

ŽUPANIJSKO NATJECANJE IZ ENGLESKOGA JEZIKA
za 8. razred osnovne škole
ŠKOLSKA GODINA 2024./2025.

SLUŠANJE S RAZUMIJEVANJEM

Good morning. May I have your attention, please?

This is the listening part of the County Competition test. There are two tasks in the listening part. You will hear each recording twice and you will have time to read through the items in each task before the recording begins.

While you are listening, write your answers on the task itself. You may cross out your answers, change them, make notes, or underline words if you wish to. After the second listening, you will have **one** minute to check your answers and copy your **FINAL** answers onto the separate Answer Sheet.

You must do this carefully and clearly, and you must not change what you write on your final Answer Sheet in any way. Open your tests at page 1.

Task 1

You will hear a recording about *Goodreads* - a digital platform for readers. Read the statements and choose the correct option: T (True) or F (False). There is an example at the beginning (0). Copy the correct letter (T or F) on the Answer Sheet.

You will hear the recording twice, and there will be a short pause between the two listenings. You can write your answers during both the first and the second listening. After hearing the recording for the second time, you will have **one** minute to check your answers and copy them onto the separate Answer Sheet.

You now have **thirty** seconds to read through the statements in Task 1.

(30 seconds)

You will now hear the recording.

Are you looking for the perfect excuse to dive into a new book this week? *Goodreads* has you covered with its latest updates of buzzworthy releases, based on the feedback from readers worldwide. If you're a book lover, chances are you're already a part of the *Goodreads* community. If not, it's time to join! Founded in January 2007, it is one of the world's largest platforms for book recommendations and reviews, created to help readers discover their next favourite book while deepening their love for literature.

The idea for *Goodreads* came to Otis Chandler, a passionate reader, one afternoon as he was browsing bookshelves in his friend's library. He realised he preferred asking friends for book recommendations over relying on bestseller lists or random reviews. This spark of inspiration led Otis, along with his wife and co-founder Elizabeth, to create a virtual space where readers could share what they were reading and exchange opinions. Working out of their living room, Otis handled the technical side, while Elizabeth crafted the content of the site. Together, they built a platform centred on community-driven book discovery.

On *Goodreads*, you can see what your friends are reading, leave reviews, and create customized "bookshelves" to organize your reading list. The platform also combines multiple algorithms which analyse 20 billion data points to predict which books community members will want to read next. The connections between books are carefully explored by looking at how often they appear on the members' to-read lists and whether they were enjoyed by those same members.

One of *Goodreads'* most unique features is its social aspect. You can join groups dedicated to various interests, participate in discussions, and even join online book clubs. These features foster a sense of belonging and create space for literary conversations. Authors also use the platform to engage with readers, promote their books, and host Q&A sessions, offering fans a chance to connect directly with their favorite writers.

Another highlight is the *Goodreads Reading Challenge*, introduced in order to mark the platform's fifth anniversary. It inspires readers to set annual reading goals. Tracking progress and hitting milestones makes the experience both motivating and rewarding.

Since its acquisition by Amazon in 2013, *Goodreads* has only grown stronger. Integration with Kindle devices lets you sync your reading lists and progress

seamlessly, while partnerships with publishers provide exclusive giveaways and previews of upcoming titles.

Goodreads isn't just a platform - it's a thriving community for book lovers everywhere. It stands as a testament to the power of technology in enhancing our love for books and creating meaningful connections among readers from all walks of life.

(Adapted from <https://www.goodreads.com/about/us>)

You will now hear the recording again.

(After the second reading, say the following:)

You now have one minute to check your answers and copy them onto the Answer Sheet.

(After one minute, say the following:)

This is the end of the first listening task. Now please turn to page 2.

Task 2

You will hear six hotel reviews. Match each speaker (1-6) with the correct statement (A-I). There are three statements you do not need. Write your answers (A-I) on the Answer Sheet.

You will hear the recording twice, and there will be a short pause between the two listenings. You can write your answers during both the first and the second listening. After hearing the recording for the second time, you will have **one** minute to check your answers and copy them onto the separate Answer Sheet. You now have **thirty** seconds to read through the statements in Task 2.

(30 seconds)

You will now hear the recording.

1) **Urban Chic Hotel** offers a visually striking experience with its modern, minimalist decor and numerous architectural details. The lobby is an Instagram-worthy space, combining bold colours with design furniture. However, the emphasis on style occasionally overshadows functionality. The rooms are visually

impressive, but they lack additional storage space and a large-enough wardrobe. The hotel staff are somewhat impersonal. Additionally, the on-site restaurant offers a high-quality, though a bit limited, menu. That said, the hotel's central location is a major plus. Overall, **Urban Chic Hotel** is ideal for travellers who prioritize style and central location.

2) Our stay at **Happy Trails Hotel** left much to be desired. The rooms were big enough but poorly maintained, with peeling wallpaper and an unpleasant smell that was hard to ignore. The supposedly family-friendly activities, like swimming in the kids' pool and running around the playground were unsupervised, which led to a chaotic atmosphere and quite a lot of stress for the parents. The location, though close to popular attractions, was noisy and far from relaxing. Transport services were inconsistent and not according to the schedule, which caused unnecessary confusion. We wasted time sitting in the lobby, trying to catch a ride to the nearest waterpark. There's little to be appreciated about this hotel and I wouldn't recommend it.

3) Located in the heart of Paris, **The Grand Hotel** stands for sophistication and luxury. The historic building boasts a timeless design, with beautiful chandeliers, historical items, and elegant furnishings. Rooms are a perfect combination of classic and modern touches, including spacious marble bathrooms and private balconies from which you can see the Eiffel Tower and the famous art museum d'Orsay. If you want to bring a pet, an additional fee is charged. The restaurant serves typical elaborate French delicacies, paired with an extensive wine and champagne list. There's a list of mouth-watering desserts, including the chef's famous white chocolate croissant and the delicious Parisian small cakes. Whether for business or leisure, **The Grand Hotel** promises an unforgettable stay.

4) Located in the beautiful English countryside, far away from the city bustle, **The Wagging Tail Hotel** is a haven for pet lovers. It features stylish, yet practical, accommodation. Rooms include pet beds, water bowls, and welcome treats for your animal companions. An on-site dog park provides adequate space for pets to stretch their legs, while a grooming station ensures they're pampered during their stay. The on-site restaurant offers gourmet meals for humans and a special menu for pets. Staff are knowledgeable and attentive and will go out of their way, offering to walk your dog if you don't feel like doing it. Additional services include professional pet sitting, a supervised play area, and pet first-aid kits. Perfect for those traveling with pets, this hotel provides comfort for both you and your four-legged friend.

5) Situated in the beautiful surroundings of Canadian coastal mountains, **Green Haven** is a leader in sustainable luxury. The hotel's architecture incorporates natural materials and solar panels, reflecting its commitment to the environment. Rooms feature energy-efficient appliances, and large windows to maximize natural light. The design complements its natural surroundings, creating a peaceful retreat. Guests can dine at the on-site farm-to-table restaurant, which gets the ingredients from nearby farms. Numerous activities, such as guided nature walks and yoga classes in the rooftop garden, enhance the tranquil experience and benefit your mind and body. **Green Haven** offers a unique opportunity to indulge in luxury, while caring for the planet.

6) Despite its reputation, **The Palace Hotel** was a disappointment. The check-in process was chaotic, with staff appearing overwhelmed and disorganized. The rooms, though spacious, showed signs of neglect — stained carpets and filthy shower curtains were unacceptable for a luxury hotel. The much-hyped restaurant failed to impress; our meal was overpriced and uncreative. The service was inconsistent. While some staff were polite, others seemed indifferent to guest concerns, which made the experience frustrating. I expected exemplary service and flawless attention to detail, considering how much we paid. I would not recommend **The Palace Hotel** to anyone seeking a true luxury experience.

You will now hear the recording again.

(After the second reading, say the following:)

You now have **one** minute to check your answers and copy them onto the Answer Sheet.

(After one minute, say the following:)

This is the end of the second listening task.

This completes the listening part of the test.

You may now continue with the other parts of the test.