

SKILL 22: LISTEN FOR ANSWERS IN ORDER

There are two possible methods to use while you listen to a long conversation:

- *You can just listen to the conversation (and ignore the answers).*
- *You can follow along with the answers while you listen.*

Some students prefer to just listen to the conversation while it is being spoken, and if that method works well for you, then that is what you should do. Other students find that they can answer more questions correctly if they read along with the answers while the conversation is being spoken. Because the detail questions are answered in order, it is possible to read along while you listen to the conversation on the recording.

Example from the Paper TOEFL® Test 

On the recording, you hear:

- (man) *Can I help you?*
- (woman) *I'm interested in opening an account.*
- (man) *Well, we have several different types of accounts: checking accounts, savings accounts, money market accounts, time deposit accounts.*
- (woman) *It's a checking account that I am interested in.*
- (man) *I can help you with that. First, you have to fill out a form, and then I need to see some identification. That's about all there is to it.*
- (woman) *That sounds easy enough. Thanks for your help.*

On the recording, you hear:

- (narrator) 1. *What type of account does the woman want?*
2. *What does the man need for her to show him?*

In your test book, you read (same time):

1. (A) A checking account
 (B) A savings account
 (C) A money market account
 (D) A time deposit account
2. (A) A form
 (B) An account
 (C) A piece of identification
 (D) A check

When you read the answers to the first question, you can anticipate that the first question is: *What type of account?* As you listen, you determine that the woman wants *a checking account*. Therefore, you can anticipate that the best answer to the first question is (A).

When you read the answers to the second question, you can anticipate that the second question is going to ask *What thing...?* In the conversation, the man asks her to fill out a *form* and show some *identification*, so as you are listening you can anticipate that the correct answer to the second question is either (A) or (C). When you hear the question, you can determine that the best answer is answer (C).

TOEFL EXERCISE 22: Listen to each complete conversation and answer the questions that follow.



NOW BEGIN THE RECORDING AT TOEFL EXERCISE 22.

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

TOEFL REVIEW EXERCISE (Skills 18–22): In this exercise, you will use all of the information that you learned in Skills 18 through 22.

Before the recording begins, you should read over the answers to questions 1 through 15 and do the following:

- *Anticipate the topics you will hear.*
- *Anticipate the questions.*

While you are listening to the conversations, you should do the following:

- *Listen for the topic in the first lines.*
- *Draw conclusions about the situation (who, what, when, where).*
- *Listen for the answers in order.*



NOW BEGIN THE RECORDING AT TOEFL REVIEW EXERCISE (SKILLS 18–22).

- (A) To a concert
(B) To a rehearsal
(C) To a lecture
(D) To the library
- (A) One
(B) Two
(C) Three
(D) Four
- (A) The bus does not go directly to the Music Building.
(B) The bus goes very slowly to the Music Building.
(C) The bus sometimes does not come.
(D) The bus will not arrive for a while.
- (A) Walk
(B) Wait for the bus
(C) Miss the lecture
(D) Think of another plan
- (A) Boring
(B) Fantastic
(C) Lengthy
(D) Faithful
- (A) By car
(B) By plane
(C) By train
(D) By bicycle
- (A) She went directly to Yellowstone.
(B) She spent a few weeks in Laramie.
(C) She stopped at the Devil's Tower National Monument.
(D) She made a few stops before going on to Yellowstone.
- (A) Laramie
(B) Devil's Tower National Monument
(C) Old Faithful
(D) Wyoming
- (A) Hear again about Yellowstone
(B) Take a trip to Yellowstone
(C) Get a job in a national park
(D) Move to Yellowstone
- (A) How and when we celebrate Thanksgiving
(B) The traditional Thanksgiving dinner
(C) When Thanksgiving began
(D) Abraham Lincoln
- (A) With colonists in Massachusetts
(B) Alone and thinking about how Thanksgiving developed
(C) With a big Thanksgiving dinner
(D) In an untraditional manner
- (A) The terrible winter
(B) The corn harvest
(C) The development of Thanksgiving Day
(D) For getting the whole family together
- (A) At many different times
(B) In July
(C) Any time in November
(D) On a Thursday in November

LONG TALKS

(PAPER TOEFL® TEST) 

Three talks, each followed by a number of multiple-choice questions, appear in Part C of the Listening Comprehension section of the paper TOEFL test. You will hear the talks and the questions on a recording; they are not written in your test book. You must choose the best answer to each question from the four choices that are written in your test book. Like the conversations in Part B, the talks are often about some aspect of school life or topics currently in the news. It is also very common for the talks to be shortened versions of lectures from courses taught in American colleges and universities.

Example from the Paper TOEFL® Test

On the recording, you hear:

(narrator) *Questions 1 through 4. Listen to a talk about the settlement of America.*

(woman) *The settling of the vast farmlands in central North America was delayed at least partly because of an error by one man. In the early nineteenth century, Lieutenant Zebulon Pike of the U.S. Army was sent out to explore and chart the huge expanses of land in the center of the continent. When he returned from his explorations, he wrote a report in which he erroneously stated that the vast plains in the central part of the continent were desertlike, comparable to the Sahara in Africa. In reality, however, these vast plains contained some of the most fertile farmland in the world. Because of Pike's mistake, the maps of the day depicted the central part of what is today the United States as a vast desert rather than the excellent and available farmland that it was. This mistaken belief about the nature of those lands caused settlers to avoid the central plains for years.*

Questions:

1. On the recording, you hear:

(narrator) *What is the topic of this talk?*

- In your test book, you read:
- (A) Zebulon Pike's career
 - (B) A mistake that influenced the settlement of America
 - (C) A report for the army
 - (D) The farmlands

2. On the recording, you hear:

(narrator) *How did Pike describe the area that he explored?*

- In your test book, you read:
- (A) As a desert
 - (B) As usable for army purposes
 - (C) As located in the Sahara
 - (D) As available for farmland

3. On the recording, you hear:

(narrator) *What was this area really like?*

- In your test book, you read:
- (A) It was a vast desert.
 - (B) It was covered with farms.
 - (C) It was excellent farmland.
 - (D) It was similar to the Sahara.

4. On the recording, you hear:

(narrator) *This talk would probably be given in which of the following courses?*

- In your test book, you read:
- (A) Agricultural Science
 - (B) American History
 - (C) Geology of the United States
 - (D) Military Science

The first question asks about the topic of the talk. The topic of the talk is found in the first sentence of the talk: *The settling of the vast farmlands in central North America was delayed at least partly because of an error by one man.* Therefore, the best answer to the question is (B). The second question is a detail question that asks how Pike described this area. It is stated in the talk that *Pike wrote a report in which he erroneously stated that the vast plains in the central part of the continent were desertlike...* Therefore, the best answer to this question is (A). The third question is an additional detail question that asks what the area was really like. Because the talk indicates that *in reality... these vast plains contained some of the most fertile farmland in the world,* the best answer to this question is (C). The fourth question is an inference question. It asks in which course this lecture would probably be given. The word *probably* indicates to you that the question is not answered directly in the talk. You must draw a conclusion from the information in the talk to answer this question. Because this talk refers to *the early nineteenth century* and discusses the *settling of the vast farmlands in central North America,* it would probably be given in an American History course. The best answer to this question is (B).

PROCEDURES FOR THE LONG TALKS

(Paper TOEFL® Test) 

1. **If you have time, preview the answers to the questions.** While you are looking at the answers, you should try to do the following:
 - Anticipate the **topics** of the talks you will hear.
 - Anticipate the **questions** for each of the groups of answers.
2. **Listen carefully to the first line of the talk.** The first line of the talk often contains the main idea, subject, or topic of the talk, and you will often be asked this type of question.
3. **As you listen to the talk, draw conclusions about the situation of the talk: who is talking, where or when the talk takes place, which course this lecture might be given in.** You will often be asked to make such inferences about the talk.
4. **As you listen to the talk, follow along with the answers in your test book and try to determine the correct answers.** Detail questions are generally answered in order in the talk, and the answers often sound the same as what is said on the recording.
5. **You should guess even if you are not sure.** Never leave any answers blank.
6. **Use any remaining time to look ahead at the answers to the questions that follow.**