

Mohammed took the Duolingo test last week (16-20 March), and scored 115, and he needs to obtain 120.

Liverpool University provided him with the voucher to take the test.

He had internet problems during the test. He emailed Duolingo who wrote back and told him to take the test again, somewhere that has a good internet connection.

Mohammed's experience scared me, and so I am afraid of the test.

### **Listening and writing: Susan had long been dreaming of**

1 taking a vacation, but she and her

2 husband Michael kept postponing it. Finally, they decided on a weekend visit to Ocean City

3 with their two children.

When doing the listening-writing (i.e. dictation) exercises, save the last "listen" (No3) to check at the end.

The Duolingo mobile app is free and has similar questions to the test. This makes using it good, extra preparation.

### **The Duolingo example:**

Public spaces like parks, libraries, and museums are, I believe, important in everyday life. Parks offer a lot like picnics under tall trees, walks along many paths, or space to play games like soccer. I often see children laughing on the playgrounds and people jogging or walking their dogs. Libraries, I think, provide a peaceful atmosphere where people can read, use computers, or join community activities. Museums are different but also valuable, with exhibits and artworks that often include interactive elements to make learning more engaging. These places help people relax, explore new ideas, and connect with others. Whether it's enjoying nature, discovering stories, or learning about the past, public spaces offer something meaningful for everyone.

To practice writing, you can also use **DeepL Write**, which corrects things on screen.

In your groups, discuss what you find most difficult about preparing the test, or more generally, practicing your English.

In the writing exercise, try to take it simply. The same is true to describe the picture.

"The picture consists of..."

Start with an overall description and then go into detail.

Writing is difficult because you have to find ideas.

But Mohammed also says that the listening part is difficult too.

Personally, (Nicholas) I don't think there are any easy tricks or quick solutions to learning a foreign language.

Aseel said, "reading novels helps improve my vocabulary."

Arwa said "news and levels". <https://www.englishinlevels.com/>