

SKILL 19: ANTICIPATE THE QUESTIONS

It is very helpful to your ability to answer individual questions with the long conversations if you can anticipate what the questions will be and listen specifically for the answers to those questions.

Example from the Paper TOEFL® Test 

In your test book, you read:

- (A) In the airport
- (B) In the library
- (C) In the dormitory
- (D) In the travel agent's office

You try to anticipate the question:

Where does the conversation probably take place?

In this example, you can be quite certain that one of the questions will be about where the conversation takes place. Since you are sure that this is one of the questions, you can listen carefully for clues that will give you the answer. This example shows that 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 questions that you will be asked to answer.

EXERCISE 19: Study the following answers and try to determine what the questions will be. (You should note that perhaps you will only be able to predict part of a question, rather than the complete question.) If you cannot predict the question in a short period of time, then move on to the next group of answers. Question 1 has been answered for you.

1. Question: What does (someone) want to do?
 - (A) Find work on campus
 - (B) Work in the employment office
 - (C) Help students find jobs
 - (D) Ask the woman questions
2. Question: _____
 - (A) In the library
 - (B) In a classroom
 - (C) In a campus office
 - (D) In an apartment
3. Question: _____
 - (A) No more than ten
 - (B) At least twenty
 - (C) Not more than twenty
 - (D) Up to ten
4. Question: _____
 - (A) Every morning
 - (B) Afternoons and weekends
 - (C) When he's in class
 - (D) Weekdays

5. Question: _____
(A) Fill out a form
(B) Give her some additional information
(C) Tell her some news
(D) Phone her
6. Question: _____
(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. Question: _____
(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. Question: _____
(A) Three hours
(B) Three complete days
(C) Three classes
(D) Three weeks
9. Question: _____
(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. Question: _____
(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.
11. Question: _____
(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. Question: _____
(A) Nuclear power
(B) Electricity
(C) Burning coal and oil
(D) Solar power
13. Question: _____
(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. Question: _____
(A) Only in North America
(B) At the North and South Poles
(C) In parts of several northern continents
(D) In equatorial areas

15. Question: _____
- (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.

WHILE LISTENING _____

SKILL 20: DETERMINE THE TOPIC

As you listen to each long conversation, you should be thinking about the topic (subject) or main idea for each conversation. Since the first one or two sentences generally give the topic, you should be asking yourself what the topic is while you are listening carefully to the first part of the conversation.

Example from the Paper TOEFL® Test

On the recording, you hear:

- (man) *You can't believe what I just got!*
- (woman) *I bet you got that new car you've always wanted.*
- (man) *Now, how in the world did you figure that out?*

You think:

The topic of the conversation is the new car that the man just got.

EXERCISE 20: Listen to the first part of each of the conversations, and decide on the topic of each conversation.



NOW BEGIN THE RECORDING AT EXERCISE 20.

1. What is the topic of Conversation 1?

2. What is the topic of Conversation 2?

3. What is the topic of Conversation 3?
