however, have to be Morticia and Gomez. I couldn't believe how awful their performance was, watching those two on screen. It's not just physical, either. Luis Guzman plays Gomez's dialogue very strangely, like a raspy whisper. I do not understand this casting choice. Any time those two are on screen I lose all interest in watching. The main storyline isn't compelling enough for me to stay. Yet another series made by Netflix for nostalgia, however, they completely ignore the nostalgic bits that made it popular in the first place. What's the point? There is none.

Speaker F:

Rating: 1/10

I absolutely refuse to accept that this is an 8/10. It just isn't. At the very best it's a 5, because I get that it can be popular with 12- to 16-year-olds. But for me, it's a solid one. I can't believe we're still producing cringe content like this. The story is terrible. Every common cliché you can think of in a teen series – it's got it. The entire theme of the school is a rip-off of Hogwarts. There's no real development with the characters and they lack any depth. It feels like something out of a Disney series with such a superficial story, and over-the-top characters who are way too corny. I seriously cannot see anyone over the age of 13 giving this garbage more than 4 stars. It isn't a good show, it just isn't.

(Adapted from: [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt13443470/reviews/?ref\\_=tt\\_q1\\_2](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt13443470/reviews/?ref_=tt_q1_2))

(Count silently to 5 and then say the following)

**You will now hear the recording again.**

(after the second recording say)

**You now have 1 minute to write your answers on the Answer Sheet.**

(60 seconds pause)

**This is the end of the listening task.**

**You may now move on to do the other parts of the test.**