



Independence

Task: Different Types of Independence

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 11.

You are going to hear a talk about **different types of independence**. 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

You must have commented at some point in your life on the importance of having your own independence. Having said that, have you ever really considered what independence consists of?

Well, everybody seems to know about financial independence. That being said, let's dip into it and consider being independent economically. If another person supports you then they can absolutely have power over you and your expenditures, from what you buy to wear, to what food you can eat. Even if they are not overbearing, just by knowing that they are totally in charge of the general outlay, that alone could have influenced your decision making. If we look at couples that are both financially independent, they are some of the most balanced couples because their transactions are fair. This way you are able to maintain your independence when it comes to money. In no doubt is it better to be involved in a relationship where money is not the issue, because then you will never feel that you owe the other person anything, nor will they believe you are just interested in their money to just keep up your lifestyle. I believe that is easy to understand and see, if you think about it. In spite of the importance of having economic independence, there are other types of independence that are also just as important, if not more so.

Namely, this would be social and intellectual independence. With social independence, you can be dependent on the opinion of other people that are around you. What is incredibly horrible about this, is that you can never really be authentic. Therefore, you end up caring more about being liked by others than actually being yourself. Luckily enough, by reaching social independence, this means that if the people around you are not the right type of people, the best possible thing to do is leave these friends or relationships, since they are being too demanding and find ones that do work for you. Notwithstanding, we mustn't forget that of intellectual independence. In regards to this, when you are not in control intellectually speaking, then in truth, you are not thinking for yourself. What is worse is that, relatively quickly, you are just accepting what you are told. By having the control of your own intellect, this will allow you to be willing to experience and explore in search of understanding, and not being limited to another's thoughts for you.

So, in a nutshell, many people don't realize that independence is not only a personal virtue, but it is also a moral virtue, which is quite jaw-dropping when you think about it. Considering



all the prior, being independent makes you a creator and not a user of others. If you had considered these virtues of independence before, would you make sure that you took total advantage of your independence? The majority of individuals, as do I, feel that rarely will a person obtain sheer happiness, if they don't claim and thrive in their own independence, rather it be economic, social or intellectual independence.

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 point of view of the speaker, economic independence and social and intellectual independence.

Now tell me about the point of view of the speaker, economic independence and social and intellectual independence. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

Answers:

Point of View	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Claim and thrive in their own independence
Economic Independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● another person supports you and they can have power over you● influence your decisions● if transactions are fair, maintain your independence● equal trade no imbalance of power
Social and intellectual independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● emotionally dependent on the opinions of other people around you;● never be authentic and care more about liked than being yourself● Being socially independent means leaving friends and relationships that too demanding and finding other relationships● Not thinking for yourself and just accepting what you are told● Willing to experience and explore in search for understanding

Marks: +_ / +10

Grammar Used in the listening task:

- **inversions: not only....but**
- **compound adjectives: jaw-dropping / well-to-do**
- **modifiers: absolutely / extremely / incredibly / totally**
- **Past participle as adjective: the most wanted player / a written document / a confused girl**
- **superlative + postmodifier + noun: best possible location / highest possible level**
- **adverb + enough: surprisingly enough / sadly enough / luckily enough**
- **adverb + adverb: perfectly well / extremely well / relatively quickly**
- **Mix Conditional: If society had realized this mistake earlier, it would be a different world today.**
- **Perfect Infinitive**