

9. Click on **Next**. Then click on **Confirm Answer** to record your answer. After you click on this button, you cannot go back and change your answer.
10. Be prepared for the next question. After you click on **Confirm Answer**, the next question begins automatically.

Next, you should move on to the language skills. The following language skills will help you to implement these strategies and procedures with the short dialogues on both the paper TOEFL test and the computer TOEFL test.

STRATEGIES

SKILL I: FOCUS ON THE LAST LINE

The short dialogues involve conversations between two people, each followed by a question. It is important to understand that the answer to this type of question is most often (but not always!) found in the last line of the conversation.

Example from the Paper and Computer TOEFL® Tests

On the recording, you hear:

- (man) *Billy really made a big mistake this time.*
 (woman) *Yes, he forgot to turn in his research paper.*
 (narrator) *What does the woman say about Billy?*

In your test book or on the computer screen, you read:

- (A) It was the first time he made a mistake.
 (B) He forgot to write his paper.
 (C) He turned in the paper in the wrong place.
 (D) He didn't remember to submit his assignment.

The last line of this dialogue indicates that Billy *forgot to turn in his research paper*, and this means that he *didn't remember to submit* it. The best answer is therefore answer (D).

The following chart outlines the most important strategy for the short dialogues:

STRATEGY #1: FOCUS ON THE LAST LINE

1. The last line of the dialogue probably contains the answer to the question.
2. Listen to the first line of the dialogue. If you understand it, that's good. If you don't understand it, don't worry because it probably does not contain the answer.
3. Be ready to focus on the last line of the dialogue because it probably contains the answer. Repeat the last line in your mind as you read through the answers in the text.

EXERCISE 1: In this exercise, you should focus on the last line of the dialogue, read the question, and then choose the best answer to that question. Remember that you can probably answer the question easily with only the last line.

1. (man) *Can you tell me if today's matinee is a comedy, romance, or western?*
 (woman) *I have no idea.*
 (narrator) *What does the woman mean?*
 - (A) She has strong ideas about movies.
 - (B) She prefers comedies over westerns and romances.
 - (C) She doesn't like today's matinee.
 - (D) She does not know.

2. (woman) *Was anyone at home at Barb's house when you went there to deliver the package?*
 (man) *I rang the bell, but no one answered.*
 (narrator) *What does the man imply?*
 - (A) Barb answered the bell.
 - (B) The house was probably empty.
 - (C) The bell wasn't in the house.
 - (D) The house doesn't have a bell.

3. (woman) *You just got back from the interview for the internship. How do you think it went?*
 (man) *I think it's highly unlikely that I got the job.*
 (narrator) *What does the man suggest?*
 - (A) It's unlikely that he'll go to the interview.
 - (B) He thinks he'll be recommended for a high-level job.
 - (C) The interview was apparently quite unsuccessful.
 - (D) He had an excellent interview.

TOEFL EXERCISE 1: In this exercise, listen carefully to each short dialogue and question on the recording, and then choose the best answer to the question. You should focus carefully on the last line.



NOW BEGIN THE RECORDING AT TOEFL EXERCISE 1.

1. (A) He is leaving now.
 (B) He has to go out of his way.
 (C) He will not be leaving soon.
 (D) He will do it his own way.

2. (A) He locked the door.
 (B) He tried unsuccessfully to get into the house.
 (C) He was able to open the door.
 (D) He left the house without locking the door.

3. (A) She doesn't like to listen to turkeys.
 (B) She thinks the dinner sounds special.
 (C) She especially likes the roast turkey.
 (D) She'd prefer a different dinner.

4. (A) He'll be busy with her homework tonight.
 (B) He can't help her tonight.
 (C) He's sorry he can't ever help her.
 (D) He'll help her with her physics.

5. (A) Her eyes hurt.
 (B) She thought the lecture was great.
 (C) The class was boring.
 (D) She didn't want to watch Professor Martin.

6. (A) Not all the bills have been paid.
 (B) They don't have enough credit to pay the bills.
 (C) What she said on the phone was not credible.
 (D) He used a credit card to pay some of the bills.

7. (A) She'll call back quickly.
 (B) She'll definitely be back by 4:00.
 (C) She'll give it back by 4:00.
 (D) She'll try to return fast.

8. (A) She hasn't seen Tim.
 (B) Tim was there only for a moment.
 (C) Tim was around a short time ago.
 (D) Tim will return in a minute.

9. (A) She doesn't like the place he chose.
 (B) She doesn't want to get into the car.
 (C) She's glad the spot is reserved.
 (D) They can't park the car there.
10. (A) There's plenty to eat.
 (B) The refrigerator's broken.
 (C) The food isn't in the refrigerator.
 (D) He's not sure if there's enough.

SKILL 2: CHOOSE ANSWERS WITH SYNONYMS

Often the correct answer in a short dialogue is an answer that contains synonyms (words with similar meanings but different sounds) for key words in the conversation.

Example from the Paper and Computer TOEFL® Tests

On the recording, you hear:

- (woman) *Why is Barbara feeling so happy?*
 (man) *She just started working in a real estate agency.*
 (narrator) *What does the man say about Barbara?*

In your test book or on the computer screen, you read:

- (A) She always liked her work in real estate.
 (B) She began a new job.
 (C) She just bought some real estate.
 (D) She bought a real estate agency.

In this dialogue, the key word *started* means *began*, and the key word *working* refers to *job*. The best answer to this question is therefore answer (B).

The following chart outlines a very important strategy for short dialogues:

STRATEGY #2: CHOOSE ANSWERS WITH SYNONYMS

- As you listen to the last line of the dialogue, focus on key words in that line.
- If you see any synonyms for key words in a particular answer, then you have probably found the correct answer.

EXERCISE 2: In this exercise, underline key words in the last line of each short dialogue. Then underline synonyms for these key words in the answers, and choose the best answer to each question. Remember that the best answer is probably the answer that contains synonyms for the key words in the last line of the dialogue.

1. (woman) *Did you see the manager about the job in the bookstore?*
 (man) *Yes, and I also had to fill out an application.*
 (narrator) *What does the man mean?*
- (A) He got a job as bookstore manager.
 (B) The bookstore was not accepting applications.
 (C) He saw a book about how to apply for jobs.
 (D) It was necessary to complete a form.