

IELTS Listening Lesson 27

Setting statement:

You will hear a speaker giving an opening talk at a volunteer recruitment fair.

Questions 1–5

Complete the sentences below.

Write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER for each answer.

1. The volunteer recruitment fair will remain open until _____.
 2. Environmental volunteering is best for people who enjoy working _____.
 3. Some student volunteers use the experience to meet _____ requirements.
 4. Animal shelters often need help walking dogs or completing _____ tasks.
 5. Orientation sessions cover safety guidelines and volunteer _____.
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Questions 6–10

Choose the correct letter, A, B, or C.

6. What is one advantage of educational volunteering?
 - A. It usually pays a small stipend
 - B. It requires no formal training
 - C. It guarantees teaching positions

7. What do healthcare support volunteers typically do?
 - A. Administer medications
 - B. Provide medical advice
 - C. Offer company to patients
 8. Why do some organizations conduct informal interviews?
 - A. To assess physical fitness
 - B. To match volunteers to roles
 - C. To review their academic records
 9. Where can visitors go if they're not sure where to begin?
 - A. Room A
 - B. The information desk
 - C. The seminar hall
 10. What are attendees asked to do before leaving the fair?
 - A. Complete a feedback form
 - B. Purchase a resource booklet
 - C. Sign in for follow-up
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Script

Good morning, everyone, and welcome to the Glenhaven Volunteer Recruitment Fair! We're thrilled to have so many enthusiastic individuals joining us today, all eager to learn how they can contribute to the community through volunteering. Whether you've done volunteer work before or you're just beginning to explore the idea, today's event is designed to help you discover opportunities that align with your interests, your schedule, and your goals.

Let me start by giving you an overview of what to expect during the day, and then I'll go into more detail about the types of volunteering available, the benefits of getting involved, and how you can apply to participate in various programs.

First, a quick note about logistics. The fair is open until 4 p.m. today, and we'll have representatives from over thirty different organizations stationed at booths throughout the hall. You'll notice they're grouped by category—such as environmental work, education, healthcare, animal care, and community outreach—so you can easily browse the areas that interest you most. Don't hesitate to approach representatives and ask them questions. They're here specifically to guide and inform you.

Now, let's talk about the types of volunteering available. One of the most popular areas is community support. This includes helping at local food banks, participating in neighborhood cleanup projects, or assisting at shelters. These roles are often flexible, making them a great fit for people with varied schedules.

Next, there's educational volunteering. If you're comfortable working with children or teens, you might enjoy tutoring, leading after-school

programs, or helping with adult literacy classes. Many of these positions don't require prior teaching experience—just patience, commitment, and a willingness to learn.

Environmental volunteering is another rapidly growing area. Whether it's planting trees, maintaining hiking trails, or helping with beach cleanups, these activities are ideal for those who enjoy working outdoors and want to make a direct impact on local ecosystems.

In addition, there are opportunities in healthcare support. These roles don't involve medical tasks but might include visiting with patients, helping at vaccination drives, or providing companionship to the elderly. If you're a good listener and enjoy offering comfort, this could be very rewarding.

Let's not forget animal welfare. Several local shelters and rescue centers are looking for volunteers to walk dogs, play with cats, or assist with administrative tasks like managing adoption paperwork. It's a fantastic option for animal lovers.

You'll also find specialized programs for event volunteering, such as helping to run charity marathons, cultural festivals, and public performances. These are often short-term commitments but are a great way to meet new people and gain experience in organizing large events.

Now that you have an idea of the different areas available, let's talk about the benefits of volunteering. Beyond the obvious satisfaction of giving back to the community, volunteering can help you develop new skills, explore career paths, and build your network. Many employers appreciate applicants who have volunteer experience because it demonstrates responsibility, initiative, and teamwork.

For students, volunteering can also fulfill academic service requirements, and for retirees, it can be a meaningful way to stay active and socially connected. Some programs even offer certificates of participation, which can be helpful when applying for jobs or educational programs.

A few of our partner organizations today also offer training programs or workshops to help you prepare for your role. These are usually short, informative sessions—sometimes just a few hours long—and they can equip you with the knowledge and confidence you need to get started. For example, one local organization provides first-aid training for volunteers who plan to work in emergency response. Others may offer cultural sensitivity training or communication workshops.

Now, on to the most important part—how to apply. Each organization will have its own sign-up process, which you can learn about at their booths. Most will ask you to complete a simple application form with your contact information, availability, and areas of interest. Some may require background checks, particularly if you'll be working with children or vulnerable populations. If that's the case, they'll explain the process and provide any necessary forms.

A few programs also conduct informal interviews to better understand your strengths and match you with a suitable role. Don't let that worry you—it's more of a friendly conversation than a formal interview, and it's really just to make sure everyone has a good experience.

You may also be asked to attend an orientation session before beginning your volunteer work. These sessions usually cover safety guidelines, expectations, and responsibilities. They're also a great chance to meet other volunteers and ask any remaining questions you might have.

To make things easier today, we've set up a central information desk near the entrance. If you feel overwhelmed or aren't sure where to start, the volunteers at the desk can help direct you to organizations that match your interests. There's also a digital kiosk where you can search programs by keyword or filter by time commitment—so whether you're available every weekend or just a few hours per month, you can find a good fit.

We also encourage you to attend the mini-seminars being held every hour in Room A and Room B. Topics include "Volunteering and Career Development," "Balancing Volunteering with a Busy Schedule," and "Stories from Long-Term Volunteers." These sessions last about 30 minutes and are free to attend.

Before I finish, a reminder: please pick up one of the volunteer resource booklets from the front table. It contains descriptions of each participating organization, their contact details, and a few tips for first-time volunteers.

Finally, don't forget to sign in before you leave today. That way we can follow up with information, and you'll be entered into a drawing for a free gift voucher from a local bookstore.

We truly appreciate your interest in supporting the Glenhaven community through volunteering. It's people like you who make a real difference, and we're excited to help you take the first step today.

Thank you, and enjoy the fair!

Answer Key

1. 4 p.m.
2. outdoors

3. academic service

4. administrative

5. responsibilities

6. B

7. C

8. B

9. B

10. C