

FUNCTIONS

SKILL 11: LISTEN FOR EXPRESSIONS OF AGREEMENT

Expressions of agreement are common in the short dialogues, so you should become familiar with them. The following example shows agreement with a *positive* statement.

Example from the Paper and Computer TOEFL® Tests



On the recording, you hear:

(man) *I think that the hypothesis is indefensible.*

(woman) *So do I.*

(narrator) *What does the woman mean?*

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

- (A) She is unsure about the hypothesis.
- (B) The hippopotamus is behind the fence.
- (C) She thinks that the hypothesis can be defended.
- (D) She agrees with the man.

The expression *So do I* is an expression that shows agreement with a *positive* statement, so the woman means that she *agrees* with the man. The best answer is therefore answer (D).

Other expressions are used to show agreement with negative statements.

Example from the Paper and Computer TOEFL® Tests



On the recording, you hear:

(woman) *I don't think that our history teacher is very interesting.*

(man) *Neither do I.*

(narrator) *What does the man mean?*

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

- (A) He disagrees with the woman.
- (B) He thinks the history teacher is interesting.
- (C) He shares the woman's opinion.
- (D) He doesn't think the woman's idea is good.

The expression *Neither do I* is an expression that shows agreement with a negative statement, so the man *shares the woman's opinion*. The best answer is therefore answer (C).

The following chart lists common expressions that show agreement. You should become familiar with these expressions:

EXPRESSIONS OF AGREEMENT	
Agreement with Positive Statements	Agreement with Negative Statements
<p><i>So do I.</i> <i>Me, too.</i> <i>I'll say!</i> <i>Isn't it!</i> <i>You can say that again!</i></p>	<p><i>Neither do I.</i> <i>I don't either.</i></p>

EXERCISE 11: In this exercise, underline the expression of agreement in each short dialogue. Then read the question and choose the best answer to that question. Remember that the best answer is one that shows agreement.

- (woman) *These paintings are really fascinating!*
 (man) *Aren't they!*
 (narrator) *What does the man mean?*

(A) These paintings aren't very interesting.
 (B) He isn't fascinated by these paintings.
 (C) He isn't sure how he feels.
 (D) He finds these paintings quite interesting.
- (woman) *I don't really care for the way the building was renovated.*
 (man) *I don't either.*
 (narrator) *What does the man mean?*

(A) He thinks the building was not renovated.
 (B) He has the same opinion of the building as the woman.
 (C) He doesn't care about the renovation of the building.
 (D) He suggests being careful in the renovated building.
- (man) *I think that both candidates for county supervisor are unqualified.*
 (woman) *Me, too.*
 (narrator) *What does the woman mean?*

(A) She agrees with the man.
 (B) She thinks he should become county supervisor.
 (C) She thinks the candidates are qualified.
 (D) She has no opinion about the candidates for county supervisor.

TOEFL EXERCISE 11: 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 pay attention to expressions of agreement.



NOW BEGIN THE RECORDING AT TOEFL EXERCISE 11.

- (A) The trip would cost too much.
 (B) She doesn't think that a trip would be a good idea.
 (C) She would like to take two trips rather than one.
 (D) She would also like to take a trip.
- (A) He would like to see the elections for town council.
 (B) He agrees that Matt should be elected.
 (C) He thinks the elections should take place next month.
 (D) He disagrees with the woman.

3. (A) She is not sure which course she should take.
 (B) She's not sure if she should take a trip to France.
 (C) She knows that she is not ready for intermediate French.
 (D) She wants to take neither beginning nor intermediate French.
4. (A) The man should repeat what he said.
 (B) The man said something foolish.
 (C) She thinks that the food is the best she has ever tasted.
 (D) She agrees that the food is pretty bad.
5. (A) This party hasn't been any fun at all.
 (B) He wonders if the woman enjoyed herself.
 (C) He wants to know what she said.
 (D) He's enjoyed himself tremendously.
6. (A) She condones what happened.
 (B) She does not like what the man said.
 (C) She agrees with the man about what happened.
 (D) She says that she did not do it.
7. (A) He thinks the parties aren't loud.
 (B) He says that the neighbors don't have many parties.
 (C) He agrees that the upstairs neighbors are noisy.
 (D) The loud parties don't bother him.
8. (A) She doesn't like this meal too much.
 (B) This food tastes wonderful to her.
 (C) She's not sure if she likes it.
 (D) She can't stand this meal.
9. (A) She agrees that getting the car was not a good idea.
 (B) She imagines that she would like to have a similar car.
 (C) She thinks that the man is mistaken about the car.
 (D) She thinks the man has no imagination.
10. (A) He would like the woman to repeat what she said.
 (B) He thinks that one semester is enough time for the course.
 (C) He also thinks that the course should be extended.
 (D) He would like to take the course two semesters from now.

SKILL 12: LISTEN FOR EXPRESSIONS OF UNCERTAINTY AND SUGGESTION

Expressions of uncertainty and suggestion are common in the short dialogues, so you should become familiar with them. The following example shows an expression of uncertainty.

Example from the Paper and Computer TOEFL® Tests



On the recording, you hear:

(man) *Do you know anything about the final exam in physics?*

(woman) *It's going to be rather difficult, isn't it?*

(narrator) *What does the woman mean?*

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

(A) The exam is not going to be too difficult.

(B) She's positive that it's going to be hard.

(C) She thinks that it might be hard.

(D) She has no idea about the exam.