

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

The first section of the TOEFL test is the Listening Comprehension section. This section consists of fifty questions (some tests may be longer). You will listen to recorded materials and respond to questions about the material. You must listen carefully, because you will hear the recording program one time only, and the material on the recording is not written in your test book.

There are three parts in the Listening Comprehension section of the TOEFL test:

1. **Part A** consists of thirty short conversations, each followed by a question. You must choose the best answer to each question from the four choices in your test book.
2. **Part B** consists of two long conversations, each followed by a number of questions. You must choose the best answer to each question from the four choices in your test book.
3. **Part C** consists of three talks, each followed by a number of questions. You must choose the best answer to each question from the four choices in your test book.

GENERAL STRATEGIES

1. **Be familiar with the directions.** The directions on every TOEFL test are the same, so it is not necessary to listen carefully to them each time. You should be completely familiar with the directions before the day of the test.
2. **Listen carefully to the conversations and talks.** You should concentrate fully on what the speakers are saying in the recording program, because you will hear it one time only.
3. **Know where the easier and more difficult questions are generally found.** Within each part of the Listening Comprehension section, the questions generally progress from easy to difficult.
4. **Never leave any answers blank on your answer sheet.** Even if you are unsure of the correct response, you should answer each question. There is no penalty for guessing.
5. **Use any remaining time to look ahead at the answers to the questions that follow.** When you finish with one question, you may have time to look ahead at the answers to the next question.

THE LISTENING PART A QUESTIONS

For each of the thirty questions in Part A of the Listening Comprehension section of the TOEFL test, you will hear a short conversation between two speakers followed by a question. After you listen to the conversation and question, you must choose the best answer to the question from your test book.

Example

On the recording, you hear:

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|------------|---|
| (man) | <i>I've always wanted to visit Hawaii with you.</i> |
| (woman) | <i>Why not next month?</i> |
| (narrator) | <i>What does the woman mean?</i> |

In your test book, you read:

- | | |
|-----|--|
| (A) | Next month isn't a good time for the trip. |
| (B) | She doesn't want to go to Hawaii. |
| (C) | She suggests taking the trip next month. |
| (D) | She's curious about why he doesn't want to go. |

Answer (C) is the best answer to the question. *Why not next month?* is a suggestion that they take the trip next month.

STRATEGIES FOR THE LISTENING PART A QUESTIONS

1. **As you listen to each short conversation, focus on the second line of the conversation.** The answer to the question is generally found in the second line.
2. **Keep in mind that the correct answer is probably a restatement of a key word or idea in the second line of the conversation.** Think of possible restatements.
3. **Keep in mind that certain structures and expressions are tested regularly in Listening Part A.** Listen for these structures and expressions:
 - structures (*passives, negatives, wishes, conditions*)
 - functional expressions (*agreement, uncertainty, suggestion, surprise*)
 - idiomatic expressions (*two-part verbs, three-part verbs, idioms*)
4. **Keep in mind that these questions generally progress from easy to difficult.** This means that questions 1 through 5 will be the easiest, and questions 26 through 30 will be the hardest.
5. **Read the answers and choose the best answer to each question.** Remember to answer each question even if you are not sure of the correct response. Never leave any answers blank.
6. **Even if you do not understand the complete conversation, you can find the correct answer.**
 - If you only understood a few words or ideas in the second line, choose the answer that contains a restatement of those words or ideas.
 - If you did not understand anything at all in the second line of the conversation, choose the answer that sounds the most different from what you heard.
 - Never choose an answer because it *sounds like* what you heard in the conversation.