

Expressions to help spot right and wrong options in FCE Listening

What expressions are or could be used in FCE Listening to show that the thing the speaker is saying isn't so, and therefore probably isn't the answer?

Without looking below, listen to your teacher read out a typical FCE Listening expression and try to guess whether the answer to the question is likely to be the thing that they mention (A) or something just before or after that (Not A). Hold up the card that matches what you think.

Do the same thing by reading the sentences on the next page.

Check your answers and then play the same game in pairs or groups.

Speaking practice

Start one Not A sentence above and see if your partner can think of a realistic way of completing it, e.g. "You might think that most people like hot weather" "But actually most prefer spring or autumn".



- 1 ..., but for some reason A.
- 2 A is indeed...
- 3 A is not exactly...
- 4 A is still...
- 5 A is supposed to...
- 6 A still hasn't...
- 7 A used to...
- 8 A usually...
- 9 A wise man once said A.
- 10 A would have been welcome.
- 11 A, and even...
- 12 A, and I would continue to...
- 13 A, and it's just as well.
- 14 A, and that is the case.
- 15 A, but actually...
- 16 A, but for some reason...
- 17 A, but it's time to think about...
- 18 A, but that wasn't the case.
- 19 A, but the one that stands out for me is...
- 20 A, but...
- 21 A, which is correct.
- 22 A. Actually,...
- 23 A. And I also...
- 24 A. And that's what she did.
- 25 A. However,...
- 26 A. I meant to say...
- 27 A. I was mistaken,...
- 28 A. In fact,...
- 29 A. In reality,...
- 30 A. My mistake,...
- 31 A. Silly me!...
- 32 A. Sorry,...
- 33 A. Whoops...
- 34 Again, A.
- 35 Although A,...
- 36 Although I didn't expect A,...
- 37 Although I wasn't sure about A,...
- 38 Anyway, A.
- 39 As expected, A.
- 40 As far back as I can remember, A.
- 41 As I said earlier, A.
- 42 As most people think, A.
- 43 As much as I A,...
- 44 As the proverb goes, A.
- 45 As usual, A.
- 46 At first, A...
- 47 But the one that stands out for me is A.

- 48 Despite A,...
- 49 Despite my/ the doubts about A,...
- 50 Due to the weather, A...
- 51 Ever since I was a little girl A.
- 52 He claims that it is A.
- 53 I assumed A.
- 54 I can see why you might think A.
- 55 I expected A and that was the case.
- 56 I expected A but (in fact)...
- 57 I knew A.
- 58 I think A, but just let me check. Yes, I was right.
- 59 I thought A too, then...
- 60 I thought I'd A.
- 61 I'd assumed A.
- 62 I'd expected A.
- 63 I'm afraid A...
- 64 In spite of A,...
- 65 Instead of A,...
- 66 It is commonly thought that A.
- 67 It is well known that A.
- 68 Many people have heard that A, and that is indeed so.
- 69 Most people think A.
- 70 My expectation was not A. but...
- 71 My initial impression was A.
- 72 My philosophy on this is A.
- 73 Rather than A,...
- 74 So, as a result A.
- 75 Sorry but A...
- 76 The consensus is A.
- 77 The plan was A.
- 78 The two options are A and B. The former...
- 79 The two possibilities are A and B. The latter...
- 80 There is a consensus on A.
- 81 Though I had my doubts about A,...
- 82 To start with A,...
- 83 Unfortunately, A...
- 84 Unlike A,...
- 85 We are going to A.
- 86 We are planning to A.
- 87 We intend to A.
- 88 We settled on A.
- 89 We were going to/ were planning to A.
- 90 We were intending to A.
- 91 We would have A.
- 92 You could A.
- 93 You might think that A.



Cards to be cut out and held up

Make a copy of one each for each student.

A

Not A

A

Not A

A

Not A

Suggested answers - *Note that none of these guarantee that is the answer in the exam!*

- 1 ... , but for some reason A – A
- 2 A is indeed - A
- 3 A is not exactly... - Not A
- 4 A is still... - A
- 5 A is supposed to... - Not A
- 6 A still hasn't... - Not A
- 7 A used to... - Not A
- 8 A usually... - Not A
- 9 A wise man once said A. – A
- 10 A would have been welcome. – not A
- 11 A, and even... - A
- 12 A, and I would continue to... - A
- 13 A, and it's just as well. – A
- 14 A, and that is the case. - A
- 15 A, but actually... - Not A
- 16 A, but for some reason... - Not A
- 17 A, but it's time to think about... - Not A
- 18 A, but that wasn't the case. – Not A
- 19 A, but the one that stands out for me is... - Not A
- 20 A, but... - Not A
- 21 A, which is correct. - A
- 22 A. Actually,... - Not A
- 23 A. And I also... - A
- 24 A. And that's what she did. – A
- 25 A. However,... - Not A
- 26 A. I meant to say... - Not A
- 27 A. I was mistaken,... - Not A
- 28 A. In fact,... - A
- 29 A. In reality,... - Not A
- 30 A. My mistake,... - Not A
- 31 A. Silly me!... – Not A
- 32 A. Sorry,... - Not A
- 33 A. Whoops... - Not A
- 34 Again, A. - A
- 35 Although A,... - Not A
- 36 Although I didn't expect A,... - A
- 37 Although I wasn't sure about A,... - A
- 38 Anyway, A. – A
- 39 As expected, A. - A
- 40 As far back as I can remember, A. - A
- 41 As I said earlier, A. - A
- 42 As most people think, A. - A
- 43 As much as I A,... - Not A
- 44 As the proverb goes, A. - A
- 45 As usual, A. - A
- 46 At first, A... - Not A

- 47 But the one that stands out for me is A. – A
- 48 Despite A,... - Not A
- 49 Despite my/ the doubts about A,... - A
- 50 Due to the weather, A... - Not A
- 51 Ever since I was a little girl A. – A
- 52 He claims that it is A. – Not A
- 53 I assumed A. – Not A
- 54 I can see why you might think A. – Not A
- 55 I expected A and that was the case. – A
- 56 I expected A but (in fact)... - Not A
- 57 I knew A. – A
- 58 I think A, but just let me check. Yes, I was right. - A
- 59 I thought A too, then... - Not A
- 60 I thought I'd A. – Not A
- 61 I'd assumed A. – Not A
- 62 I'd expected A. – Not A
- 63 I'm afraid A... - Not A
- 64 In spite of A,... - Not A
- 65 Instead of A,... - Not A
- 66 It is commonly thought that A. – Not A
- 67 It is well known that A. - A
- 68 Many people have heard that A, and that is indeed so. - A
- 69 Most people think A. – Not A
- 70 My expectation was not A. but... –A
- 71 My initial impression was A. – Not A
- 72 My philosophy on this is A. - A
- 73 Rather than A,... - Not A
- 74 So, as a result A. – A
- 75 Sorry but A... - Not A
- 76 The consensus is A. – A
- 77 The plan was A. – Not A
- 78 The two options are A and B. The former... - A
- 79 The two possibilities are A and B. The latter... - Not A
- 80 There is a consensus on A. - A
- 81 Though I had my doubts about A,... - A
- 82 To start with A,... - Not A
- 83 Unfortunately, A... – Not A
- 84 Unlike A,... - Not A
- 85 We are going to A. – A
- 86 We are planning to A. – A
- 87 We intend to A. – A
- 88 We settled on A. – A
- 89 We were going to/ were planning to A. – Not A
- 90 We were intending to A. – Not A
- 91 We would have A. – Not A
- 92 You could A. – Not A
- 93 You might think that A. – Not A