

The following skills will help you to implement these procedures in the long conversations on the paper TOEFL test.

## BEFORE LISTENING

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### SKILL 18: ANTICIPATE THE TOPICS

It is very helpful to your overall comprehension if you know what topics to expect in the long conversations. You should therefore try to anticipate the topics you will be hearing. For example, are the conversations about some aspect of school life, or some type of social issue, or a trip someone is planning? A helpful strategy is therefore to look briefly at the answers in the test book, before you actually hear the conversations on the recording, and try to determine the topics of the conversations that you will hear.

**EXERCISE 18:** Look at the answers to the five questions together, and try to anticipate the topic of the conversation for those five questions. (Of course, you cannot always determine exactly what the topic is, but you often can get a general idea.) Questions 1 through 5 have been answered for you.

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| <p>1. (A) Find <i>work on campus</i><br/>           (B) Work in the <i>employment office</i><br/>           (C) Help <i>students</i> find <i>jobs</i><br/>           (D) Ask the woman questions</p> | <p>4. (A) Every morning<br/>           (B) Afternoons and weekends<br/>           (C) When he's in class<br/>           (D) Weekdays</p>                 |
| <p>2. (A) In the library<br/>           (B) In a classroom<br/>           (C) In a campus office<br/>           (D) In an apartment</p>  | <p>5. (A) Fill out a form<br/>           (B) Give her some additional information<br/>           (C) Tell her some news<br/>           (D) Phone her</p> |
| <p>3. (A) No more than ten<br/>           (B) At least twenty<br/>           (C) Not more than twenty<br/>           (D) Up to ten</p>   |  |

What is the topic of the conversation for questions 1 through 5?

looking for a job on campus

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You can guess this because of the following clues:

- *work on campus*
- *employment office*
- *students*
- *jobs*

6. (A) Just before a vacation  
(B) Just after the end of a school semester  
(C) At the end of the summer  
(D) Just after a break from school
7. (A) A trip to visit the Eskimos  
(B) A trip the woman is planning to take  
(C) A trip the man has already taken  
(D) A camping trip the man and woman took
8. (A) Three hours  
(B) Three complete days  
(C) Three classes  
(D) Three weeks
9. (A) Sleeping outside on the ground  
(B) Spending time in a sauna or hot tub  
(C) Relaxing at the lodge  
(D) Enjoying excellent food
10. (A) She'd be scared, but she'd like to try.  
(B) She can't wait.  
(C) It would be quite exciting for her.  
(D) She'd prefer not to try.

What is the topic of the conversation for questions 6 through 10?

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11. (A) All kinds of pollution  
(B) How acid rain has harmed the earth  
(C) Pollution from cars and factories  
(D) The causes and possible effects of acid rain
12. (A) Nuclear power  
(B) Electricity  
(C) Burning coal and oil  
(D) Solar power
13. (A) From sulfur dioxide and water vapor  
(B) From sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide  
(C) From nitric acid and sulfur dioxide  
(D) From water vapor and nitric acid
14. (A) Only in North America  
(B) At the North and South Poles  
(C) In parts of several northern continents  
(D) In equatorial areas
15. (A) She should protect herself from the rain.  
(B) She should clean up the water supply.  
(C) She should read a novel.  
(D) She should get more information about acid rain.

What is the topic of the conversation for questions 11 through 15?

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