



UMKKT
UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH
Kalimantan Timur

Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris

LISTENING FOR ACADEMIC CONTEXT

Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan



Universitas Muhammadiyah Kalimantan Timur

Preface

Praise and gratitude I pray to Allah SWT for all His blessings so that this Online Listening for Academic Context module can be arranged to completion. This module is a textbook for the Listening for Academic Context course whose material is presented online on the Muhammadiyah University of East Kalimantan Platform. I do not forget to say thank you for the assistance from various parties who have contributed, both thoughts and materials.

The author really hopes that this learning module can increase knowledge and experience for readers dealing with TOEFL test, especially for 4th semester students who discuss the materials in this module. I hope further that the material discussed in this learning module can help students be familiar with many kinds of proficiency test and also be used in everyday life.

As a compiler, I feel that there are still many shortcomings in the preparation of this module due to the limited knowledge and experience of the author. For this reason, the author will always make improvements in the content of this learning module.

Samarinda, December 2022
Writer

Sunarti, S.Pd, M.Pd

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Course Information

Welcome to Listening for Academic Contexts!

We hope you will have a wonderful time and learn a lot about Listening for Academic Contexts. Listening for Academic Contexts provides students with techniques of active listening and communication skills.

By the end of the course you should be able to:

1. Retrieve information from the intended English spoken texts.
2. Predict the information that contains of negative statement in a spoken text.
3. Getting familiar with the language gambits used in a certain context.
4. Distinguish relevant from irrelevant information.

Mobile Application

Openlearning Application is also available in PlayStore (android) and App Store (apple). This application is suitable for students to learn with their smartphones.

Getting Around For Students

- First time on OpenLearning? Select the Learning Activities tab in the side bar to access the course content and activities. On mobile, the navigation is located in the menu.
- The learning process is in Learning Modules. Participants must go through and learn all modules.
- Click on the Learning Activities to find all quizzes, assignments and tests.
- At the end of the course, those who have completed the course and met the criteria will receive a certificate.

Course Introduction

Listening for Academic Context entails helping students develop the English skills they need for academic study in a higher education setting. Students need good listening skills to interpret what people are saying in various academic situations. For example, they need to be able to understand the content of a lecture at the speed it is delivered. Furthermore, it can help students prepare to deal with the English Proficiency Test like TOEFL.

Course Overview

Participants will receive the Open learning **Certificate of Completion** after completing all modules and proof of their comprehensive understanding of all modules by completing activities and meeting the requirements.

Modules available:

- 1.(✓)Focus on the last line
- 2.(✓)Choose answer with synonyms
- 3.(✓)Avoid similar sounds
- 4.(✓)Draw conclusions about who, what, where
- 5.(✓)Listen for who and what in passive
- 6.(✓)Listen for who and what with multiple nouns
- 7.(✓)Listen for negative expressions
- 8.(✓)Listen for double negative expressions
- 9.(✓)Listen for "almost negative" expressions
- 10.(✓)Listen for negative with Comparative
- 11.(✓)Listen for expressions of agreement
- 12.(✓)Listen for expressions of uncertainty and suggestion
- 13.(✓)Listen for emphatic expressions of surprise
- 14.(✓)Listen for wishes

Note: (✓) Module complete.

Please enroll listening for academic context and start preparing your course.

SKILL 1
FOCUS ON THE LAST LINE

SKILL 1:
FOCUS ON THE
LAST LINE



FOCUS ON THE LAST LINE

STRATEGY

The following chart outlines the most important strategy for the short dialogues



- I. The last line of the dialogue probably contains the answer to the question.
- II. Listen to the first line of the dialogue. If you understand it, that's good. If you don't understand it, don't worry because it probably does not contain the answer.
- III. Be ready to focus on the last line of the dialogue because it probably contains the answer. Repeat the last line in your mind as you read through the answers in the text.

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 or on the computer screen, 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

Examples: Focus on the Last 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.

Focus on the Last line!

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.

Focus on the Last line!

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.

EXERCISE 1
LEARNING ACTIVITY

Listen carefully to each short dialogue and question on the recording, and then choose the best answer to the question. You should focus carefully on the last line.

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. The class was boring.
 - 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.

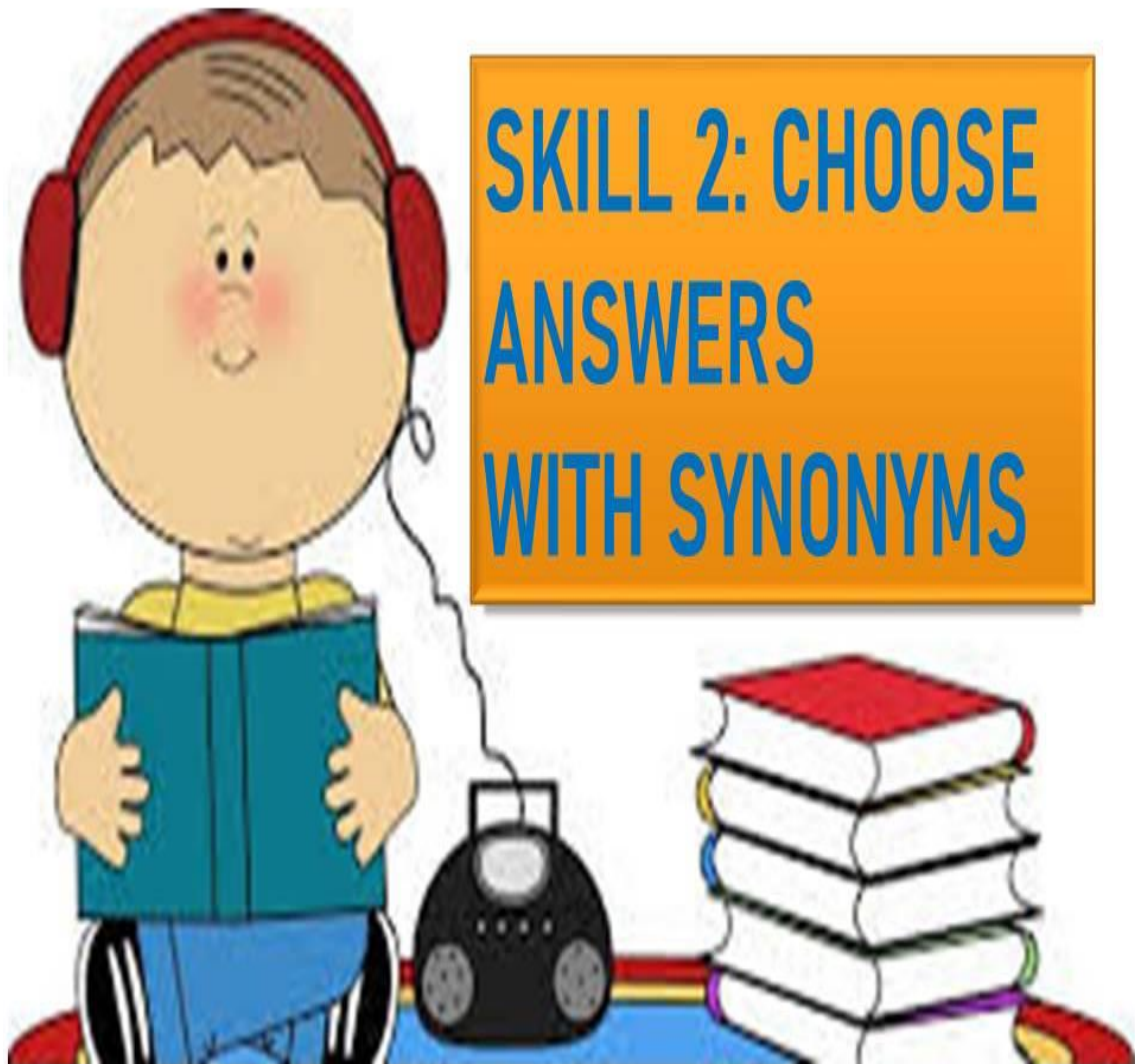
9.

- A. She doesn't like the place he chose.
- B. She doesn't want to get into the car.
- C. She's glad the spot is reserved.
- D. They can't park the car there.

10.

- A. There's plenty to eat.
- B. The refrigerator's broken.
- C. The food isn't in the refrigerator.
- D. He's not sure if there's enough.

SKILL 2
CHOOSEN ANSWER WITH SYNONYMS





CHOOSE ANSWERS WITH SYNONYMS

Often the correct answer in a short dialogue is an answer that contains synonyms (words with similar meanings but different sounds) for key words in the conversation.

STRATEGY

1. As you listen to the last line of the dialogue, focus on key words in that line.
2. If you see any synonyms for key words in a particular answer, then you have probably found the correct answer.

On the recording, you hear:

(woman) *Why is Barbara feeling so happy?*

(man) *She just started working in a real estate agency.*

(narrator) *What does the man say about Barbara?*

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

- A. She always liked her work in real estate.
- B. She began a new job.
- C. She just bought some real estate.
- D. She bought a real estate agency.

In this dialogue, the key word *started* means *began*, and the key word *working* refers to *job*. The best answer to this question is therefore answer (B).

EXAMPLES: CHOOSE ANSWERS WITH SYNONYMS

Remember that the best answer is probably the answer that contains synonyms for the key words in the last line of the dialogue.

1. (woman) *Did you see the manager about the job in the bookstore?*
(man) *Yes, and I also had to fill out an application.*
(narrator) *What does the man mean?*
- A. He got a job as bookstore manager.
B. The bookstore was not accepting applications.
C. He saw a book about how to apply for jobs.
D. It was necessary to complete a form.

CHOOSE ANSWERS WITH SYNONYMS

2. (man) *We're planning to leave for the trip at about 2:00.*
(woman) *Couldn't we leave before noon?*
- A. If they could leave at noon
B. If it is possible to go by 12:00
C. Why they can't leave at noon
D. If they could leave the room

CHOOSE ANSWERS WITH SYNONYMS

3. (man) *Was the concert well-received?*
(woman) *The audience applauded for a long time after the performance.*
(Narrator) *What does the woman say about the concert?*

- A. The performance went on for a long time.
- B. There was applause throughout the performance.
- C. The people clapped on and on after the concert.
- D. The audience waited for a long time for the concert to begin.

EXERCISE 2

Listen carefully to each short dialogue and question on the recording, and then choose the best answer to the question. You should look for synonyms for key words in the last line.

1.
 - A. The final exam was harder than the others.
 - B. There were two exams rather than one.
 - C. He thought the exam would be easier.
 - D. The exam was not very difficult.
2.
 - A. He's not feeling very well.
 - B. He's rather sick of working.
 - C. He's feeling better today than yesterday.
 - D. He'd really rather not answer the question
3.
 - A. The company was founded about a year ago.
 - B. It was just established that he could go into business.
 - C. The family is well-established.
 - D. The business only lasted a year.
4.
 - A. He did not look at the right schedule.
 - B. The plane landed in the right place.
 - C. The plane arrived on time.
 - D. He had to wait for the plane to land.
5.
 - A. She'd rather go running.
 - B. She doesn't want to go into the pool.
 - C. She'll change clothes quickly and go swimming.
 - D. She needs a sweatsuit to go running.
6.
 - A. The firefighters saved the homes for last.
 - B. A firefighter saved the hillside last night.
 - C. The homes on the hillside were burned.
 - D. The houses weren't destroyed.
7.
 - A. There's enough soup.
 - B. The spices are adequate.
 - C. She thinks the soup's too salty.
 - D. The man should add more salt and pepper.
8.
 - A. He was lucky to receive a grant for his studies.
 - B. He used his fortune to pay his fees.

- C. He is a scholar at a college with low fees.
- D. He paid to get a scholarship.

9.

- A. It profited from previous mistakes.
- B. It earned a lot of money.
- C. This was the last year that it would make a profit.
- D. It was not so successful.

10.

- A. Chuck's bank account has too much money in it.
- B. He thinks Chuck has the wrong kind of bank account.
- C. He thinks that Chuck is on his way home from the bank.
- D. There isn't enough money in Chuck's account.

SKILL 3
AVOID SIMILAR SOUNDS





AVOID SIMILAR SOUNDS

Often the incorrect answers in the short dialogues are answers that contain words with similar sounds but very different meanings from what you hear on the recording. You should definitely avoid these answers.

STRATEGY

- I. Identify key words in the last line of the dialogue
- II. Identify words in the answers that contain similar sounds, and do not choose these answers

On the recording, you hear:

(man) *Why couldn't Mark come with us?*

(woman) *He was searching for a new apartment*

(narrator) *What does the woman say about Mark?*

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

- A. He was in the department office.
- B. He was looking for a place to live.
- C. He was working on his research project.
- D. He had an appointment at church.

The key words in the last line of the dialogue are *searching* and *apartment*. In answers (C) and (D), the words *research* and *church* sound like *search*, so these answers are incorrect. In answers (A) and (D), the words *department* and *appointment* sound like *apartment*, so these answers are incorrect. The best answer is therefore answer (B).

EXAMPLES: AVOID SIMILAR SOUNDS

Remember that the best answer is probably the answer that does not contain words with sounds that are similar to the sounds of the key words in the last line of the dialogue.

- (woman) *I heard that Sally just moved into a new, big house near the beach.*
(man) *But Sally doesn't have a cent!*
(narrator) *What does the man mean?*

- A. Sally has no sense of responsibility.
- B. Sally sent her friend to the house.
- C. Sally has no money.
- D. Sally is on the set with her.



AVOID SIMILAR SOUNDS

2. (woman) *Did they get the new car they wanted?*
(man) *No, they lacked the money.*
(narrator) *What does the man mean?*

- A. They locked the map in a car
- B. They looked many times in the car.
- C. It cost a lot of money when the car leaked oil.
- D. They didn't have enough money to buy another car.



3. (man) *Have you finished packing yet?*
(woman) *You should call the porter to get the suitcases*
(narrator) *What does the woman mean?*
- A. It's important to pack the suitcases
 - B. They need help carrying their bags.
 - C. The man should pack his suit in case he needs it.
 - D. The suitcases are quite portable.

EXERCISE 3
LEARNING ACTIVITY

Listen carefully to each short dialogue and question on the recording, and then choose the best answer to the question. You should be careful to avoid answers with similar sounds.

1.
 - A. She has to wait for some cash.
 - B. The waiter is bringing a glass of water.
 - C. The lawn is to dry
 - D. She needs to watch out for a crash.
2.
 - A. She has to wait for some cash.
 - B. The waiter is bringing a glass of water.
 - C. The lawn is to dry
 - D. She needs to watch out for a crash.
3.
 - A. He has been regularly using a computer.
 - B. He communicates with a Boston company.
 - C. He regularly goes to communities around Boston.
 - D. He has been traveling back and forth to Boston.
4.
 - A. He thought the lesson didn't matter.
 - B. He couldn't learn the lesson.
 - C. He learned a massive number of details.
 - D. He didn't like most of the lesson.
5.
 - A. Some animals started the first fire.
 - B. Animals are killed by forest fires.
 - C. In the first frost, animals die.
 - D. Frost can kill animals.
6.
 - A. Twenty pairs of shoes are on sale.
 - B. The shoe salesclerk spent twenty dollars on pears.
 - C. The shoes cost twenty dollars.
 - D. The shoes could be repaired for twenty dollars.
7.
 - A. Tom tended to dislike biology lab.
 - B. Attendance wasn't necessary at biology lab.
 - C. Tom went to biology lab.
 - D. There was a tendency to require biology lab.

- 8.
- A. The meal will be served at noon.
 - B. The males should be driven there by noon.
 - C. He's expecting the ice to melt before noon.
 - D. The letters ought to be delivered at 12:00.
- 9.
- A. The weather will probably get worse later.
 - B. The newspaper headlines described a bad storm.
 - C. There was news about a headstrong man.
 - D. He had a new bed.
- 10.
- A. If she could do the grocery shopping
 - B. If she prefers cooked vegetables or salad
 - C. If she could help prepare the salad
 - D. she minds shopping for vegetables

SKILL 4
DRAW CONCLUSIONS ABOUT WHO, WHAT, WHERE

SKILL 4: DRAW CONCLUSIONS
ABOUT *WHO, WHAT, WHERE*



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.

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.

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.

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?*

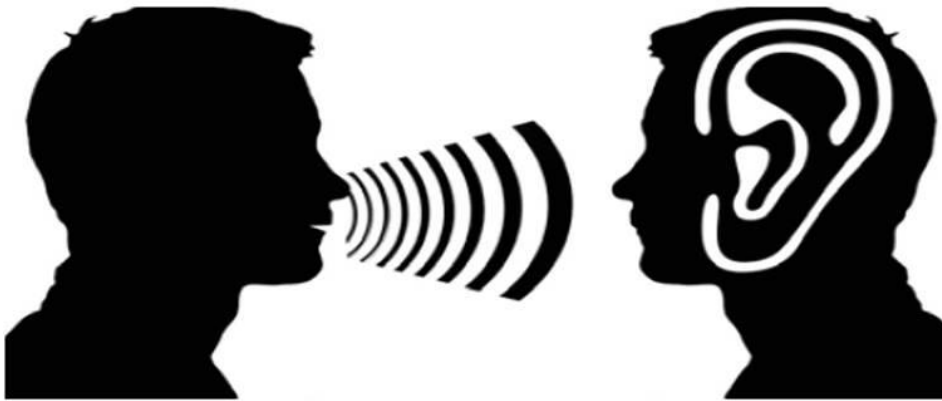
In your test book or on the computer screen, you read:

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



CONCLUSIONS ABOUT *WHO, WHAT, WHERE*

- ✓WHO is probably talking?
- ✓WHAT will she probably do next?
- ✓WHERE does the dialogue probably take place?

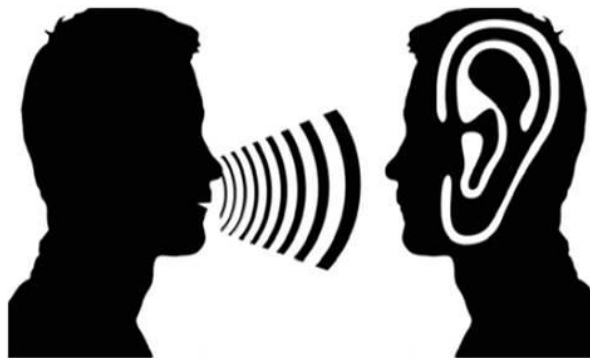


Read each short dialogue and question, underline the clues that help you answer the question, and then choose the best answer. You will have to draw conclusions about *who, what, and where*

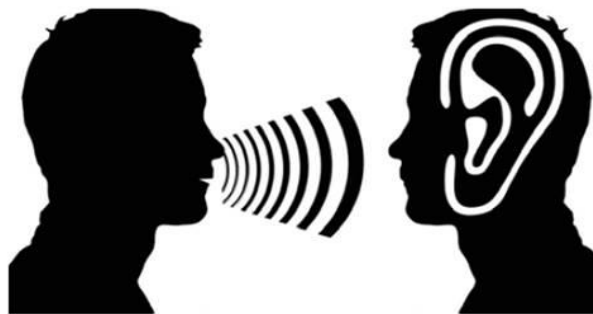
- (man) *I'd like to deposit this check in my account, please.*
(woman) *Would you like any cash back?*
(narrator) *Who is the woman?*
A. A store clerk
B. A bank teller
C. An accountant
D. A waitress



2. (woman) *Have you deposited your paycheck yet?*
(man) *No, but that's next on my list of errands.*
(narrator) *What will the man probably do next?*
- A. Earn his paycheck
 - B. Write a check for a deposit on an apartment
 - C. Go to a bank
 - D. Make a list of errands to run



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



EXERCISE 4

LEARNING ACTIVITY

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.

1.
 - A. In a photography studio In
 - B. a biology laboratory In an
 - C. 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

SKILL 5
LISTEN FOR WHO AND WHAT IN PASSIVES

**SKILL 5: LISTEN
FOR WHO AND
WHAT IN PASSIVES**





STRATEGY:

You should note the following about passive sentences in the short dialogues:

PASSIVE STATEMENTS

- I. If the dialogue contains a *passive* statement, the answer to the question is often an *active* statement
- II. If the dialogue contains an *active* statement, the answer to the question is often a *passive* statement.

NOTE: Check carefully *who* or *what* is doing the action in these questions.



It is sometimes difficult to understand *who* or *what* is doing the action in a passive sentence. This problem is often tested in the short dialogues.

On the recording, you hear:

(man) *Did Sally go to the bank this morning?*

(woman) *Yes, she did. She got a new checking account*

(narrator) *What does the woman imply?*

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

- A. Sally wrote several checks
- B. Sally wanted to check up on the bank
- C. A new checking account was opened
- D. Sally checked on the balance in her account

In this dialogue, the woman uses the active statement *She got a new checking account*, which means that *Sally opened a checking account*. The correct answer uses the passive structure that *a new checking account was opened* to express the same idea. Therefore, the best answer to the question above is answer (C)

EXAMPLES:

Read each short dialogue and underline the key active or passive statement. Then read the question and choose the best answer to the question. Be careful about *who* and *what* with these passives.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. (woman) <i>Alice needs to pay her tuition today.</i>
(man) <i>But her tuition has already been paid.</i>
(narrator) <i>What does the man imply?</i></p> | <p>A. Alice's education has paid off
B. Alice's tuition needs to be paid
C. Alice has already paid her fees.
D. Alice has already received the money.</p> |
| <p>2. (man) <i>Have you been taking good care of the lawn?</i>
(woman) <i>I watered it only this morning</i>
(narrator) <i>What does the woman mean?</i></p> | <p>A. She drank some water on the lawn this morning
B. She waited for him on the lawn this morning
C. The lawn has already been watered today</p> |



3. **(man)** *Did you hear the news about the child who was lost in the park?*

(woman) *Yes, and I heard that she was just found!*

(narrator) *What does the woman mean?*

- A. Someone located the girl.
- B. She heard about the new park from the child
- C. The child found her lost pet.
- D. The child was the last one in the park.



SKILL 5

LEARNING ACTIVITY

1.

- A. If the restaurant is on the corner
- B. If the man would like to go to the restaurant
- C. If the vegetables are fresh
- D. If vegetarian food can be obtained

2.

- A. He admitted that he wanted to go to law school in the fall.
- B. The law school accepted him as a student.
- C. The law professor admitted that he would be a student in the fall semester.
- D. He would be admitted to law school after the fall semester.

3.

- A. Mark's plants were cared for in his absence.
- B. Mark's plan was to be out of town.
- C. Mark was careful about his plans for the out-of-town trip.
- D. She was careful while Mark was gone.

4.

- A. The lights in the trees were destroyed in the storm.
- B. The storm damaged the trees.
- C. The falling trees destroyed a store.
- D. In the light the destruction of the storm could be seen.

5.

- A. She was broke from skiing.
- B. She went skiing in spite of her accident.
- C. Her leg was hurt on a skiing trip.
- D. Her skis were broken in the mountains

6.

- A. The road the horses took was long and hard.
- B. It was hard to find the hidden houses.
- C. The riders worked the horses too much.
- D. It was hard for people to ride the horses for long.

7.

- A. He didn't want the coffee that the woman ordered.
- B. He wasn't sure if the woman wanted coffee.
- C. He assumed the woman had ordered coffee.
- D. He was unaware that coffee had already been ordered.

8.

- A. The car was in the left parking lot at the airport.
- B. The friends parked their car at the airport.
- C. The airport couldn't hold a lot of cars.
- D. There were a lot of cars to the left of the parking lot.

9.

- A. The students pointed at Mac.

- B. Mac was present when the other students made the appointment.
- C. The class representative suggested Mac to the other students.
- D. Mac was chosen by his classmates to represent them.

10.

- A. After the earthquake, the insurance company came out to inspect the damage.
- B. The insurance company insisted that the building be repaired to meet earthquake safety standards.
- C. The inhabitants paid their premiums after the earthquake.
- D. The insurance company paid for the earthquake damage.

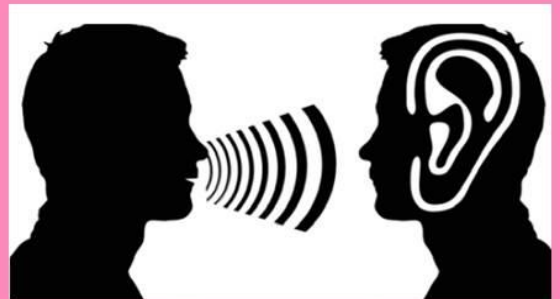
SKILL 6
LISTEN FOR WHO AND WHAT WITH MULTIPLE
NOUNS



SKILL 6: LISTEN
FOR WHO AND
WHAT WITH
MULTIPLE NOUNS

When there is **more than one noun** in a sentence in the short dialogues, it is common for the answers to confuse which noun does what





On the recording, you hear:

(man) *Do you know who is in the band now?*

(woman) *I heard that Mara replaced Robert in the band.*

(narrator) *What does the woman say about the band?*

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

- A. Robert became a new member of the band
- B. Robert took Mara's place in the band
- C. Mara didn't have a place in the band.
- D. Mara took Robert's place in the band.

In the woman's response to the man's question, she talks about two people (*Mara* and *Robert*), and these two people are confused in the answers. Because *Mara replaced Robert*, this means that *Mara took Robert's place* in the band. The best answer is therefore **answer (D)**.

The following chart outlines the key point that you should remember about questions with multiple nouns

WHO AND WHAT WITH' MULTIPLE NOUNS

When there are multiple nouns in a sentence, it is common for the answers to confuse which noun



English Listening exercise



Underline the confusing nouns in each short dialogue. Then, read the question and choose the best answer to that question. Remember to think very carefully about who is doing what.

1. **(man)** *Why is Bill not at work this week?*
(woman) *His doctor made him take a week off.*
(narrator) *What does the woman mean?*

- A. The doctor decided to take some time off from work.
- B. The doctor told Bill he wasn't too weak to work.
- C. Bill was mad when the doctor took some time off.
- D. Bill took a vacation on his doctor's orders.

2. **(man)** *Why is Paul going back home this summer?*
(woman) *He's returning to Vermont for his sister's wedding.*
(narrator) *What does the woman mean?*

- A. Paul is getting married this summer
- B. Paul's sister is returning from Vermont to get married.
- C. Paul will be there when his sister gets married this summer
- D. Paul's sister is coming to his wedding in Vermont

3. **(man)** *Did you hear that John's uncle died?*
- (woman)** *Yes, and John was named beneficiary in his uncle's will.*
- (narrator)** *What does the woman mean?*
- A. John received an inheritance when his uncle died.
 - B. It's a benefit that John's name is the same as his uncle's
 - C. John knows that his uncle will come to the benefit.
 - D. John's uncle gave him a beneficial name



SKILL 6
LEARNING ACTIVITY

Listen carefully to each short dialogue and question on the recording, and then choose the best answer to the question. You should be particularly careful of who is doing what.

1.
 - A. The passenger waited at the corner.
 - B. The passenger looked for a taxi at the corner.
 - C. The cab driver waited for the passenger.
 - D. The passenger cornered the waiting taxi driver.
2.
 - A. It was hard for her to hear Jane last night
 - B. Jane gave a harp recital last night
 - C. Jane was playing hard while she was hurt
 - D. She played the harp last night for Jane.
3.
 - A. The baby sister went to bed quite early
 - B. The children were forced to go to bed early
 - C. The baby-sitter made the bed after the children got up
 - D. The baby-sitter did not stay up late.
4.
 - A. The man taught his son about football.
 - B. The boy is receiving the ball from his dad.
 - C. The ball is being tossed into the air by the boy
 - D. The man is playing with the ball in the sun.
5.
 - A. The students were told to go listen to the speaker
 - B. The professor attended that evening's lecture
 - C. The students were given directions to the lecture
 - D. The professor was directed to the lecture hall
6.
 - A. The manager went to the supply room
 - B. The clerk set supplies on the floor.
 - C. The clerk went to the supply room at the manager's request.
 - D. The clerk backed into the manager in the supply room.
7.
 - A. The librarian was quite reserved with the students for two days
 - B. Within two days the librarian had the books for the students.
 - C. The librarian reserved the books for the students.
 - D. The students put the books on hold for two days.
8.
 - A. The chairman decided that Tony would serve on the board for another year
 - B. The chairman elected the board

- C. The board decided Tony could be chairman after one year.
- D. Tony became chairman for one more year.

9.

- A. The judge defended the murderer
- B. The judge tried to protect the defendant from the murderer
- C. The judge said that the defendant was a criminal.
- D. The defense couldn't make a judgment about the criminal.

10.

- A. The woman should announce the names of the committee members.
- B. He is thankful to be appointed to the committee.
- C. He is sure about the time of the appointment with the committee.
- D. The woman will serve on the committee.

SKILL 7
LISTEN FOR NEGATIVE EXPRESSIONS

SKILL 7:
LISTEN FOR
NEGATIVE
EXPRESSIONS



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Negative expressions are very common in the short dialogues, and the most common kind of correct response to a negative statement is a positive statement containing a word with an opposite meaning.

On the recording, you hear:

(man) How did they get to their grandmother's house in Maine in only five hours?

(woman) They didn't drive slowly on the trip to Maine.

(narrator) What does the woman say about the trip?

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

- A. They drove rather quickly
- B. They couldn't have driven more slowly
- C. They wanted to travel slowly to Maine
- D. They didn't drive to Maine



The correct answer is answer (A). If they *didn't* drive *slowly* to Maine, this means that they drove rather *quickly*. Notice that the correct answer uses *quickly*, the opposite of *slowly*. The answers that use *slowly* are not correct.

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TYPES OF NEGATIVE EXPRESSIONS



TYPES OF NEGATIVE EXPRESSIONS

Expression	Example	Correct Answer
Regular negative: not or n't	Tom is not sad about the results.	not sad = happy
Other negatives: nobody, none, nothing, never	Nobody arrived on time. Sal never works hard.	nobody ... on time = late never works hard = lazy
Negative prefixes: un-, in-, dis-	The patient was insane.	insane = not sane = crazy

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EXAMPLES

underline the negative in the last line of each short dialogue. Then read the question and choose the best answer to that question. Remember that the best answer is one that uses an opposite meaning

1. (man) *I can't seem to get the door unlocked.*
(woman) *That isn't the right key for the door.*
(narrator) *What does the woman mean?*

- A. The key in the drawer is on the right
B. The man should write the message on the door.
C. The man has the wrong key.
D. The right key isn't in the drawer



2. (man) *Were you pleased with last week's convention?*
(woman) *Nothing went as planned.*
(narrator) *What does the woman mean?*

- A. The convention was disorganized
- B. She didn't plan to attend the convention.
- C. She planned the convention last week.
- D. She wasn't pleased with the last week of the convention.

3. (woman) *Are you planning to go to college next year?*
(man) *I'm really unsure about the idea*
(narrator) *What does the man mean?*

- A. He definitely wants to go to college.
- B. He is certain about his plans.
- C. He's hesitant about attending college.
- D. His idea is to go to college.

EXERCISE 7
LEARNING ACTIVITY

Listen carefully to each short dialogue and question on the recording, and then choose the best answer to the question. You should be particularly careful of negative expressions.

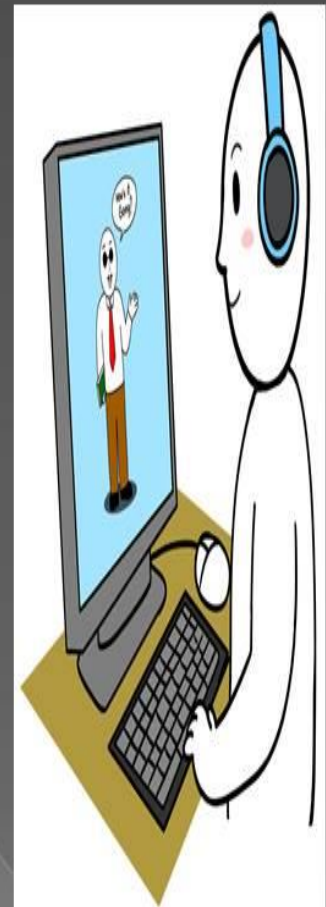
1.
 - A. She is very busy.
 - B. She has lots of free time.
 - C. It is not necessary to take out the trash.
 - D. She will do it if she has time.
2.
 - A. The interview is very important.
 - B. He is worried about the interview.
 - C. What he's wearing to the interview is important.
 - D. He is not concerned about the interview.
3.
 - A. He has almost all the notes.
 - B. His attendance was perfect.
 - C. He went to all the lectures but one.
 - D. He missed more than one psychology class.
4.
 - A. They passed the library at 6:00.
 - B. The library opens at 6:00 in the summer.
 - C. The library closes at 6:00.
 - D. You can't check out more than six books in the summer.
5.
 - A. Water the plants once a day.
 - B. Give the plants no more water
 - C. Water the plants often while the man is gone.
 - D. Give the plants a limited amount of water.
6.
 - A. The service satisfied her.
 - B. The food was worse than the service.
 - C. She thought the service was bad.
 - D. Neither the food nor the service was satisfying.
7.
 - A. He told his kids to leave.
 - B. He seriously wanted the woman to go.
 - C. He was joking when he told the woman to leave.
 - D. He left with the woman.
8.
 - A. The project will take all their effort.

- B. They have no other work to do.
 - C. It's impossible to finish.
 - D. They aren't even close to finishing the project.
- 9.
- A. She doesn't mind an hour more.
 - B. She'd rather stay more than an hour.
 - C. It's better to stay than go.
 - D. She prefers to leave.
- 10.
- A. The service at the hotel wasn't too good.
 - B. This hotel gave excellent service.
 - C. The service at the hotel could have been improved.
 - D. This hotel's service was the same as the service at other hotels.

SKILL 8

LISTEN FOR DOUBLE NEGATIVE EXPRESSIONS

SKILL 8: LISTEN FOR DOUBLE NEGATIVE EXPRESSIONS





Listen for double negative expressions

It is possible for **two negative ideas** to appear **in one sentence**, and the result can be quite confusing.

On the recording, you hear:

(man) *I can't believe the news that I heard about the concert.*

(woman) *Well, it isn't impossible for the concert to take place.*

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

- A. There's no possibility that the concert will take place
- B. The concert will definitely not take place.
- C. The concert might take place.
- D. The concert can't take place.

The correct answer to this question is answer (C). If it *isn't impossible* for the concert to take place, then it is possible, and the modal *might* indicates possibility

The following chart outlines the situations where double negatives can occur:



DOUBLE NEGATIVES		
Situation	Example	Meaning
negative word (e.g., not, no, none) and a negative prefix (e.g., in-, un-, dis-)	He didn't like the unclean office.	Did not like unclean office = liked clean office
two negative verbs	It isn't snowing, so they aren't going to the mountains.	implies that they would go if it were snowing
neither or not ... either	Sue didn't like the movie, and neither did Mark.	both did not like the movie



EXERCISE

underline the two negatives in the last line of each short dialogue. Then read the question and choose the best answer to that question. Remember that **two negatives can make the sentence positive**.

1. (man) *Paula, you worked so hard setting up the field trip*
(woman) *I hope no one's unhappy with the arrangements*
(narrator) *What does Paula mean?*

- A. She hopes everyone will be pleased.
- B. She knows no one is happy with what she has done.
- C. She's arranged to take a trip because she's unhappy.
- D. Everyone's happy with the condition of the field.



2. **(woman)** *How was your history exam?*
(man) *I didn't study enough, so I didn't do well.*
(narrator) *What does the man mean?*

- A. He studied a lot and passed.
 B. He failed in spite of his effort.
 C. He got a good grade even though he didn't study.
 D. His grade was poor because of inadequate preparation.

3. **(man)** *Were your friends able to get tickets for the concert?*
(woman) *Mark couldn't get tickets for the concert, and neither could Paul.*
(narrator) *What does the woman mean?*

- A. Although Mark couldn't get both tickets, Paul did.
 B. Both were unable to obtain tickets.
 C. Neither Mark nor Paul wanted to go to the concert.
 D. Mark tried to get tickets, but Paul didn't.



2. **(woman)** *How much time did Sam spend on his paper for economics class?*
(man) *Sam has seldom taken so much time on a research paper?*
(narrator) *What does the man mean*

- A. Sam usually spends this much time on his schoolwork
 B. Sam has rarely worked so hard
 C. Sam took too much time on this paper.
 D. Sam should've worked harder on this paper

3. **(woman)** *Does Steve usually park his car there?*
(man) *Only once has he parked his car in that lot.*
(narrator) *What does the man mean?*

- A. He parks his car there once in a while
 B. He's parked his car there a lot.
 C. He only leaves his car there for short periods of time.
 D. He left his car there on just one occasion.



EXERCISE 8
LEARNING ACTIVITY

Listen carefully to each short dialogue and question on the recording, and then choose the best answer to the question. You should be particularly careful of double negatives.

1.
 - A. He'll definitely be elected.
 - B. The election is now complete.
 - C. She has high hopes for his chances.
 - D. It may happen.
2.
 - A. Both parts of his game were bad.
 - B. He served better than he volleyed.
 - C. Some parts of his game were better than others.
 - D. He played rather well.
3.
 - A. It is a surprise that he was prepared.
 - B. He was not ready, as usual.
 - C. He prepared a really big surprise.
 - D. His strong preparation came as no surprise.
4.
 - A. She felt good enough to go out.
 - B. She went out to get some medicine.
 - C. She felt like dancing, so she went out with everyone.
 - D. She stayed home because she was sick.
5.
 - A. She has problems that others aren't aware of.
 - B. Others aren't aware of her problems.
 - C. She knows she's been a problem.
 - D. She doesn't have a care in the world.
6.
 - A. Steve wanted to finish his paper, and so did Paul.
 - B. Both Steve's and Paul's papers were incomplete.
 - C. Steve and Paul were busy doing their term papers.
 - D. When Steve wasn't able to finish his paper, Paul couldn't help.
7.
 - A. It wasn't George's responsibility to pay the bill.
 - B. Bill was irresponsible about paying George's rent.
 - C. George acted carelessly by not taking care of the bill.
 - D. George took responsibility for the unpaid bill.
8.
 - A. It's fortunate that he was accepted.
 - B. It's good that he wasn't admitted.

- C. Fortunately, the university didn't admit him.
- D. It's too bad he was rejected.

9.

- A. The first essay was better than the second.
- B. The first and second drafts couldn't be better.
- C. The second draft of the essay was much better than the first.
- D. Both versions were poorly written.

10.

- A. Roger has been bothered.
- B. Roger wasn't the least bit disturbed.
- C. The problems have had little effect on Roger.
- D. Roger hasn't been disturbed.

SKILL 9

LISTEN FOR “ALMOST NEGATIVE” EXPRESSIONS

SKILL 9: LISTEN FOR "ALMOST NEGATIVE" EXPRESSIONS



Certain expressions in English have "almost negative" meanings. These expressions are common in the short dialogues.

Example:

On the recording, you hear:

(woman) *Were you able to pay the electric bill?*

(man) *I had barely enough money.*

(narrator) *What does the man imply?*

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

- A. He had plenty of money for the bill.
- B. He did not have enough money for the bill.
- C. He paid the bill but has no money left.
- D. He was unable to pay the bill.

In the man's statement, the word **enough** indicates that there was *enough*, so he **paid the bill**. However, it was **barely** enough, so he almost did not have enough and certainly **has no money left**. The correct answer is therefore **answer C**.



The following chart outlines common "almost negative" expressions:

COMMON ALMOST NEGATIVE EXPRESSIONS		
Meaning	Expression	Example
almost none	<i>hardly, barely, scarcely, only</i>	There is <i>hardly</i> any food in the refrigerator.
almost never	<i>rarely, seldom</i>	He <i>rarely</i> drives to work.



underline the "almost negative" expression in the last line of each short dialogue. Then read the question and choose the best answer.

Remember that the best answer is one that means that it *is true* but it is *almost not true*.

1. **(man)** *I hear that Mona's been offered the manager's job.*
(woman) *But she has hardly any work experience!*
(narrator) *What does the woman say about Mona?*
- A. Mona hasn't worked hard.
B. Mona's experience has been hard.
C. Mona's job as manager is hard.
D. Mona hasn't worked for very long.
2. **(woman)** *How much time did Sam spend on his paper for economics class?*
(man) *Sam has seldom taken so much time on a research paper.*
(narrator) *What does the man mean?*
- A. Sam usually spends this much time on his school work
B. Sam has rarely worked so hard.
C. Sam took too much time on this paper.
D. Sam should've worked harder on this paper.

- (woman)** *Does Steve usually park his car there?*
(man) *Only once has he parked his car in that lot.*
(narrator) *What does the man mean?*

- A. He parks his car there once in a while.
B. He's parked his car there a lot.
C. He only leaves his car there for short periods of time.
D. He left his car there on just one occasion.



EXERCISE 9
LEARNING ACTIVITY

Listen carefully to each short dialogue and question on the recording, and then choose the best answer to the question. You should be particularly careful of "almost negative" expressions.

1.
 - A. There's little rain in July.
 - B. In July it never rains.
 - C. It rains hard in July.
 - D. When it rains in July, it rains hard.
2.
 - A. The university accepted three students.
 - B. None of the students is going to the university.
 - C. John was not accepted.
 - D. Two were not admitted.
3.
 - A. Although he did pass, Mark's exam grade wasn't too good.
 - B. Mark failed his history exam.
 - C. The highest grade on the history exam went to Mark.
 - D. Professor Franks didn't pass Mark on the history exam.
4.
 - A. He often has long waits in Dr. Roberts's office.
 - B. He must wait patiently for Robert.
 - C. Dr. Roberts is generally punctual.
 - D. He doesn't mind waiting for Dr. Roberts.
5.
 - A. Betty often takes vacations in winter.
 - B. Betty prefers to take vacations in winter.
 - C. Occasionally Betty works one week during vacation.
 - D. A winter vacation is unusual for Betty.
6.
 - A. He rarely spends time on his courses.
 - B. He's an excellent student.
 - C. He never studies.
 - D. His books are always open.
7.
 - A. He finished the exam in plenty of time.
 - B. He was scared he wouldn't finish.
 - C. He used every possible minute to finish.
 - D. He was unable to complete the exam.
8.
 - A. This was a very long staff meeting.
 - B. This was the only staff meeting in a long time.

- C. The meeting lasted only until one o'clock.
- D. The one staff meeting should've lasted longer.

9.

- A. Meat tastes delicious to him when it's cooked rare.
- B. He isn't sure if the meal is delicious.
- C. This meat is the best he's tasted in a long time.
- D. He'd like to eat some meat from this delicatessen.

10.

- A. He broke his arm trying to move it.
- B. He only hurt the broken arm.
- C. He only tries to move the broken arm.
- D. There's no pain if he rests quietly.

SKILL 10

LISTEN FOR NEGATIVES WITH COMPARATIVE

**SKILL 10: LISTEN FOR NEGATIVES
WITH COMPARATIVES**



English
Listen Carefully

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Negatives can be used with comparatives in the short dialogues of the TOEFL test. A sentence with a negative and a comparative has a superlative, or very strong, meaning.

On the recording, you hear:

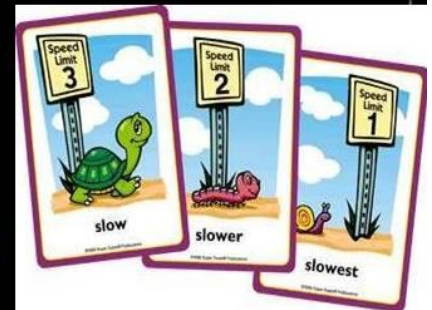
(woman) *What do you think of the new student in math class?*

(man) *No one is more intelligent than she is.*

(narrator) *What does the man say about the new student?*

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

- A. She is not very smart.
- B. He is smarter than she is.
- C. Other students are smarter than she is.
- D. She is the smartest student in the class.



The man responds to the woman's question with the negative *No* and the **comparative *more intelligent***, and this combination has a superlative meaning, ***the smartest***. The best answer is therefore **answer (D)**.

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The following chart outlines comparisons that you should be careful of when they are used with negatives:



COMPARATIVES WITH NEGATIVES		
Comparative	Example	Meaning
more	No one is more beautiful than she is	She is the most beautiful.
-er	He couldn't be happier.	He is extremely happy.

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Practice
Makes
Perfect

underline the **negative** and the **comparative** in the second line of each short dialogue. Then read the question and choose the best answer to that question. Remember that the best answer is one that expresses a superlative, or very strong, idea.

(woman) *Have you gotten over your cold yet?*
(man) *I couldn't be feeling any better today.*
(narrator) *What does the man mean?*

- A. He's feeling terrific.
- B. He felt a lot worse today.
- C. He's not feeling too well today.
- D. He's a bit better today



(woman) *What did you think of Mike when you first met him?*
(man) *He couldn't have been more unfriendly.*
(narrator) *What does the man mean?*

- A. Mike was extremely friendly when he met him.
- B. Mike could have met him sooner.
- C. Mike didn't seem to like him at all.
- D. When he met Mike, he didn't have a friend.

(man) *Did you see Theresa's grade on the math exam? It was unbelievable!*

(woman) *No one else could have done better.*

(narrator) *What does the woman mean?*

- A. Theresa could've gotten a higher grade.
- B. Anyone could get a good grade.
- C. Theresa got the highest grade.
- D. A high grade is impossible for anyone.



EXERCISE 10
LEARNING ACTIVITY

Listen carefully to each short dialogue and question on the recording, and then choose the best answer to the question. You should be particularly careful of comparatives with negatives.

1.
 - A. She's not very happy.
 - B. She didn't do very well on the exam.
 - C. She could be somewhat happier.
 - D. She's delighted with the results.
2.
 - A. Paula is always lazy.
 - B. Paula didn't work very hard this semester.
 - C. Paula made a strong effort.
 - D. Paula could have worked harder.
3.
 - A. The prices were great!
 - B. The prices were too high.
 - C. She didn't buy much because of the prices.
 - D. The prices could have been lower.
4.
 - A. She is not very smart
 - B. She always tells him everything
 - C. He doesn't know her very well.
 - D. She's extremely intelligent.
5.
 - A. The patient absolutely didn't need the surgery.
 - B. The necessity for the surgery was unquestionable.
 - C. The surgeon felt that the operation was necessary.
 - D. It was essential that the surgery be performed immediately.
6.
 - A. They were not very lucky.
 - B. No one was hurt.
 - C. The accident was unfortunate.
 - D. She wanted to have better luck.
7.
 - A. Nothing was very difficult.
 - B. The exam wasn't at all easy.
 - C. The exam couldn't have been easier.
 - D. The exam had nothing difficult on it.
8.
 - A. She wants that job very much.

- B. No one is going to get the job.
- C. Everybody else wants that job as much as she does.
- D. She is not sure about taking the job.

9.

- A. She was second in the race.
- B. She was almost the slowest person in the race.
- C. She won the race.
- D. She was not faster than anyone else.

10.

- A. This math project was extremely complex.
- B. This math project was less complicated than the last.
- C. They seldom complete their math projects.
- D. Complicated math projects are often assigned.

MODUL 11

LISTEN FOR EXPRESSIONS OF AGREEMENT

SKILL I: LISTEN FOR EXPRESSIONS OF AGREEMENT



Expressions of agreement are common in the short dialogues, so you should become familiar with them. The following example shows **agreement with a positive statement**.

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 or on the computer screen, you read:

- A. The hippopotamus is behind the fence
- B. She is unsure about the hypothesis
- 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.

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 or on the computer screen, 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 *shares the woman's opinion*. The best answer is therefore **answer (C)**.





Listen carefully



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>

LISTENING EXERCISES



1. **(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
2. **(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
C. He doesn't care about the renovation of the building.
D. He suggests being careful in the renovated building.
3. **(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.

EXERCISE 11
LEARNING ACTIVITY

Listen carefully to each short dialogue and question on the recording, and then choose the best answer to the question. You should pay attention to expressions of agreement.

1.
 - 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.
2.
 - 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.
3.
 - A. She is not sure which course she should take.
 - B. She's not sure if she should take a trip to France.
 - C. She knows that she is not ready for intermediate French.
 - D. She wants to take neither beginning nor intermediate French.
4.
 - A. The man should repeat what he said.
 - B. The man said something foolish.
 - C. She thinks that the food is the best she has ever tasted.
 - D. She agrees that the food is pretty bad.
5.
 - A. This party hasn't been any fun at all.
 - B. He wonders if the woman enjoyed herself.
 - C. He wants to know what she said.
 - D. He's enjoyed himself tremendously.
6.
 - A. She condones what happened.
 - B. She does not like what the man said.
 - C. She agrees with the man about what happened.
 - D. She says that she did not do it.
7.
 - A. He thinks the parties aren't loud.
 - B. He says that the neighbors don't have many parties.
 - C. He agrees that the upstairs neighbors are noisy.
 - D. The loud parties don't bother him.
8.
 - A. She doesn't like this meal too much.
 - B. This food tastes wonderful to her.

- C. She's not sure if she likes it.
- D. She can't stand this meal.

9.

- A. She agrees that getting the car was not a good idea.
- B. She imagines that she would like to have a similar car.
- C. She thinks that the man is mistaken about the car.
- D. She thinks the man has no imagination.

10.

- A. He would like the woman to repeat what she said.
- B. He thinks that one semester is enough time for the course.
- C. He also thinks that the course should be extended.
- D. He would like to take the course two semesters from now.

SKILL 12
LISTEN FOR EXPRESSIONS OF UNCERTAINTY AND
SUGGESTION

SKILL 12 : LISTEN FOR EXPRESSIONS OF
UNCERTAINTY AND SUGGESTION

Uncertainty



SUGGESTION

Expressions of **uncertainty and suggestion** are common in the short dialogues, so you should become familiar with them. The following example shows an expression of uncertainty.

On the recording, you hear:

(man) *Do you know anything about the final exam in physics?*

(woman) *It's going to be rather difficult, isn't it?*

(narrator) *What does the woman mean?*

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

- A. The exam is not going to be too difficult.
- B. She's positive that it's going to be hard.
- C. She thinks that it might be hard.
- D. She has no idea about the exam.

The tag question ***isn't it*** changes a definite statement into a statement that shows **uncertainty**, so **the best answer is one that expresses uncertainty**. The best answer to this question is **answer (C)** because the words ***thinks* and *might*** express uncertainty.



On the recording, you hear:

(man) *I'll never have time to type my paper tomorrow.*

(woman) *Why not do it now?*

(narrator) *What does the woman suggest?*

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

- A. Finishing the paper today
- B. Not working on the paper now
- C. Never typing the paper
- D. Taking time out from the paper now



In this example, the expression *Why not* is an expression of suggestion, so the woman suggests *doing it now*. In this suggestion, the woman is referring to the paper that the man needs to type, so the best answer is answer (A).

The following chart lists common expressions that show uncertainty and suggestion:

EXPRESSIONS OF UNCERTAINTY AND SUGGESTION

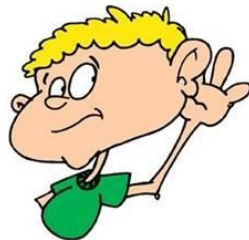
Uncertainty	Suggestion
... isn't it (tag)? As far as I know. As far as I can tell.	Why not...? Let's....

----EXERCISES----



Underline the **expression of uncertainty or suggestion** in each short dialogue. Then read the question and choose the best answer to that question. Remember that **the best answer is one that shows uncertainty or suggestion**.

1. (man) *Do you know what time they're leaving for the city?*
(woman) *They have to leave at four o'clock, don't they?*
(narrator) *What does the woman mean?*



- A. She's not completely sure when they are leaving.
- B. They are returning from the city at about 4:00.
- C. She knows when they are leaving.
- D. She doesn't have any idea when they are leaving.

2. (woman) *I'm so thirsty from all this walking*
(man) *Let's stop and get a drink.*
(narrator) *What does the man suggest?*

- A. They should stop drinking.
B. They should go for a walk
C. They should walk thirty miles.
D. They should take a break and have a drink.



3. (man) *Is the exam still scheduled for 3:00 on Thursday?*
(woman) *As far as I know.*
(narrator) *What does the woman mean?*

- A. The exam is far away.
B. She knows that the exam schedule has been changed.
C. She is sure that the exam is set for Thursday.
D. She thinks she knows when the test is.

EXERCISE 12
LEARNING ACTIVITY

Listen carefully to each short dialogue and question on the recording, and then choose the best answer to the question. You should be particularly careful of expressions of uncertainty and suggestion.

1.
 - A. He's sure about which chapters they are to read.
 - B. He thinks he knows what the assignment is.
 - C. He has to tell her how far she should go.
 - D. The professor told them to read the chapters after the exam.
2.
 - A. The man should take the pie out.
 - B. The man should try something else.
 - C. The man shouldn't try cherry pie.
 - D. The man should feel sorry.
3.
 - A. He knows the movie starts at 8:00.
 - B. He is not quite sure when the movie begins.
 - C. He thinks the start of the movie has been changed
 - D. He will start the movie himself at 8:00.
4.
 - A. Not doing the dishes now
 - B. Leaving the house with the dishes
 - C. Leaving later so that they can do the dishes now
 - D. Washing the dishes before they leave
5.
 - A. She's told Matt he'll go far.
 - B. Matt has far from enough talent.
 - C. She told Matt to roll farther.
 - D. She believes Matt has the ability for the part.
6.
 - A. They should go to the hospital.
 - B. Mary should visit the man.
 - C. The woman should try not to break her leg.
 - D. They should go on a trip with Mary.
7.
 - A. She knows where the children are.
 - B. The children have finished playing ball.
 - C. She's going to the park to find the children.
 - D. She believes that the children are in the park.
8.
 - A. The man should try to borrow some from a neighbor.
 - B. The man should take a check to Tom.

- C. The man should work on his math assignment with Tom.
- D. The man should check behind the door.

9.

- A. He thinks the bill is due in the middle of the month.
- B. The bill is approximately fifteen dollars.
- C. He knows when they should pay the bill.
- D. The bill is going to be fifteen days late.

10.

- A. They should postpone their decision until morning.
- B. They should go to sleep in the new house.
- C. They should not buy such a big house.
- D. They should decide where to go to sleep.

SKILL 13

LISTEN FOR EMPHATIC EXPRESSIONS OF SURPRISE

**SKILL 13: LISTEN FOR EMPHATIC
EXPRESSIONS OF
SURPRISE**

Emphatic



Emphatic expressions of surprise are common in the short dialogues, so you should become familiar with them. When surprise is expressed, it implies that the speaker did not expect something to be true.

On the recording, you hear:

(woman) *Did you see Paul driving around in his Mustang?*

(man) *Then he DID get a new car*

(narrator) *What had the man thought?*



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

- A. Paul would definitely get a Mustang.
- B. Paul did not know how to drive.
- C. Paul did not like Mustangs.
- D. Paul would not get a new car

In this dialogue the emphatic form **he did get** is used to show the **man's surprise** that Paul got a new car. It means that the man expected that Paul **would not get** a new car, so the best answer is **answer (D)**.



The following chart outlines various ways to express emphatic surprise:

EXPRESSIONS OF EMPHATIC SURPRISE			
Verb	Emphatic Form	Example	Meaning
be	be, with emphasis	Then he <u>is</u> here!	I thought he was not here.
modal present tense	modal, with emphasis	Then you <u>can</u> go!	I thought you could not go.
past tense	did, with emphasis	Then she <u>did</u> read it.	I thought you did not play tennis.
perfect tense	have, with emphasis	Then he <u>has</u> gone there.	I thought she had not read it. I thought he had not gone there.

EXERCISE



- (man)** *I just got 600 on the TOEFL test!*
(woman) *Then you did pass.*
(narrator) *What had the woman assumed?*

A. The man had not passed.
B. The man would pass easily.
C. The man had already passed.
D. The man got the score he was expected to get.
- (woman)** *Would you like to go skiing this weekend?*
(man) *So you can ski!*
(narrator) *What had the man assumed?*

A. The woman was a good skier.
B. The woman was going skiing this weekend.
C. The woman did not know how to ski.
D. The woman did not intend to go skiing.
- (man)** *I just got this letter from my sister.*
(woman) *So the mail has come already.*
(narrator) *What had the woman assumed?*

A. The man's sister never wrote to him.
B. The mail had not yet arrived.
C. The mail always came early.
D. The mail had already arrived

EXERCISE 13
LEARNING ACTIVITY

Listen carefully to each short dialogue and question on the recording, and then choose the best answer to the question. You should be particularly careful of expressions of emphatic surprise.

1.
 - A. Greg always comes to parties.
 - B. Greg would come to the party later.
 - C. Greg was unable to attend the party.
 - D. Greg would stay at the party for only a moment.
2.
 - A. The woman always rode her motorcycle to school.
 - B. The woman was not coming to school today.
 - C. The woman was an expert motorcycle rider.
 - D. The woman did not know how to ride a motorcycle.
3.
 - A. The man was not a very good cook.
 - B. The man never invited friends over for dinner.
 - C. The man would never invite him over for dinner.
 - D. The man was an excellent cook.
4.
 - A. The woman had run more than three miles.
 - B. The woman always got lots of exercise.
 - C. The woman ran for three hours in the morning.
 - D. The woman had not gotten much exercise.
5.
 - A. He had been somewhere else.
 - B. He had been in the library.
 - C. He had been working on his research project.
 - D. He would start working on his project in five hours.
6.
 - A. He had changed apartments.
 - B. He did not like his new apartment.
 - C. He was still in his old apartment.
 - D. He had moved from a house to an apartment.
7.
 - A. The woman did not like desserts.
 - B. The woman ate sweets regularly.
 - C. The woman would not share her chocolate cake.
 - D. The woman had eaten his piece of cake.
8.
 - A. The man was going to study hard.
 - B. The man already had a driver's license.

- C. The man would not take the test.
- D. The man had already taken the test.

9.

- A. She had registered in physics.
- B. She would go to physics class later.
- C. She had already taken a physics class.
- D. She had not enrolled in physics.

10.

- A. The pipes were not clear.
- B. The plumber would be late.
- C. The plumber had already cleared the pipes.
- D. The pipes did not need to be cleared.

SKILL 14
LISTEN FOR WISHES

CONTRARY MEANINGS
SKILL 14: LISTEN FOR WISHES



Conversations about wishes can appear in the short dialogues. The important idea to remember about wishes is that a wish implies that *the opposite of the wish is true*.

On the recording, you hear:

- (woman) *It too bad that you have to stay here and work during the school break.*
 (man) *I really wish I could go with you and the others to Palm Springs.*
 (narrator) *What does the man mean?*

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

- A.Maybe he will go with the others on the trip.
 B.He is unable to go on the trip.
 C.He's happy to be going on the trip.
 D.He's going on the trip, but not with the others.

In this dialogue the man **wishes** that he **could go** with the others on the trip, so the implied meaning is that he is **unable to go**. The correct answer is therefore **answer (B)**.



The following chart outlines the key points that you should know about wishes:

KEY INFORMATION ABOUT WISHES		
Point	Example	Meaning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An <i>affirmative</i> wish implies a <i>negative</i> reality • A <i>negative</i> wish implies an <i>affirmative</i> reality. 	I wish I <i>had time</i> to help. I wish I <i>did not have time</i> to help.	= no time to help = time to help
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A <i>past</i> tense verb implies a present reality • A <i>past perfect</i> tense verb implies a past reality 	I wish he <i>were</i> at home.* I wish he <i>had been</i> at home.	= is not at home = was not at home

*Remember that *were* is used instead of *was* in wishes. I wish I *were* going.

EXERCISE



underline the wish in each short dialogue. Then read the question and choose the best answer to that question. Remember that the best answer is one that implies the opposite of what is said.

1. **(man)** *Do you think we'll be able to have the picnic today?*

(woman) *I wish the sky weren't so cloudy.*

(narrator) *What does the woman mean?*

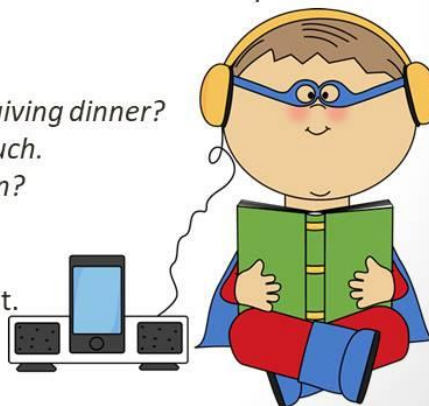
- A. The sky is not very cloudy.
- B. The sky yesterday was cloudier than it is today.
- C. The sky is too cloudy.
- D. The sky is rather clear.

2. **(woman)** *Did you enjoy the Thanksgiving dinner?*

(man) *I wish I hadn't eaten so much.*

(narrator) *What does the man mean?*

- A. He didn't eat very much.
- B. He plans on eating a lot.
- C. He thinks he is eating a lot.
- D. He ate too much.



3. (man) *Are you coming to the party Tonight?*

(woman) *I wish I could.*

(narrator) *What does the woman mean?*

- A. She is coming to the party.
- B. She might come to the party.
- C. She will try to come to the party.
- D. She is not coming to the party.



EXERCISE 14
Learning Activity

Listen carefully to each short dialogue and question on the recording, and then choose the best answer to the question. You should remember that a wish implies an opposite meaning.

1.
 - A. The line is short.
 - B. There are not very many people in front of them.
 - C. The line in front of them is too long
 - D. Not many people want to get tickets to the concert.
2.
 - A. The woman told him about the ticket.
 - B. He wanted the woman to get a ticket.
 - C. He was happy to find out about the ticket.
 - D. The woman did not tell him about the ticket.
3.
 - A. She is not working too many hours next week.
 - B. She doesn't have enough hours next week.
 - C. She is working too many hours next week.
 - D. She likes working so much.
4.
 - A. The department did not change the requirements.
 - B. She likes the new requirements.
 - C. She changed her apartment just before graduation.
 - D. She does not like the changes that the department made.
5.
 - A. He is going to the theater.
 - B. He doesn't have enough money.
 - C. He isn't afraid to go.
 - D. He doesn't want to spend the money.
6.
 - A. Harry did not prepare enough for the exam.
 - B. Harry studied hard for the exam.
 - C. He has not heard anything about Harry.
 - D. He had a bet with Harry.
7.
 - A. The algebra course that she is taking is not her favorite.
 - B. She doesn't need to take the algebra course.
 - C. She has a good schedule of courses this semester.
 - D. She's good at math, but she's taking the algebra course anyway.
8.
 - A. He was able to find a cheap apartment.
 - B. His apartment is too expensive.

- C. He doesn't like the apartment's location.
- D. The apartment is cheap because of its location.

9.

- A. He arrived early at the auditorium.
- B. He got one of the best seats in the auditorium.
- C. He was not early enough to get a seat at the front.
- D. He prefers sitting at the back.

10.

- A. He'd like to work on his social skills at the game.
- B. He wishes he could work on his term paper for sociology.
- C. He can't attend the game because of his schoolwork.
- D. Sociology is less important to him than football this weekend.

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