

TELPAS Spring 2025 Grades 6–8 Listening and Speaking Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
1	The student selects the photos of the cow and the giraffe.	The description in the listening prompt best matches the photos of the cow and the giraffe. The listening prompt refers to “the two animals with spots on their bodies,” which provides clear support for these two answer choices.

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Item Position	Rationale	
2	Option D is correct	The description in the listening prompt best corresponds to this photo. The photo shows a couple sharing a take-out meal at home. The listening prompt states that “we decided to get take-out for dinner” and that “we enjoyed our night in.” The language in the listening prompt clearly supports this answer choice.
	Option A is incorrect	This photo shows one person receiving delivery of a meal. The photo only partially matches the listening prompt, since the listening prompt includes the plural pronoun “we” and thus refers to more than one person getting a meal. Additionally, this photo shows only the receiving of the meal. It does not show anyone enjoying the meal, as the listening prompt indicates.
	Option B is incorrect	This photo does not correspond to the information in the listening prompt. The photo shows one person bringing in a large package, not two people receiving and enjoying take-out food together.
	Option C is incorrect	The description in the listening prompt does not match this photo. The photo shows a delivery of groceries to one person. The language in the listening prompt says that “we decided to get take-out” and does not refer to one person receiving an order of groceries.

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Item Position	Rationale	
3	Option A is correct	In this section, Garrett says that Samuel “had a hard time being quiet.” Garrett also states that “nothing calmed him down like a trip to see our aunt.” This language makes it clear that Garrett takes his brother to Aunt Rosa’s apartment to help the excited boy calm down.
	Option B is incorrect	The language in this section does indicate that the brothers are going to bake bread with their aunt. However, the section also explains that the main reason Garrett takes his energetic brother to see Aunt Rosa is that those visits “calmed him down.”
	Option C is incorrect	This section’s language makes it clear that Garrett takes Samuel to Aunt Rosa’s to help calm him down. There is no suggestion that Garrett is taking his little brother to their aunt’s apartment so they can read together quietly.
	Option D is incorrect	In Aunt Rosa’s kitchen, Samuel must follow the “rule” that he “keep both feet on the step stool.” This language from the section makes it clear he has not been taken there so that he has more space to run around. Garrett and Aunt Rosa want him to calm down instead.

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Item Position	Rationale	
4	Option C is correct	This answer choice is strongly supported by Aunt Rosa’s reply to Garrett’s question. She says “Ah, but this is much more satisfying and soothing, see?” She is referring to making bread by hand rather than using a bread machine.
	Option A is incorrect	In this section, Aunt Rosa encourages Garrett to join in and learn about making bread, even though he wants to read. The language here does not support the idea that she invites him to read instead.
	Option B is incorrect	It is true that Aunt Rosa shows Garrett some of the steps in making bread by hand, but the phrase “she placed a batch of dough in front of him” indicates that she has already completed some of the early steps before the boys arrive. Her response to the question about using a bread machine is to assure Garrett that doing it by hand feels “more satisfying.”
	Option D is incorrect	There is no evidence in the language of this section to support the idea that Aunt Rosa responds by telling Garrett that her process gets faster with practice.

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Item Position	Rationale	
5	Option C is correct	At the end of the story, Aunt Rosa says to the boys, "Come again next week, and I'll teach you how to make a yummy dessert!" Garrett agrees to her offer, so the boys will most likely learn to bake something new the next time they visit Aunt Rosa.
	Option A is incorrect	This answer choice is not supported by the language in this section. The story clearly indicates that Aunt Rosa wants to teach the boys to make "a yummy dessert" the next time they visit.
	Option B is incorrect	There is no indication in the language of this section that the boys will read to Aunt Rosa the next time they visit her.
	Option D is incorrect	The story does not provide support for the idea that when the boys visit again, they will offer to help clean the kitchen. Aunt Rosa invites the boys to come back and learn to make a dessert with her.

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Item Position	Rationale	
6	Option B is correct	This answer choice mentions all three major characters in the story, tells why they get together, and tells what they do during their visit. It also describes how Garrett, the narrator, is surprised to find that he enjoys baking. These elements make this an effective summary of the story.
	Option A is incorrect	The story does not include any language that supports the idea that the boys learn new things about Aunt Rosa during their visit. This summary misstates the main points of the story.
	Option C is incorrect	This answer choice does not match the content of the story. Garrett does not try to teach his brother how to bake. Instead, the boys go together to see their aunt, who teaches them to bake bread.
	Option D is incorrect	This summary does not accurately describe the events of the story. While Garrett’s aunt did help him look after his little brother, there’s no language in the story that suggests Garrett asked for help babysitting. He simply went to his aunt’s apartment because he knew it would calm Samuel down. Furthermore, there is nothing in the story to indicate that the boys do chores together.

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Item Position	Rationale
7	<p>The student response below has been identified by Texas educators as meeting the requirements for a 4-point (maximum score) response based on the rubric criteria. For additional information, refer to the grades 6-8 speaking scoring guide available on the TELPAS Released Test Questions webpage.</p> <p>Garrett feels distressed because he can't read his book because his brother was being really loud on a rainy day but he wanted to read on a rainy day. But then he found out that his aunt was going to bake bread so he went to take his little brother to his aunt's house so he could calm down and stop being loud and read his book. Then the aunt asked Garrett to join them into baking the loafs, the bread, and she said okay because she didn't know what he wants to do. So they both baked and he discovered that he also like to bake so he felt like not mad anymore and he felt relaxed like his brother.</p>

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Item Position	Rationale
8	<p>The student response below has been identified by Texas educators as meeting the requirements for a 2-point (maximum score) response based on the rubric criteria. For additional information, refer to the TELPAS Two-Point Speaking Rubric on the TELPAS Resources webpage.</p> <p>A way that I could convince a adult in my family to take me to a movie theater is by telling them that I’m going to go with some friends and I won’t be alone and there will be an adult supervising. And the movie is not rated R.</p>

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Item Position	Rationale
9	<p>The student response below has been identified by Texas educators as meeting the requirements for a 4-point (maximum score) response based on the rubric criteria. For additional information, refer to the grades 6-8 speaking scoring guide available on the TELPAS Released Test Questions webpage.</p> <p>Our weekends should be three days long because we can get more rest. I like this idea because it's more time we could stay home. One reason it would be good to have a three-day weekend is because we've got more time to relax. My second reason is we can hang out with our friends more. Mt last reason is you have one more day to get everything ready for the next week.</p>

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Item Position	Rationale	
10	The student selects the photo of the avocados.	The description in the listening prompt corresponds to the photo of the avocados. Phrases such as “bumpy on the outside” and “contains a large pit” clearly support this answer choice.

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Item Position	Rationale	
11	Option C is correct	This photo best matches the content of the listening prompt. The photo shows a cooking teacher who is displaying ingredients to a group of learners. This corresponds to the listening prompt, which includes the phrases “The instructor says,” “prepare the ingredients,” and “learn with my friends.”
	Option A is incorrect	This photo shows a family preparing a dish together. It does not correspond to the language in the listening prompt, which describes a cooking class with a teacher and “friends.”
	Option B is incorrect	The listening prompt describes a scene in which “I was excited to learn with my friends how to make a new dish.” The description does not match this photo. The photo shows only one person learning from his teacher how to cook.
	Option D is incorrect	This photo does not match the information in the listening prompt, since the photo shows a chef preparing a dish by himself. The listening prompt, by contrast, describes a cooking class that includes students and their teacher.

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Item Position	Rationale	
12	Option A is correct	In this section, the word “yearlong” and the phrase “within and around the Great Barrier Reef” are used to describe the scientists’ travels as they map the ocean floor. This language strongly supports the idea that the word “voyage” means an extended journey.
	Option B is incorrect	The section mentions that there are “masses of fish” in this area of the ocean, but the scientists are not described as trying to catch these fish. The phrase “ocean fishing” does not convey the meaning of “voyage” in this sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	It is reasonable to conclude from the language of this section that the scientists were on a ship as they traveled around the reef. But the phrase “a sea ship” does not refer to their travels. It refers to the sort of vessel they sailed on.
	Option D is incorrect	The scientists are described as sending “their underwater robot” down “to get a better look at the reef.” These underwater dives were part of what the scientists did on their voyage, but they are not what is meant by the word “voyage” itself.

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Item Position	Rationale	
13	Option C is correct	The last sentence in this section states, “Scientists hope the new reef will help provide homes for the marine life from nearby areas.” That statement, along with information about the dying coral reef nearby, strongly supports this answer choice.
	Option A is incorrect	There is no evidence in this section that the scientists are excited because they have discovered a new area for fishing. Instead, they see the new reef as offering hope for the “many marine animals without habitats.”
	Option B is incorrect	The listening prompt says that scientists are excited about the discovery of the new reef for “many reasons.” However, there is no support for the idea that one of those reasons has something to do with increasing tourism in the area.
	Option D is incorrect	Nothing is said in this section about the new reef being able to help restore the dying coral nearby. This must not be the reason scientists are excited by the discovery of the new reef.

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Item Position	Rationale	
14	Option A is correct	The language in this section includes a description of how visitors and their boats can damage a coral reef. It also notes that since the new reef is far from any city, “scientists don’t anticipate many visitors.” This is why they think the new reef may stay safer from pollution and the damage it causes.
	Option B is incorrect	This section provides no indication that the coral growing on the new reef is stronger than the coral that is struggling to survive on other nearby reefs. What makes it special is that it is so remote and thus is better protected from environmental pollution and harm.
	Option C is incorrect	The mapping and surveying done by the scientists has increased their knowledge of the reef and its surrounding areas. However, this section does not support the idea that these activities will make the reef safer. Instead, it is safer from pollution because of its distance from “the nearest city” and “there are laws about these waters limiting the amount of commercial fishing.”
	Option D is incorrect	The language of this section emphasizes the importance of coral reefs to the many creatures that inhabit them. But it is clear that the reefs protect and support the marine animals, not the other way around.

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Item Position	Rationale	
15	Option D is correct	The video introduces the listener to what coral reefs are, why they matter, the recent discovery of a new reef, and why scientists are excited by this discovery. The author clearly created the video to provide information to the listener about the new reef and the importance of its discovery.
	Option A is incorrect	The author’s words do inform the listener of the importance of protecting coral reefs. However, the language here does not advise or encourage the listener to do anything in particular. It just provides information about the discovery of the new reef and its significance.
	Option B is incorrect	All the information the video provides—about coral reefs and the discovery and significance of the new reef—shows that the author’s purpose is not limited to describing the Australian scientists’ sailing journey. The language and content of the video go far beyond this by informing the listener about the context and exciting results of that journey.
	Option C is incorrect	If the author’s purpose were simply to inform the listener about coral reefs and their inhabitants, the video’s language and structure would not focus so much on the discovery of the new reef and the excitement over it. The language in the video shows that the author’s main aim is to convey information about the discovery of this coral reef and why it matters.

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Item Position	Rationale	
16	Option B is correct	This statement provides the best summary of the video. It mentions the discovery of the new reef, the value of this discovery to the ocean ecosystem, and the reason this reef is likely to stay healthy while other coral reefs are in danger. This summary covers the central topics the listener hears about in the video.
	Option A is incorrect	This description does not include the discovery of a new coral reef near the Great Barrier Reef. Leaving out the main topic in the video makes this an inadequate summary.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the listener does learn from the video about the Great Barrier Reef and its endangered coral, that reef is not the primary focus of the video. Instead, the language in the video is largely devoted to a description of a newly discovered coral reef nearby, one that is better protected and thriving.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the video does describe how scientists discovered and explored the new reef, this summary omits any information about why reefs, and especially this reef, are important. Much of the video presents this kind of information to help the listener understand the significance of the scientists' work. Thus, this option is not a successful summary of the video.

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Item Position	Rationale
17	<p>The student response below has been identified by Texas educators as meeting the requirements for a 4-point (maximum score) response based on the rubric criteria. For additional information, refer to the grades 6-8 speaking scoring guide available on the TELPAS Released Test Questions webpage.</p> <p>The new coral reef that was discovered in the area of the Great Barrier Reef. It was discovered in October 2020 by a team of Australian sci, scientists. The team was on a yearlong voyage to do three-dimensional mapping of the ocean floor within the Great Barrier Reef. At the Great Barrier Reef while at the norther tip of the reef the scientists had discovered the reef de-attached. They found it with a large mass of the animals. The discovery was important because it was a really big part of the coral reef. There was all kinds of, (pause) all kinds of marine life living in the area of the new discovered coral reef. Scientists could do a lot of research on there which is a benefit for the scientists.</p>

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Item Position	Rationale
18	<p>The student response below has been identified by Texas educators as meeting the requirements for a 4-point (maximum score) response based on the rubric criteria. For additional information, refer to the grades 6-8 speaking scoring guide available on the TELPAS Released Test Questions webpage.</p> <p>Two ways these pictures are similar are the objects in the photos and the people in the photos. In both photos there some men playing and performing music for the public using instruments. Another similarity we see from the photos is they are both performing outdoors, and two differences between the photos is that in one photo a man is playing the trumpet and in the other photo they're not. Another difference is that the photo on the left has five people, and the photo on the right has three people.</p>

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Item Position	Rationale
19	<p>The student response below has been identified by Texas educators as meeting the requirements for a 2-point (maximum score) response based on the rubric criteria. For additional information, refer to the TELPAS Two-Point Speaking Rubric on the TELPAS Resources webpage.</p> <p>I would ask the teacher for help, and I would definitely tell him that I didn't understand the assignment because it is difficult and confusing for me.</p>

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Item Position	Rationale	
20	The student selects the photo of the disposable cup.	The description in the listening prompt corresponds to the photo of the disposable cup. Language such as “often holds ice” and “that people use only once” provides clear support for this answer choice.

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Item Position	Rationale	
21	Option C is correct	This listening prompt corresponds best to the photo. The photo shows a girl in bed, reading a book with great interest. The listening prompt includes the phrase “the book was so interesting that the girl could not put it down,” so it describes exactly what is shown in the photo.
	Option A is incorrect	The listening prompt describes a girl choosing a book “at the library.” This listening prompt does not match the photo of a girl reading a book in her bed.
	Option B is incorrect	The girl shown in the photo is not laughing as she reads, so it does not correspond to this listening prompt. The listening prompt states that the girl “giggled the whole time she was reading.”
	Option D is incorrect	The language in this listening prompt does not match what the photo shows. The listening prompt says that the girl “wanted to sleep,” “finished the chapter,” and then “went to bed.” But the girl in the photo is still wide awake, reading her book.

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Item Position	Rationale	
22	Option D is correct	The language in this section states that the ancient noodles were found by “a Chinese research team.” This answer choice clearly belongs on the list of details about the oldest known noodles.
	Option A is incorrect	While these ingredients are used to make some noodles today, the listening prompt explains that the oldest known noodles were made “from a type of grain called millet.” Therefore, this detail does not belong on a chart about the oldest known noodles.
	Option B is incorrect	The language in this section presents the fact that “the ingredients used to make noodles have changed over the centuries.” However, this does not support the claim that the world’s oldest known noodles have changed during that time.
	Option C is incorrect	This section tells the listener that the oldest known bowl of noodles “was found in China.” Although it also states that noodles “have made their way to just about every part of the world,” this does not mean that the oldest bowl of noodles was found everywhere.

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Item Position	Rationale	
23	Option B is correct	This section includes the statement, “People love to serve pasta dishes with vegetables and sauces.” From this, the listener can conclude that pasta is probably tastiest when it is prepared and served with these added ingredients.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the section focuses on how pasta has become especially popular in Italy and other European countries, this does not mean that it is unpopular elsewhere. The listener cannot draw this conclusion from the language of this section.
	Option C is incorrect	Nothing in this section supports the idea that pasta noodles are fragile after they are cooked.
	Option D is incorrect	Nothing is said in this section to indicate that wheat noodles known as pasta are usually fried. This conclusion is not supported by the language in this section of the video.

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Item Position	Rationale	
24	Option D is correct	This answer choice identifies a difference between Asian and European wheat noodles. In this section of the video, the listener hears the statement, "Asian wheat noodles tend to be stretchy and bouncier than European noodles."
	Option A is incorrect	The language in this section does not include any remarks about the respective lengths of Asian and European wheat noodles. There is no support provided here for the idea that the Asian noodles are longer and thinner.
	Option B is incorrect	This section clearly indicates that Asian wheat noodles are made using eggs and flour, just "like in Europe." The ingredients in the Asian noodles are not different.
	Option C is incorrect	The discussion of Asian wheat noodles in this section does not support the idea that they are different from European noodles because they are boiled in water. The typical methods of cooking wheat noodles on the two continents are not described here.

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Item Position	Rationale	
25	Option B is correct	The language in this section strongly supports the idea that immigrants to America have been responsible for making noodles popular here, starting with "Spanish immigrants" and continuing with "immigrants from Europe and Asia."
	Option A is incorrect	The claim that Americans ate many different noodle dishes does not help to explain the popularity of noodles in America. It merely restates the idea that noodles are popular here, without answering the question of how that came to be.
	Option C is incorrect	There is no indication in this section that including noodles in soup is how noodles became popular in America. In fact, the popular American noodle dish mentioned is macaroni and cheese, which is not a soup at all.
	Option D is incorrect	Eating instant ramen noodles is acknowledged in this section to have come "surprisingly" to hold a major place "in some American diets." However, the terms "surprisingly" and "some" indicate that this is not the dish that created the popularity of noodles in this country.

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Item Position	Rationale	
26	Option A is correct	Much of the language in this section describes how different forms of wheat noodles have become popular across the world. In particular, the discussion of Asian wheat noodles and how they differ from European noodles shows this answer choice to be the best statement of why the author included the section in the video.
	Option B is incorrect	The listener does learn from this section that ramen noodles are curly. However, this is the only detail about noodle shapes that is presented in the language here. The author did not include this section to highlight the different shapes of wheat noodles.
	Option C is incorrect	The author does list popular types of wheat noodles in China and Japan. But since these noodles are described as “popular,” the language does not really focus attention on uncommon noodle types or details about them.
	Option D is incorrect	This section does indicate that the popularity of wheat noodles extends beyond Italy, both within Europe and in Asia and America. However, the author also provides information that shows the wide variety of popular noodle dishes in different countries. The aim in this section goes beyond the simple claim that nations other than Italy enjoy wheat noodles.

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Item Position	Rationale
27	<p>The student response below has been identified by Texas educators as meeting the requirements for a 4-point (maximum score) response based on the rubric criteria. For additional information, refer to the grades 6-8 speaking scoring guide available on the TELPAS Released Test Questions webpage.</p> <p>The noodles began in Asia. A Chinese research team discovered 4,000-year-old noodles in China buried about 10 feet beneath earth. Noodles are made by a type of grain called millet and were long and thin. They believe that Arab travelers brought noodles to Europe, and Mexicans brought noodles to the U.S. The different types of noodles are pasta, rice, spattle noodles, whet noodles, ramen, and chow mein. This is all that I learned from this video.</p>

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Item Position	Rationale
28	<p>The student response below has been identified by Texas educators as meeting the requirements for a 4-point (maximum score) response based on the rubric criteria. For additional information, refer to the grades 6-8 speaking scoring guide available on the TELPAS Released Test Questions webpage.</p> <p>My favorite TV show is, "Are We Done Yet?". It's a family show about how a family tries to find a new house because their old house doesn't have enough space for them to live. When they finally find a new, big house, it needs to be fixed because it is a really old house, and nobody has lived in there for a long time. There is a step-dad, a mom, a ten-year-old son, a fourteen-year-old daughter, and a baby who is about to be born. I like the show because it is a really funny show to watch with my family. Also, it has a lot of details in it that make you wonder about the house.</p>

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Item Position	Rationale	
29	Option A is correct	This listening prompt matches what is shown in the picture. The listening prompt mentions “two friends” who “enjoyed going to the river and paddling.” This description clearly corresponds with the photo of two friends having fun paddling a kayak.
	Option B is incorrect	This listening prompt does not match the photo. The listening prompt mentions only one person, someone who “wasn’t sure about going in the water” and was afraid of “the waves.” The two people in the picture are clearly having fun on the water, and since they are on a river, there is no reason for them to be worried about waves.
	Option C is incorrect	The language in the listening prompt describes two people who rent a boat to “go out to sea” on a day that is “perfect for sailing.” This description does not match the photo. The photo does not show a sailboat, and the friends are paddling on a river, not out to sea.
	Option D is incorrect	The listening prompt tells the listener about two “experienced swimmers” who spend a day “looking at coral and fish” in the ocean. This language does not correspond with the photo, in which we see two friends paddling a kayak on a river.

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Item Position	Rationale	
30	Option B is correct	This listening prompt best describes what the picture shows. The phrases “in the studio” and “professional lighting” correspond to where the photographer is sitting and to the equipment that can be seen around him.
	Option A is incorrect	The listening prompt describes a photographer who has packed “his gear” so that he can go “take pictures out in nature.” This language does not correspond to the scene in the photo, which shows a photographer studying his camera indoors in his studio. His equipment can be seen all around him in the studio, so it is not all packed up.
	Option C is incorrect	The phrase “in the dark lighting indoors” does not match the picture, which shows a photographer in a brightly lit studio with extra lighting equipment available. This listening prompt does not accurately describe what can be seen in the picture.
	Option D is incorrect	This listening prompt describes someone who took pictures “when he walked around campus.” The photo clearly does not match this description, since it shows a young man looking at his camera indoors in a photography studio.

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Item Position	Rationale	
31	Option A is correct	This answer choice is strongly supported by the language in this section. It describes how Selena, the first diver, "jumped into the water, making a big splash."
	Option B is incorrect	There is no wording in this section that supports this answer choice. Selena is not described as smiling from the platform or as jumping too quickly.
	Option C is incorrect	The language in this section does not support the idea that Selena stands for a long time on the platform without moving. She is described only as swinging her arms, jumping off the platform, and making a big splash when she lands in the water.
	Option D is incorrect	This answer choice does not match what the listener hears in this section. Selena is described as swinging her arms before she jumps, not stiffening them. There is also no indication that she moves swiftly on the platform, only that she hits the water hard and fast.

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Item Position	Rationale	
32	Option D is correct	This section tells how Macy manages to get past her fear with help from her friend Ginger. After standing still for a long time, Macy hears Ginger’s encouragement and then jumps. Afterward, Macy “came up from the water with a big smile,” showing that she has overcome her fear of jumping from the tall platform.
	Option A is incorrect	The language in this section makes it clear that Macy pauses for a long time before she jumps from the platform. However, this is not the main idea of the section, which goes on to describe her jumping successfully and coming up with a confident smile. This triumph in overcoming her fear is the main idea here.
	Option B is incorrect	Macy is described as shaking out her arms just before she jumps. But this is a minor detail presented in this section, not the section’s main idea.
	Option C is incorrect	It is true that Macy ends up performing a good jump from the platform. But this section focuses on how she gets over the fear she feels before she makes the jump. That is the main idea here, with the successful jump closing this part of the story.

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Item Position	Rationale	
33	Option C is correct	The language in this section makes it clear that Ginger recognizes that Macy is frozen with fear on the diving platform. Ginger calls up to her friend and encourages her to relax and jump into the water. "You can do this!" she says. Ginger clearly wants to support Macy.
	Option A is incorrect	When Ginger calls out to Macy in this section, she does not give her instructions on how to dive. In fact, Ginger reminds Macy that she doesn't even need to dive. Ginger shouts, "It's just jumping for fun!"
	Option B is incorrect	In this section of the story, Macy is only the second diver to climb the platform. Ginger has not yet had her turn at jumping off, so Macy has not yet shouted up to encourage Ginger.
	Option D is incorrect	This section does not describe Macy looking down at Ginger and asking for help. The language here provides no support for this answer choice.

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Item Position	Rationale	
34	Option B is correct	The phrase, "The splashing and chatter sounded far, far away," helps the listener understand that the phrase "almost inaudible" means that the sounds from below could barely be heard at all. The word "inaudible" applies to things that cannot be heard.
	Option A is incorrect	To be unexpected is to be surprising, and there is no indication that Ginger is surprised by the sounds of "the splashing and chatter" from the pool below her. This must not be the meaning of "inaudible" in this setting.
	Option C is incorrect	In the context of this sentence, "inaudible" does not have the same meaning as the word "uncomfortable." Something is uncomfortable when it doesn't feel good. This sentence instead describes how "the splashing and chatter sounded," not how it felt.
	Option D is incorrect	Stating that those noises "sounded far, far away" does not support the idea that "inaudible" has the same meaning as the phrase "unable to be enjoyed." The noises being "almost inaudible" refers to how hard they are to hear, not to whether they are so unpleasant that Ginger cannot enjoy them.

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Item Position	Rationale	
35	Option D is correct	The statement "I'd jumped into a pool a thousand times," strongly supports this action as the best way to complete the list. It is with these words that Ginger reminds herself that she has done this sort of thing many times before. This reminder clearly helps her calm down before she jumps off the platform.
	Option A is incorrect	As Macy reminds Ginger in this section, this is "just jumping for fun." There are no complicated steps to rehearse or remember. All she has to do is jump.
	Option B is incorrect	Ginger is described as noticing that her heart slows down a bit, but this occurs after she "took a deep breath and let it out slowly." Noticing her heart rate is not described as a separate action in how she calms herself down. It is just something she is aware of after she breathes deeply.
	Option C is incorrect	At no point in this section does the listener learn that Ginger backs away from the platform. From the beginning, she "stood on the edge of the five-meter platform." Then she hears her teammate call out to her, calms herself, and jumps off the platform.

TELPAS Spring 2025 Grades 6–8 Listening and Speaking Rationales

Item Position	Rationale
36	<p>The student response below has been identified by Texas educators as meeting the requirements for a 4-point (maximum score) response based on the rubric criteria. For additional information, refer to the grades 6-8 speaking scoring guide available on the TELPAS Released Test Questions webpage.</p> <p>Ginger’s problem in the story is that she was scared to jump off the 5-meter platform to do a dive. Macy helped Ginger with her problem by telling her to calm down, take a deep breath, and to feel the platform with her feet and to feel the water and to accept how well she’s about to jump off the 5-meter platform. Once Macy, uh when Macy jumped off the 5-meter platform Ginger cheered her on.</p>

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37	<p>The student response below has been identified by Texas educators as meeting the requirements for a 4-point (maximum score) response based on the rubric criteria. For additional information, refer to the grades 6-8 speaking scoring guide available on the TELPAS Released Test Questions webpage.</p> <p>So in the first picture there's these girls playing volleyball outside and basically it looks like daytime outside. And for the second picture there is boys playing basketball and they are not outside either and they all have jerseys. And the difference between these pictures is that there's only females in the first one, and they're outside, and they are not wearing any jerseys. And another different thing is that the first picture they are playing volleyball. In the second picture they are just all males and they are inside a building, and it's also a different sport which is basketball. The other things is that they all have jerseys.</p>