



## IELTS Listening - Expressions which make it easier to spot the answer

*What expressions are used or could be used in an IELTS Listening text to show that the thing the speaker is saying isn't actually so, and therefore probably isn't the answer to the listening task?*

*Without looking below, listen to your teacher read out a typical IELTS 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 you guess it must be.*

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*Do the same thing by reading the sentences below.*

1. A is indeed...
2. A is still...
3. A is supposed to...
4. A still hasn't...
5. A used to be...
6. A usually...
7. A wise man once said A.
8. A, and I would continue to...
9. A, and that is the case.
10. A, but...
11. A, which is correct.
12. A. I meant to say...
13. A. Actually,...
14. A. And I also...
15. A. However,...
16. A. I meant to say...
17. A. I was mistaken,...
18. A. In reality,...
19. A. My mistake,...
20. A. Silly me!...
21. A. Sorry,...
22. A. Whoops...
23. Again, A.
24. Although A,...
25. As expected, A.
26. As I said earlier, A.
27. As most people think, A.
28. As the proverb goes, A.
29. As usual, A.
30. At first, A...
31. Despite A,...
32. Despite the doubts about A,...
33. Due to the weather, A...
34. He claims that it is A.
35. I can see why you might think A.
36. I think A, but just let me check. Yes, I was right.



37. I thought A too, then...
38. I'm afraid A...
39. In spite of A,...
40. Instead of A,...
41. It is commonly thought that A.
42. It is well known that A.
43. Many people have heard that A, and that is indeed so.
44. Most people think A.
45. My initial impression was A.
46. My philosophy on this is A.
47. Rather than A,...
48. Sorry but A...
49. The consensus is A.
50. The plan was A.
51. The two options are A and B. The former...
52. The two possibilities are A and B. The latter...
53. There is a consensus on A.
54. To start with A,...
55. Unfortunately, A...
56. Unlike A,...
57. We are going to A.
58. We are planning to A.
59. We intend to A.
60. We settled on A.
61. We were going to A.
62. We were intending to A.
63. We were planning to A.
64. You could A.
65. You might think that A.

*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".*



### Suggested answers

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

1. A is indeed - A
2. A is still... - A
3. A is supposed to... - Not A
4. A still hasn't... - Not A
5. A used to be... - Not A
6. A usually... - Not A
7. A wise man once said A. - A
8. A, and I would continue to... - A
9. A, and that is the case. - A
10. A, but... - Not A
11. A, which is correct. - A
12. A. I meant to say... - Not A
13. A. Actually,... - Not A
14. A. And I also... - A
15. A. However,... - Not A
16. A. I meant to say... - Not A
17. A. I was mistaken,... - Not A
18. A. In reality,... - Not A
19. A. My mistake,... - Not A
20. A. Silly me!... - Not A
21. A. Sorry,... - Not A
22. A. Whoops... - Not A
23. Again, A. - A
24. Although A,... - Not A
25. As expected, A. - A
26. As I said earlier, A. - A
27. As most people think, A. - A
28. As the proverb goes, A. - A
29. As usual, A. - A
30. At first, A... - Not A
31. Despite A,... - Not A
32. Despite the doubts about A,... - A
33. Due to the weather, A... - Not A
34. He claims that it is A. - Not A
35. I can see why you might think A. - Not A
36. I think A, but just let me check. Yes, I was right. - A
37. I thought A too, then... - Not A
38. I'm afraid A... - Not A
39. In spite of A,... - Not A
40. Instead of A,... - Not A
41. It is commonly thought that A. - Not A
42. It is well known that A. - A
43. Many people have heard that A, and that is indeed so. - A
44. Most people think A. - Not A
45. My initial impression was A. - Not A



46. My philosophy on this is A. - A
47. Rather than A,... - Not A
48. Sorry but A... - Not A
49. The consensus is A. – A
50. The plan was A. – Not A
51. The two options are A and B. The former... - A
52. The two possibilities are A and B. The latter... - Not A
53. There is a consensus on A. - A
54. To start with A,... - Not A
55. Unfortunately, A... – Not A
56. Unlike A,... - Not A
57. We are going to A. – A
58. We are planning to A. – A
59. We intend to A. – A
60. We settled on A. – A
61. We were going to A. – Not A
62. We were intending to A. – Not A
63. We were planning to A. – Not A
64. You could A. – Not A
65. You might think that A. – Not 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**