

WHO, WHAT, WHERE _____

SKILL 4: DRAW CONCLUSIONS ABOUT WHO, WHAT, WHERE

It is common in the short dialogues to ask you to draw some kind of conclusion. In this type of question the answer is not clearly stated; instead you must draw a conclusion based on clues given in the dialogue. One kind of conclusion that is common in this part of the test is to ask you to determine *who* the speaker is, based on clues given in the dialogue.

Example from the Paper and Computer TOEFL® Tests



On the recording, you hear:

(woman) *Can you tell me what assignments I missed when I was absent from your class?*

(man) *You missed one homework assignment and a quiz.*

(narrator) *Who is the man?*

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

- (A) A newspaper editor
- (B) A police officer
- (C) A teacher
- (D) A student

The clues *class*, *homework*, and *quiz* in the dialogue tell you that the man is probably a *teacher*. Answer (C) is therefore the correct answer.

Another type of conclusion that is common in the short dialogues is to determine *what* will probably happen next, based on clues given in the dialogue.

Example from the Paper and Computer TOEFL® Tests



On the recording, you hear:

(woman) *Are you going to read those books here in the library?*

(man) *I think I'd rather check them out now and take them home.*

(narrator) *What will the man probably do next?*

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

- (A) Sit down in the library
- (B) Look for some more books
- (C) Return the books to the shelves
- (D) Go to the circulation desk

The man mentions *books* and says that he would like to *check them out now*. Since the *circulation desk* is where you go to check books out from a library, the man will probably go to the circulation desk next. The correct answer is therefore answer (D).

A final type of conclusion that is common in the short dialogues is to determine *where* the conversation probably takes place, based on clues given in the conversation.

Example from the Paper and Computer TOEFL® Tests



On the recording, you hear:

(woman) *Are you going into the water, or are you just going to lie there on the sand?*

(man) *I think I need to put on some suntan lotion.*

(narrator) *Where does this conversation probably take place?*

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

- (A) At a beauty salon
- (B) At the beach
- (C) In a sandbox
- (D) At an outdoor restaurant

The clues *water*, *sand*, and *suntan lotion* in the dialogue tell you that this dialogue probably takes place at the *beach*. Answer (B) is therefore the correct answer.

The following chart outlines the key point that you should remember about this type of question:

CONCLUSIONS ABOUT WHO, WHAT, WHERE

It is common for you to be asked to draw one of the following conclusions in the short dialogues:

1. **WHO** is probably talking?
2. **WHAT** will s/he probably do next?
3. **WHERE** does the dialogue probably take place?

EXERCISE 4: In this exercise, read each short dialogue and question, underline the clues that help you answer the question, and then choose the best answer. You will have to draw conclusions about *who*, *what*, and *where*.

1. (man) *I'd like to deposit this check in my account, please.* (A) A store clerk
(woman) *Would you like any cash back?* (B) A bank teller
(narrator) *Who is the woman?* (C) An accountant
(D) A waitress
2. (woman) *Have you deposited your paycheck yet?* (A) Earn his paycheck
(man) *No, but that's next on my list of errands.* (B) Write a check for a deposit on an apartment
(narrator) *What will the man probably do next?* (C) Go to a bank
(D) Make a list of errands to run

3. (man) *Did you get the bread, eggs, and milk?* (A) In a restaurant
 (woman) *Now we need to stand in line at the checkout counter.* (B) At a bakery
 (narrator) *Where does this conversation probably take place?* (C) On a farm
 (D) In a market

TOEFL EXERCISE 4: In this exercise, listen carefully to each short dialogue and question on the recording and then choose the best answer to the question. You will have to draw conclusions about *who*, *what*, and *where*.



NOW BEGIN THE RECORDING AT TOEFL EXERCISE 4.

1. (A) In a photography studio
 (B) In a biology laboratory
 (C) In an office
 (D) In the library
2. (A) He's a pilot.
 (B) He's a flight attendant.
 (C) He's a member of the ground crew.
 (D) He works clearing land.
3. (A) Wash the dishes immediately
 (B) Use as many dishes as possible
 (C) Wash the dishes for as long as possible
 (D) Wait until later to clean up
4. (A) In a bank
 (B) In a restaurant
 (C) At a service station
 (D) In a beauty salon
5. (A) A salesclerk in a shoe store
 (B) A shoe repairperson
 (C) A party caterer
 (D) A salesclerk in a fixtures department
6. (A) On a playground
 (B) In a parking lot
 (C) At a zoo
 (D) In a photo studio
7. (A) Respond to the mail
 (B) Put the letters in a file
 (C) Create a pending file
 (D) File the answers she received to the letters
8. (A) In an airplane
 (B) In a police car
 (C) In a theater
 (D) At a fireworks exhibit
9. (A) Take care of Bob
 (B) Invite Bob to dinner
 (C) Let Bob know that they accept his invitation
 (D) Respond to the woman's question
10. (A) A pharmacist
 (B) A dentist
 (C) A teacher
 (D) A business manager