



## Social Issues

### Task: Homelessness

#### Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 10.

You are going to hear a talk about **homelessness**. 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

Have you ever thought of what it must be like to be homeless? Many people have trouble putting themselves in the shoes of a homeless person and even often avoid them altogether. Don't you think it might be time to be empathetic and not ignore what is an unbelievable situation to many?

Let's get started by approaching this very controversial social topic that has been present on the news as of late. So **basically** the question that many ask is how can a person in this day age find themselves without a roof over their head. It isn't as easy as just one answer but **firstly** we may want to consider that there has been a lack of affordable housing. Each time it seems that the cost of housing is going up while salaries maintain the same. It is hard to be able to save money and if for whatever reason you find yourself without a job, you may very well find yourself without a place to live as well. Another aspect to contemplate is that the economy is suffering and some people are put in the position to where they have to **sink or swim**. This can be totally stressful for somebody that has a family and often find themselves asking for help from social services. It isn't that these people don't want to be able to pay for a house to live in but it might be difficult to find a job in this kind of economy because it may seem like there are **absolutely** no jobs available. **By the same token**, it happens to be that in a suffering economy there may even be a lack of support and health services for those who need it the most. Some people might even **fall through the cracks** and are reduced to living and sleeping in the street. It is really **heart-breaking**. So, to understand why some people might find themselves in this situation, **it is fair to draw attention to the fact that** some homeless people have broken off from their family. Therefore, they feel **totally alone** in the world and are unable to ask for needed help. Unfortunately, when a person finds themselves in this situation they **are really at a loose end** on what to do next. **Not only that, but also** they are at risk of danger of living in the street. There is the possibility that they could **get under the weather**, mugged, beaten or even killed.

Nothing can be done to change what has already happened. Nevertheless, **a plan needs striking for the sake of moving forward** and reducing this social issue in a positive way. Be it be carried out by the government or such. One reasonable thing to **certainly** do is to predict homelessness. If it can be discovered **what type of people** are prone to this situation, then it can be prevented. In addition, everyone **absolutely** needs to have a safe environment to live and sleep created for them. **Let's not forget to approach** the issues of families getting separated. **It is of the utmost importance** to keep families together, parents with their



children, and not separate them, which can be dramatizing to the family unit as a whole. Finally, the government can **make a move** by helping to fund local authorities and not **turn a blind eye** to the needs that they have when fighting against homelessness. One way of doing this is to completely insist on a mandatory set of activities for prevention, and other ways are to have family mediation and support in keeping their property and possessions from being taken. It might be **quite** surprising how many people will either keep from or stop being homeless if this type of funding and services are provided.

My insight for this issue is that the **way forward** is by providing support to each other before somebody finds themselves, and even their family, living in the street. **I might be wrong** but I feel that if we would become a more empathic society then we would see massive improvements in reference to homelessness. Everybody needs **a shoulder to cry on** and **a helping hand** at some point of their life.

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 **about the thoughts of the speaker, the downsides of being homeless and what can be done to improve it.**

Now tell me **about the thoughts of the speaker, the downsides of being homeless and what can be done to improve it.** You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

**Answers:**

Point of View	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● become a more empathic society to those in need and support each other</li> </ul>
Downsides of being homeless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● lack of affordable housing: cost of housing going up and salaries the same</li> <li>● suffering economy: seem like no jobs available</li> <li>● lack of support and health service: people fall through the cracks, reduced to living and sleeping in the street</li> <li>● broken off from their family</li> <li>● at risk of danger living in the street</li> </ul>
Improving homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● predict homelessness to prevent it</li> <li>● create a safe environment for everybody to live and sleep</li> <li>● keep families together, parents with their children</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• funding for local authorities: mandatory set of activities for prevention, family mediation, support in keeping their property and possessions</li></ul>
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Marks: +\_ / +10



**Grammar Used in the listening task:**

- **Modifiers:** basically / quite / certainly
- **Intensifiers:** absolutely / completely / totally
- **Tentative Expressions:** I may be wrong but... / Don't you think it might be...?
- **Signposting Words:** firstly / finally
- **Idioms / Expressions:** under the weather / to be bored to tears / sink or swim / a shoulder to cry on / turn a blind eye to / to my mind / small talk / get it off your chest / be at a loose end / make a move / laugh your head off