

## SKILL 24: ANTICIPATE THE QUESTIONS

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

### Example from the Paper TOEFL® Test

In your test book, you read:

- (A) For three weeks
- (B) For three days
- (C) For three months
- (D) For three hours

You try to anticipate the question:

*How long does (something) last?*

In this example, you can be quite certain that one of the questions will be about how long something lasts. 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 talks on the recording, and try to determine the questions that you will be asked to answer.

**EXERCISE 24:** 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: When does the talk probably take place?

- (A) During a biology laboratory session
- (B) In a biology study group
- (C) On the first day of class
- (D) Just before the final exam

2. Question: \_\_\_\_\_

- (A) Once a week
- (B) Two times a week
- (C) Three times a week
- (D) For fifteen hours

3. Question: \_\_\_\_\_

- (A) To do the first laboratory assignment
- (B) To take the first exam
- (C) To study the laboratory manual
- (D) To read one chapter of the text

4. Question: \_\_\_\_\_

- (A) Room assignments
- (B) Exam topics
- (C) Reading assignments
- (D) The first lecture

5. Question: \_\_\_\_\_  
(A) Exams and lab work  
(B) Reading and writing assignments  
(C) Class participation and grades on examinations  
(D) Lecture and laboratory attendance
6. Question: \_\_\_\_\_  
(A) What caused the Ring of Fire  
(B) The volcanoes of the Ring of Fire  
(C) Hawaiian volcanoes  
(D) Different types of volcanoes
7. Question: \_\_\_\_\_  
(A) The Ring of Fire  
(B) The characteristics of volcanoes in the Ring of Fire  
(C) The volcanoes of Hawaii  
(D) Mauna Loa
8. Question: \_\_\_\_\_  
(A) In Hawaii  
(B) In the United States  
(C) Along the Ring of Fire  
(D) Within the Ring of Fire
9. Question: \_\_\_\_\_  
(A) They are not so violent.  
(B) They are located along the Ring of Fire.  
(C) They contain a lot of gas.  
(D) They contain thick lava.
10. Question: \_\_\_\_\_  
(A) A volcano on the Ring of Fire  
(B) An island in Hawaii  
(C) A long, low volcanic mountain  
(D) An explosive volcano
11. Question: \_\_\_\_\_  
(A) An artist  
(B) A tour guide  
(C) An Indian  
(D) Orville Wright
12. Question: \_\_\_\_\_  
(A) Several  
(B) Sixty thousand  
(C) Sixteen million  
(D) Millions and millions
13. Question: \_\_\_\_\_  
(A) The National Air and Space Museum  
(B) The Museum of Natural History  
(C) The American History Museum  
(D) The Smithsonian Arts and Industries Building

14. Question: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (A) The American History Museum  
 (B) The Smithsonian Arts and Industries Building  
 (C) The Washington Museum  
 (D) The National Air and Space Museum
15. Question: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (A) To the White House  
 (B) To the Smithsonian  
 (C) To the mall  
 (D) To various other museums

## WHILE LISTENING

### SKILL 25: DETERMINE THE TOPIC

As you listen to each long talk, you should be thinking about the topic (subject) or main idea for the talk (as you did with the long conversations). Since the first sentence is generally a topic sentence, you should be asking yourself what the topic is while you are listening carefully to the first part of the talk.

#### Example from the Paper TOEFL® Test

On the recording, you hear:

(man) *The major earthquake that occurred east of Los Angeles in 1971 is still affecting the economy of the area today.*

You think:

The topic of the talk is the effect of the 1971 earthquake on Los Angeles today.

**EXERCISE 25:** Listen to the first part of each of the talks, and decide on the topic of each talk.



NOW BEGIN THE RECORDING AT EXERCISE 25.

1. What is the topic of Talk 1?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the topic of Talk 2?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the topic of Talk 3?

\_\_\_\_\_