

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.

The tag question *isn't it* changes a definite statement into a statement that shows uncertainty, so the best answer is one that expresses uncertainty. The best answer to this question is answer (C) because the words *thinks* and *might* express uncertainty.

Other expressions that are common in the short dialogues are expressions of suggestion.

**Example from the Paper and Computer TOEFL® Tests**



On the recording, you hear:

(man) *I'll never have time to type my paper tomorrow.*

(woman) *Why not do it now?*

(narrator) *What does the woman suggest?*

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

- (A) Finishing the paper today
- (B) Not working on the paper now
- (C) Never typing the paper
- (D) Taking time out from the paper now

In this example, the expression *Why not* is an expression of suggestion, so the woman suggests *doing it now*. In this suggestion, the woman is referring to the paper that the man needs to type, so the best answer is answer (A).

The following chart lists common expressions that show uncertainty and suggestion:

EXPRESSIONS OF UNCERTAINTY AND SUGGESTION	
Uncertainty	Suggestion
<i>... isn't it (tag)?</i> <i>As far as I know.</i> <i>As far as I can tell.</i>	<i>Why not ...?</i> <i>Let's ...</i>

**EXERCISE 12:** In this exercise, underline the expression of uncertainty or suggestion 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 uncertainty or suggestion.

1. (man) *Do you know what time they're leaving for the city?* (A) She's not completely sure when they are leaving.
- (woman) *They have to leave at four o'clock, don't they?* (B) They are returning from the city at about 4:00.
- (narrator) *What does the woman mean?* (C) She knows when they are leaving.
- (D) She doesn't have any idea when they are leaving.
  
2. (woman) *I'm so thirsty from all this walking.* (A) They should stop drinking.
- (man) *Let's stop and get a drink.* (B) They should go for a walk.
- (narrator) *What does the man suggest?* (C) They should walk thirty miles.
- (D) They should take a break and have a drink.

3. (man) *Is the exam still scheduled for 3:00 on Thursday?*  
 (woman) *As far as I know.*  
 (narrator) *What does the woman mean?*
- (A) The exam is far away.  
 (B) She knows that the exam schedule has been changed.  
 (C) She is sure that the exam is set for Thursday.  
 (D) She thinks she knows when the test is.

**TOEFL EXERCISE 12:** 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 be particularly careful of expressions of uncertainty and suggestion.



NOW BEGIN THE RECORDING AT TOEFL EXERCISE 12.

1. (A) He's sure about which chapters they are to read.  
 (B) He thinks he knows what the assignment is.  
 (C) He has to tell her how far she should go.  
 (D) The professor told them to read the chapters after the exam.
2. (A) The man should take the pie out.  
 (B) The man should try something else.  
 (C) The man shouldn't try cherry pie.  
 (D) The man should feel sorry.
3. (A) He knows the movie starts at 8:00.  
 (B) He is not quite sure when the movie begins.  
 (C) He thinks the start of the movie has been changed.  
 (D) He will start the movie himself at 8:00.
4. (A) Not doing the dishes now  
 (B) Leaving the house with the dishes  
 (C) Leaving later so that they can do the dishes now  
 (D) Washing the dishes before they leave
5. (A) She's told Matt he'll go far.  
 (B) Matt has far from enough talent.  
 (C) She told Matt to roll farther.  
 (D) She believes Matt has the ability for the part.
6. (A) They should go to the hospital.  
 (B) Mary should visit the man.  
 (C) The woman should try not to break her leg.  
 (D) They should go on a trip with Mary.
7. (A) She knows where the children are.  
 (B) The children have finished playing ball.  
 (C) She's going to the park to find the children.  
 (D) She believes that the children are in the park.
8. (A) The man should try to borrow some from a neighbor.  
 (B) The man should take a check to Tom.  
 (C) The man should work on his math assignment with Tom.  
 (D) The man should check behind the door.
9. (A) He thinks the bill is due in the middle of the month.  
 (B) The bill is approximately fifteen dollars.  
 (C) He knows when they should pay the bill.  
 (D) The bill is going to be fifteen days late.
10. (A) They should postpone their decision until morning.  
 (B) They should go to sleep in the new house.  
 (C) They should not buy such a big house.  
 (D) They should decide where to go to sleep.