

# Listening Part 3: Multiple Matching Mastery

By EnglishExam.eu Team | 2/11/2026

*Don't let Listening Part 3 trick you. Learn how to spot distractors and match speakers correctly in the Multiple Matching task for FCE and CAE.*

In Listening Part 3 (FCE and CAE), you hear five short extracts from different speakers. You must match each speaker to a statement from a list. There are distractors (extra options). This is often considered the hardest part of the Listening paper.

## THE CHALLENGE

The speakers will mention keywords from several options to trick you. You cannot rely on hearing a single word; you must understand the global meaning and the speaker's main point.

## STRATEGY STEP-BY-STEP

1. Read the options first: Underline the key idea in each statement (A-H). What is the core difference between them?
2. Listen for gist: On the first listening, try to understand the general feeling of the speaker. Are they happy? Regretful?  
Angry?
3. Beware of distractors: If the option says "I was late", the speaker might say "I thought I was going to be late, but I made it on time." This is a trap!
4. Confirm on second listen: Use the second time to check why the other options are wrong.

## COMMON THEMES

Common topics include: travel experiences, job satisfaction, learning new skills, and memorable events. Vocabulary related to feelings and opinions is critical here.

