

The following skills will help you to implement these strategies in the Listening Part A section of the TOEFL test.

STRATEGIES

SKILL 1: FOCUS ON THE SECOND LINE

In Listening Part A you will hear a short conversation involving two people; this conversation is followed by a question. It is important to understand that the answer to this type of question is most often (but not always!) found in the second line of the conversation.

Example

On the recording, you hear:

- (man) *Billy really made a big mistake this time.*
(woman) *Yes, he forgot to turn in his research paper.*
(narrator) *What does the woman say about Billy?*

In your test book, you read:

- (A) It was the first time he made a mistake.
(B) He forgot to write his paper.
(C) He turned in the paper in the wrong place.
(D) He didn't remember to submit his assignment.

The second line of this conversation indicates that Billy *forgot to turn in his paper*, and this means that he *did not remember to submit it*. The best answer is therefore answer (D).

The following chart outlines the most important strategy for Listening Part A:

STRATEGY #1: FOCUS ON THE SECOND LINE

1. The second line of the conversation probably contains the answer to the question.
2. Listen to the first line of the conversation. If you understand it, that's good. If you don't understand it, don't worry because it probably does not contain the answer.
3. Be ready to focus on the second line of the conversation because it probably contains the answer. Repeat the second line in your mind as you read through the answers in the text.

EXERCISE 1: In this exercise, you should focus on the second line of the conversation, read the question, and then choose the best answer to that question. Remember that you can probably answer the question easily with only the second line.

1. (man) *Can you tell me if today's matinee is a comedy, romance, or western?*
(woman) *I have no idea.*
(narrator) *What does the woman mean?*
(A) She has strong ideas about movies.
(B) She prefers comedies over westerns and romances.
(C) She doesn't like today's matinee.
(D) She does not know.
2. (woman) *Was anyone at home at Barb's house when you went there to deliver the package?*
(man) *I rang the bell, but no one answered.*
(narrator) *What does the man imply?*
(A) Barb answered the bell.
(B) The house was probably empty.
(C) The bell wasn't in the house.
(D) The house doesn't have a bell.
3. (woman) *You just got back from the interview for the internship. How do you think it went?*
(man) *I think it's highly unlikely that I got the job.*
(narrator) *What does the man suggest?*
(A) It's unlikely that he'll go to the interview.
(B) He thinks he'll be recommended for a high-level job.
(C) The interview was apparently quite unsuccessful.
(D) He had an excellent interview.

TOEFL EXERCISE 1: 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 focus carefully on the second line.



NOW BEGIN THE RECORDING PROGRAM AT TOEFL EXERCISE 1.

1. (A) He is leaving now.
(B) He has to go out of his way.
(C) He will not be leaving soon.
(D) He will do it his own way.
2. (A) He locked the door.
(B) He tried unsuccessfully to get into the house.
(C) He was able to open the door.
(D) He left the house without locking the door.
3. (A) She doesn't like to listen to turkeys.
(B) She thinks the dinner sounds special.
(C) She especially likes the roast turkey.
(D) She'd prefer a different dinner.
4. (A) He'll be busy with her homework tonight.
(B) He can't help her tonight.
(C) He's sorry he can't ever help her.
(D) He'll help her with her physics.
5. (A) Her eyes hurt.
(B) She thought the lecture was great.
(C) The class was boring.
(D) She didn't want to watch Professor Martin.
6. (A) Not all the bills have been paid.
(B) They don't have enough credit to pay the bills.
(C) What she said on the phone was not credible.
(D) He used a credit card to pay some of the bills.
7. (A) She'll call back quickly.
(B) She'll definitely be back by 4:00.
(C) She'll give it back by 4:00.
(D) She'll try to return fast.
8. (A) She hasn't seen Tim.
(B) Tim was there only for a moment.
(C) Tim was around a short time ago.
(D) Tim will return in a minute.