

FUNCTIONS

SKILL 11: LISTEN FOR EXPRESSIONS OF AGREEMENT

Expressions of agreement are common in Listening Part A, so you should become familiar with them. The following example shows agreement with a *positive* statement.

Example

On the recording, you hear:

- (man) *I think that the hypothesis is indefensible.*
 (woman) *So do I.*
 (narrator) *What does the woman mean?*

In your test book, you read:

- (A) She is unsure about the hypothesis.
 (B) The hippopotamus is behind the fence.
 (C) She thinks that the hypothesis can be defended.
 (D) She agrees with the man.

The expression *so do I* is an expression that shows agreement with a positive statement, so the woman means that she *agrees* with the man. The best answer is therefore answer (D).

Other expressions are used to show agreement with negative statements.

Example

On the recording, you hear:

- (woman) *I don't think that our history teacher is very interesting.*
 (man) *Neither do I.*
 (narrator) *What does the man mean?*

In your test book, you read:

- (A) He disagrees with the woman.
 (B) He thinks the history teacher is interesting.
 (C) He shares the woman's opinion.
 (D) He doesn't think the woman's idea is good.

The expression *neither do I* is an expression that shows agreement with a negative statement, so the man *agrees* with the woman. The best answer is therefore answer (C).

The following chart lists common expressions that show agreement. You should become familiar with these expressions:

EXPRESSIONS OF AGREEMENT	
Agreement with Positive Statements	Agreement with Negative Statements
<i>So do I.</i> <i>Me, too.</i> <i>I'll say!</i> <i>Isn't it!</i> <i>You can say that again!</i>	<i>Neither do I.</i> <i>I don't either.</i>

EXERCISE 11: In this exercise, underline the expression of agreement in each short conversation. Then read the question and choose the best answer to that question. Remember that the best answer is one that shows agreement.

- (woman) *These paintings are really fascinating!*
 (man) *Aren't they!*
 (narrator) *What does the man mean?*

(A) These paintings aren't very interesting.
 (B) He isn't fascinated by these paintings.
 (C) He isn't sure how he feels.
 (D) He finds these paintings quite interesting.
- (woman) *I don't really care for the way the building was renovated.*
 (man) *I don't either.*
 (narrator) *What does the man mean?*

(A) He thinks the building was not renovated.
 (B) He has the same opinion of the building as the woman.
 (C) He doesn't care about the renovation of the building.
 (D) He suggests being careful in the renovated building.
- (man) *I think that both candidates for county supervisor are unqualified.*
 (woman) *Me, too.*
 (narrator) *What does the woman mean?*

(A) She agrees with the man.
 (B) She thinks he should become county supervisor.
 (C) She thinks the candidates are qualified.
 (D) She has no opinion about the candidates for county supervisor.

TOEFL EXERCISE 11: In this exercise, listen carefully to the short conversation and question in the recording program, and then choose the best answer to the question. You should pay attention to expressions of agreement.



NOW BEGIN THE RECORDING PROGRAM AT TOEFL EXERCISE 11.

- (A) The trip would cost too much.
 (B) She doesn't think that a trip would be a good idea.
 (C) She would like to take two trips rather than one.
 (D) She would also like to take a trip.
- (A) He would like to see the elections for town council.
 (B) He agrees that Matt should be elected.
 (C) He thinks the elections should take place next month.
 (D) He disagrees with the woman.