

EA S 2025 Part1 Listening comprehension: 5 Movie Invite

The following is a conversation between two friends. The recording is in four sections and you can listen to the options in each section twice. For each question, decide which of the customer's responses is the most polite.

5.1 Listen, and choose the most polite response.

Mark: **So Ellie, I was thinking of arranging a trip to the movies this Friday evening. Would you like to come along?**

Ellie:

Option A Oh, thanks for the invite! What were you thinking of seeing?

Option B Hmm, I might be able to make it. Any particular film in mind?

Option C Aah, Friday might be okay. What's showing this weekend?

5.2 Listen, and choose the most polite response.

Mark: **I was thinking we could go and see that new sci-fi movie that has just come out.**

Ellie:

Option A Oh, that's not good. I really dislike sci-fi movies.

Option B Oh, sorry to be your downer, but I always find sci-fi movies so silly.

Option C Oh, is there anything else? I really can't stand ci-fi movies.

5.3 Listen, and choose the most polite response.

Mark: **Oh, well, you see, I was going to invite David and Yasmin along. It's David's birthday this weekend and he is a huge fan of sci-fi.**

Ellie:

Option A Well, You'll have to go without me. I just don't like those films.

Option B You're very thoughtful to arrange this, but I'm afraid I wouldn't enjoy it.

Option C I'd really be bored watching that movie so I have to say no.

5.4 Listen, and choose the most polite response.

Mark: **Hm, well the film ends at 9 o'clock. How about you come and meet us for drinks afterwards?**

Ellie:

Option A Yeah, that's probably a good plan.

Option B Okay, I guess that can work.

Option C Great idea! Let me know where.

Here's a breakdown of why each chosen response is the most polite in comparison to the alternatives:

5.1 – Best choice: Option A ("Oh, thanks for the invite! What were you thinking of seeing?")

- **Why A?**
 - Shows immediate gratitude for the invitation ("thanks for the invite").
 - Uses a friendly, enthusiastic tone.
 - Follows up with an interested question, which signals genuine engagement.
- **Why not B or C?**
 - **B ("Hmm, I might be able to make it. Any particular film in mind?")** – The hesitation "hmm" and uncertainty ("might be able") makes it sound less enthusiastic and more reluctant, even though the question is polite.
 - **C ("Aah, Friday might be okay. What's showing this weekend?")** – Neutral at best, but "might be okay" feels lukewarm, and it shifts focus to the whole weekend instead of Mark's specific idea.

→ Option A is best because it combines gratitude, interest, and enthusiasm.

5.2 – Best choice: Option B ("Oh, sorry to be your downer, but I always find sci-fi movies so silly.")

- **Why B?**
 - Softens the rejection with an **apology** ("sorry to be your downer").
 - Uses a mild, friendly word ("silly") instead of harsher expressions.
 - Balances honesty with a light, polite tone.
- **Why not A or C?**
 - **A ("Oh, that's not good. I really dislike sci-fi movies.")** – Too blunt and negative. "That's not good" comes across as dismissive.
 - **C ("Oh, is there anything else? I really can't stand sci-fi movies.")** – Very direct and strong ("can't stand") which is impolite in casual friendly planning.

→ Option B is best because it expresses dislike in the least harsh, most considerate way.

5.3 – Best choice: Option B ("You're very thoughtful to arrange this, but I'm afraid I wouldn't enjoy it.")

- **Why B?**

- Starts with a **compliment** ("you're very thoughtful"), which softens the refusal.
- "I'm afraid" is a classic polite hedge in English, showing regret.
- The refusal is clear, but tactful and respectful of Mark's effort.

- **Why not A or C?**

- **A ("Well, you'll have to go without me. I just don't like those films.")** – Too blunt. It dismisses the plan and the others' enjoyment.
- **C ("I'd really be bored watching that movie so I have to say no.")** – Focuses on boredom, which is impolite and a little insulting to the idea.

→ Option B is best because it combines politeness, appreciation, and clarity.

5.4 – Best choice: Option C ("Great idea! Let me know where.")

- **Why C?**

- Shows enthusiasm ("Great idea!") which makes Mark feel his suggestion is valued.
- Follows up with a practical step ("Let me know where"), which is cooperative.
- Positive and warm, ending the exchange on a friendly note.

- **Why not A or B?**

- **A ("Yeah, that's probably a good plan.")** – "Probably" weakens enthusiasm and sounds lukewarm.
- **B ("Okay, I guess that can work.")** – Polite enough, but "I guess" makes it sound reluctant.

→ Option C is best because it is enthusiastic, cooperative, and affirming.

✓ In summary:

- **5.1A** wins with gratitude + enthusiasm.
- **5.2B** wins with softened honesty + apology.
- **5.3B** wins with appreciation + tactful refusal.
- **5.4C** wins with enthusiasm + cooperation.

Here's a **politeness scale** for all the options in tasks **5.1–5.4**.

Scale:

- 🚫 **Rude/Impolite** – dismissive, blunt, or insulting.
- 😐 **Neutral/Polite enough** – not rude, but lacking warmth.
- 😊 **Polite** – respectful, considerate.
- ✨ **Very polite** – shows gratitude, enthusiasm, tact, or softens disagreement.

5.1 (Invitation to the movies)

- **A** ("Oh, thanks for the invite! What were you thinking of seeing?") → ✨ Very polite (gratitude + interest).
 - **B** ("Hmm, I might be able to make it. Any particular film in mind?") → 😊 Polite (asks a question, but sounds hesitant).
 - **C** ("Aah, Friday might be okay. What's showing this weekend?") → 😐 Neutral (lacks enthusiasm, shifts focus away from Mark's idea).
-

5.2 (Sci-fi suggestion)

- **A ("Oh, that's not good. I really dislike sci-fi movies.")** → 🚫 Rude/Impolite (dismissive tone, blunt dislike).
 - **B ("Oh, sorry to be your downer, but I always find sci-fi movies so silly.")** → ✨ Very polite (softens refusal with apology + light tone).
 - **C ("Oh, is there anything else? I really can't stand sci-fi movies.")** → 😐 Neutral (clear refusal, but "can't stand" sounds harsh).
-

5.3 (Birthday plan for David)

- **A ("Well, you'll have to go without me. I just don't like those films.")** → 🚫 Rude/Impolite (self-centered, dismissive).
 - **B ("You're very thoughtful to arrange this, but I'm afraid I wouldn't enjoy it.")** → ✨ Very polite (compliment + tactful refusal).
 - **C ("I'd really be bored watching that movie so I have to say no.")** → 🚫 Rude/Impolite (too blunt, negative emphasis on boredom).
-

5.4 (Meeting after the movie)

- **A ("Yeah, that's probably a good plan.")** → 😐 Neutral (agreeable, but "probably" weakens enthusiasm).
 - **B ("Okay, I guess that can work.")** → 😐 Neutral (functional, but "I guess" makes it reluctant).
 - **C ("Great idea! Let me know where.")** → ✨ Very polite (enthusiastic + cooperative).
-

✅ Pattern students can notice:

- The most polite option usually:
 - Includes **gratitude, enthusiasm, or compliments**.
 - Uses **softeners** like *sorry, I'm afraid, or perhaps*.
 - Avoids blunt negatives like *don't like, can't stand, bored, that's not good*.