

ISE II Independent Listening Task

The examiner will read some instructions to introduce the task and will give the candidate some blank notepaper they can use to write notes on if they want to. The candidate may ask for repetition or clarification.

Below is an example from the sample exam:

'You're going to hear a talk about truth and lies. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?'

The examiner will play the recording. After the recording has played once, the examiner will say:

'Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?'

When the candidate has answered the question, the examiner will hand them some notepaper and say:

'Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me what suggestions and advice does the speaker give about how to tell if someone is lying. Are you ready?'

While the recording is playing the candidate can make notes.

After the recording has played for a second time, the examiner will say:

'Now tell me what suggestions and advice does the speaker give about how to tell if someone is lying. You have oneminute to talk.'

Sample audio script

The truth is important, but everyone tells lies sometimes. Even babies learn to deceive from an early age, for example pretending to cry in order to get attention. Even though lying is natural human behaviour in a sense, it's also important to be able to tell the difference between a person who is speaking honestly and one who is telling lies. You don't need a heavy piece of electronic equipment to detect dishonesty. Everyone can be their own 'lie-detector'. There are three types of signs to look out for: speech patterns, general attitude and body language. Firstly, in speech, the liar tends to use overly formal language and to distance themselves, for example by avoiding the personal pronoun 'I'. You should also look out for a person giving you too much detail, or even far too little detail, as they tell their story. You can also tell a lot from a person's attitude. In a conversation about a missing item, for example, an honest person will be furious throughout if they feel they are being accused. They will tend to be enthusiastic and want to help to discover who is guilty. In contrast, you may notice that a dishonest person is less involved in the conversation, becoming defensive and angry only in short outbursts. Another clue is wanting to talk about the event in strict chronological order, always starting from the beginning and never changing the order. Try asking them to relate their story in a different way and they may well get confused. Body language is perhaps the most obvious giveaway. You have probably heard that liars won't look you in the eye, but, in fact they often stare at the speaker too steadily. Another common belief is that people make little nervous movements when they are not telling the truth. But instead you may find that they keep their upper bodies quite still. So look out for a person moving their knee or foot. There are so many small signs, such as blinking your eyes a lot, or putting up physical barriers between yourself and the other person. A classic example of this is rubbing your nose - which effectively hides either your mouth or your eyes. But, of course, these physical reactions can happen naturally as well. Truthful people can feel just as nervous as liars. It is only when you notice a number of these things happening together that you should be suspicious.

Answer key

Gist: Gist: how to spot a liar - various clues (any broadly similar formulation is acceptable).

Clues	Examples
Speech	Formal language, distance self
Attitude in conversation	Less involved, angry in flashes, needs chronological order
Body language	Gaze too steadily, moving knees and feet, blinking, hiding face