

全国商务英语专业四级考试样题

听力录音文字稿

The National Test for Business English Majors-Band 4

(Sample Listening Test Transcripts)

Section one

Mark: So John.

John: Yeah.

Mark: You are working on a dissertation for a PhD. That is for an American university?

John: Yeah, that is right. It is a university in San Francisco, California.

Mark: And what is the area?

John: I am studying... It is philosophy but with an emphasis on Buddhist studies, you know, and Buddhist philosophy.

Mark: In any particular country?

John: Well, yeah, I am mainly interested in Thailand even though I live in Japan, you know. I like Thailand's version of Buddhism better.

Mark: Is that Theravada?

John: Yeah. That is right.

Mark: Ok. So are you studying any particular temple or any particular aspect of Buddhism?

John: Yeah. I am doing research on a couple of temples there in Thailand. One is called Suen Mok, which is pretty famous. It has got a very good program for ten-day meditation retreats and they are geared for teaching foreigners meditation – meditation techniques.

Mark: What is the other temple?

John: The other one is north of Bangkok about three hours' bus ride and it is called Tam Krabok.

Mark: Uh-huh.

John: And it is... Well it does different things but one thing it does is it helps addicts recover, you know. It has probably cured about one hundred thousand addicts; mostly heroin or opium addicts, you know, and so I am really interested in how meditation can replace an addiction. You know what I mean?

Mark: Wow! So they are like teaching people to meditate and overcome the problems that caused them to become addicted to drugs?

John: Right. Exactly.

Mark: Wow! Isn't that a wonderful thing! A hundred thousand!

John: Yeah.

Mark: Wow! That is really amazing. You have been to the temple?

John: Yeah. I have interviewed several of the head monks or some of the other people there and it

is just a really, really, to me, an effective way of applying Buddhism, you know?

Mark: Right.

John: To eliminate our addictions and work towards something more significant.

Mark: Right, excellent. That is really... That is great. Like, to use something like that to... That is really good.

John: A real practical form of Buddhism, you know. Buddhism is basically, as I understand it, to try to help people live better lives and things like that and this seems to be a real, you know, obvious way to do it.

Mark: Drug addiction is a big problem in a lot of different countries.

John: Yeah.

Mark: And if they are finding something they can do about, that is really great.

John: Yeah, I agree totally there. And it was a big problem in Thailand. You know, until 1959 opium was legal in Thailand.

Mark: Really?

John: And suddenly they made it illegal and all these people who would take it as a normal part of their life suddenly were illegal addicts.

Mark: Wow!

John: And so this place has really done something that I think is really important.

Mark: What is the name of the temple again?

John: Tam Krabok. It means cave of the "prabok". It is kind of like "telling it like it is" or something like that. Originally it was just a group of monks and they lived in caves.

Mark: Wow!

John: And then they started making a big temple out of it.

Mark: The caves of truth.

John: Yeah. That would be a good way to translate it. (laughs)

<http://englishconversations.org/audio/addiction.mp3>

Section Two

MARK COLVIN: Finally to business and finance on the markets with Di Bain.

DI BAIN: Thanks to Mark.

The number of new homes being built in Australia has risen much higher than forecast.

Home starts across the nation rose by 15 per cent in the December quarter, the biggest rise since 2001.

In real terms builders have started constructing 40,022 new homes in the past three months.

The statistics show housing starts in New South Wales were bigger than all the other states.

Department store owner David Jones put out a big profit result today and revealed it hasn't employed a front line staff member on a full time basis since 2004.

The company's first half profits jumped 10 per cent to just over \$100 million.

David Jones says sales are expected to slow over the next few months as taxpayer handouts and the Government's stimulus dry up.

The World Bank has warned China's facing a big inflation problem.

Its revised up its forecasts for China's gross domestic product from 8.7 to 9.5 per cent this year.

In its quarterly China report the bank says Beijing's renewed focus on structural reforms is good.

It suggested that higher migrant wages could help boost rural incomes and reduce the inequality between rural and city lifestyles.

The Australian share market closed 57 points higher to 4,867 points.

And the dollar's stronger this evening, it's buying 91.8 US cents.

MARK COLVIN: Di Bain, thanks very much.

<http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2010/s2848735.htm>

Section Three

MARK COLVIN: A study of social trends in Australia has shed new light on the impact of the economic downturn. Though Australia suffered only a mild decline the impact on young people was severe. More than half the people who left school in 2008 without matriculating couldn't find full-time work or a place in further study. And the downturn left nearly one in five young people in limbo, neither working full time nor studying.

More than half the teenagers who left school without completing year 12 in 2008 didn't find a full-time job and they didn't get a place in further study. Or more than half the people who left school in 2008 without matriculating couldn't find full-time work or a place in further study.

The report also undercuts the conventional wisdom that Australia rode out the global recession because benevolent employers shared the work around. Part-time work did cushion the blow for women but for the most part not for men.

The report also lent support to the cash handouts made by the Government to stimulate the economy. It shows that even with that boost the retail sector suffered even worse job shedding than in the recession of the early 1990s.

Economics correspondent Stephen Long:

STEPHEN LONG: According to most the Australian job market has been a cause for celebration. In the deepest global recession since the 1930s the unemployment rate here peaked at just 5.8 per cent. And the conventional wisdom is that benevolent employers kept workers on with shorter hours to share the pain.

But a study of social trends by the Australian Bureau of Statistics reveals a far more complex picture.

IAIN CAMPBELL: We've had a number of congenial myths swirling around in the public sphere and I think this analysis throws a bit of cold water on those myths.

STEPHEN LONG: Dr Iain Campbell is a senior research fellow at RMIT and an expert on patterns of employment and unemployment.

IAIN CAMPBELL: It is both good news and bad news. I mean the good news of course is that it shows quite clearly that it's a milder economic downturn than the recessions of the early 90s and the early 80s.

STEPHEN LONG: As you'd expect?

IAIN CAMPBELL: As you'd expect. But I think what's interesting about this analysis is that it shows that it's not as mild as perhaps we have been led to believe; that it's a larger, more complex, more troublesome picture. And the impact of this economic downturn on the labour market might not yet be over.

STEPHEN LONG: Not if you're among the young people who left school as the downturn was hitting and then fell between the cracks. As in past recessions the young have been hit hard and early school leavers especially.

More than half the teenagers who left school without completing year 12 in 2008 didn't find a full-time job and they didn't get a place in further study. All up 19 per cent of people under 25 last year were neither in a full-time job nor studying.

Iain Campbell

IAIN CAMPBELL: What we know from past experience is that this is going to be a long-lasting change in youth labour markets – the shrink in the full-time job opportunities and their replacement by part-time opportunities.

That's not a problem of course if you're a full-time student. But if you're a young person looking for a full-time job, I think the data contains some troubling news.

STEPHEN LONG: Part-time work did cushion the downturn but not as much as the public commentary would imply. For men only a third of the full-time job losses were offset by a rise in part-time work. Most of the full-time jobs simply disappeared, leaving men unemployed.

But female-dominated industries were also hard hit. One of the surprises of the ABS study is that the retail sector fared worse in this mild downturn than it did in the quite severe recession of the early 1990s. In the year to August 2009 nearly 52,000 retail workers lost their jobs, a 4 per cent fall in employment.

IAIN CAMPBELL: It's certainly a surprise to me. I expected the stimulus package to have cushioned employment in retail and yet these figures show that there's a loss in particular of full-time jobs but also even of part-time jobs over that one-year period.

STEPHEN LONG: So what would have happened in the retail industry if we hadn't had the government stimulus payments?

IAIN CAMPBELL: Well, these figures suggest we would have seen an even more dramatic downturn in employment and an even more dramatic loss, in particular of full-time jobs in retail.

STEPHEN LONG: Dr Iain Campbell says Australia has been bedazzled by the headline figures and missed these deeper trends.

IAIN CAMPBELL: We've comforted ourselves with the thought that the distress of the downturn has been mild and it's been shared around perhaps by just everyone losing a few hours in their jobs. But I think what this analysis shows is that we've got to broaden our perspective beyond just unemployment. We've got to look at labour force participation. We've got to look at in particular the shift between full-time and part-time jobs, men and women, different age groups and what's happening.

<http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2010/s2847607.htm>