

ISE I

Sample Independent listening task 2 – Child language learning

Examiner rubric

You're going to hear a short talk about science. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me in a few words what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

The task will play once.

Now tell me in a few words what the talk is about.

Give the candidate some blank notepaper.

Now listen to the talk again. Write down some notes about what you hear, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me six pieces of information about how children learn to speak. Are you ready?

The task will play once.

Now tell me six pieces of information about how children learn to speak.

When the candidate has finished, select four follow-up questions from the list below. Choose four questions which correspond to facts not already reported by the candidate.

Audio script

Babies begin to speak at about one year old. To start with they learn words very slowly. For some time they only know about 50 words mainly words for objects and people, then when they are about 18 months old their vocabulary suddenly begins to grow very fast. They begin to use verbs and adjectives and they may learn as many as 10 new words every day. Some people say that this is because children suddenly recognise what a word is, they realise that each word refers to something in the real world. It is strange that children do not need to hear a word many times. Sometimes they have only heard it two or three times before they begin to use it. By the time they are six years old, children can use about 6,000 words and they can understand about 14,000.

Questions and answers

If the candidate asks, the examiner may repeat the questions once.

What the talk is about: How babies learn language/to speak (any broadly similar formulation is acceptable).

	Fact from recording	Follow-up question
1	Begin speaking at one	When does a baby begin to speak?
2	Learn words slowly	How quickly does a baby learn new words?
3	Knows 50 words at first	How many words does a one year old child know?
4	Knows words for objects and people	What are a child's first words about?
5	Vocab grows fast at 18 months	What happens when a child is about 18 months old?
6	Learn 10 new words a day at 18 months	How many words can an 18 month old child learn a day?
7	Suddenly recognise what a word is/refers to real world	Why does a child's vocabulary suddenly grown at 18 months?
8	Don't have to hear many times	Do children have to hear a word often in order to learn it?
9	Use 6,000 words by the age of six	How many words can a child use at the age of six?
10	Understand 14,000 words by the age of six	How many words can a child understand at the age of six?