



Education

Task: School Uniforms

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 7.

You are going to hear a talk about **school uniforms**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

Audio Script

School uniforms are worn by many children that go to private school. Some don't like them, while others do. How about you, are you for or against school uniforms?

In the past, many students **used to** feel that their uniforms were ugly. Even though they have been improved, some students still don't feel that this is enough. This **may** be because it limits their freedom of expression. Furthermore, some families with low-income may struggle to buy a set of uniforms for their child, and if they have more than one child, it **might** even seem impossible. Therefore, they could be doing without other things that are needed at home for uniforms that are expensive. In addition, some students even claim that they can be unpleasant to wear with the changes of weather. For example, they could have to wear their spring and summer uniform, while it is still chilly outside. Lastly, it requires more policing of school uniforms at school, making policies that have to enforce the wearing of such uniforms. This consequently has students feeling watched and punished for their appearance, **which** could have them feel negatively with their self-esteem and how they feel about school.

Now, if we look at the advantages, most people **should** realize that when students all wear the same uniform, they feel as if they have a sense of community. In addition, it **ought to** eliminate differences and barriers in social status from poorer to more wealthy families. Moreover, some of the differences that students could have, such as wearing or not wearing name brand clothes, can reduce bullying. Another fairly important reason to be for uniforms is because it promotes safety. When an outside person enters the school, then everybody is quickly aware of this since they are not wearing a uniform. A final positive aspect that many parents **must** agree on is that having school uniforms helps save time on organizing what clothes their children will wear.

Whether you like them or not, many would agree that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. **If I were a student, I would try** to remember that, even if I enjoyed the freedom of dressing to my own personal style.



Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me the disadvantages and advantages of school uniforms.

Now tell me the disadvantages and advantages of school uniforms. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

Answers:

Disadvantages of uniforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• uniforms were ugly• limits freedom of expression• expensive: low income / more than one child• unpleasant to wear / changes of weather / spring and summer uniform and chilly outside• policing of school uniforms: enforce policy
Advantages of uniforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• sense of community• eliminates differences and barriers in social status• promotes safety• reduce bullying• help save time organizing

Marks: +_ / +10

Grammar Used in the listening task:

- Simple Passive
- Relative Clauses
- Second Conditional
- Used to
- Modal Verbs
 - Must
 - Might / May
 - Should / Ought to