

Part 4: Talks

SKILL 1 QUESTIONS ABOUT EVENTS AND FACTS

Everyone in town is getting ready for the big event of the year—our annual celebration of National Day is this weekend, with activities for everyone Friday through Sunday. The event kicks off with a parade downtown on Friday evening. All day Saturday, the Main Street Food Fair will give you a chance to taste international cuisine from all over the world, and there will be a circus at City Park in the afternoon. Large crowds are expected to show up for the concert at City Conference Center on Saturday evening. Tickets are selling fast, so buy yours now. At the same time, you can book seats for Sunday's basketball tournament at City Arena. This is an event you do not want to miss as our own city mayor will be participating. So come on out and celebrate. A good time is guaranteed to be had by all.

1. What event will take place this weekend? C
2. What will happen on Saturday evening? C
3. What will the mayor do on Sunday? C

Hi, it's Sarah. I'm having a small get-together on Saturday, and I hope you can come. It's to celebrate my nephew's graduation from high school. He graduated top of his class and won some awards, and we're all so proud of him. He has, however, insisted on a quiet gathering, so we'll just have dinner and conversation, and it won't be a late evening because my nephew is starting his summer job the next morning. And speaking of that, I'll be at the club Sunday morning playing tennis with some friends, and I hope you can join us. It's been a long time since we've seen you there. OK, talk to you later.

4. What event is the speaker celebrating? B
5. What will guests do at the celebration? C
6. What will the speaker do on Sunday? B

SKILL 2 QUESTIONS ABOUT REASONS

Because of a work slowdown, all flights will be delayed. We apologize to our passengers for the inconvenience and hope to have them on their way as soon as possible. In the meantime, there are several restaurants in the airport if you would like some refreshments while waiting for your flight. We suggest that you take advantage of them now, as all airport restaurants will close at midnight and won't reopen until tomorrow morning at six. At this time we are unable to say when each flight will leave. If you leave the gate area, please pay careful attention to the announcements so that you can hear when your flight is ready for boarding.

1. Why is there a delay? A
2. Why should passengers get something to eat now? A
3. Why should passengers pay attention to the announcements? D

Hi. This is Tom Brown calling. I have a two o'clock appointment this afternoon with Mr. Wilson to go over some papers but, unfortunately, I won't be able to make it, as I have an emergency meeting. I'm sorry, as I know Mr. Wilson has done a lot of preparation for this and I hope we can reschedule soon. I am free any afternoon this week, so please call and let me know what day best suits Mr. Wilson. Don't call me at the office today, as I won't be there. Call my cell phone instead. Thanks.

4. Why does Mr. Brown have an appointment with Mr. Wilson? C
5. Why does Mr. Brown have to cancel the appointment? B
6. Why doesn't Mr. Brown want the listener to call his office number today? A

SKILL 3 QUESTIONS ABOUT NUMBERS

Hi John. This is Lee calling. We need to get together soon to make the final plans for the work- shop. We only have two days left. Have you seen all the registration forms? I think there will be over thirty participants. That's a lot more than we expected. We'll need to find a larger room, and more tables, too. Do you have time to get together this afternoon to talk over the plans with me? It'll only take fifteen minutes or so, just to decide what each of us needs to do. Call me back and let me know when's a good time for you.

1. When is the workshop? B
2. How many people will attend the workshop? D
3. How long does the speaker want to meet with John? A

Good evening and welcome to our program. We will be ready to begin in just a few minutes. Tonight's topic is preserving the rainforests and the program is scheduled to go from seven o'clock until nine thirty. In that time, we will have a presentation from each of our five speak- ers, who will then take questions after all of them have had a chance to talk. So please hold your questions until then, there will be plenty of time to ask them. Next month's program will focus on the environmental impact of mountaineering. Remember, all our programs are free of charge, but we do accept donations. You can leave your donations in the box by the door.

4. What time is the program scheduled to start? B
5. How many people will give presentations? A
6. How much does admission to the program cost? A

SKILL 4 QUESTIONS ABOUT MAIN TOPICS

I regret to announce that as of this afternoon I will no longer serve as your Managing Director. The Board of Directors asked me to submit my letter of resignation and I have done so. They told me to leave by the close of business today. I want to thank you for the privilege of having worked with you all. I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the support that many of you have given me during this difficult time, and for all your expressions of concern. I plan to take the next few weeks to rest, then I am hoping to open up a consulting business, as several of my colleagues have encouraged me to do.

1. What changes are taking place in the company? B
2. Who is the speaker addressing? B
3. What does the speaker plan to do soon? B

May I have your attention, please? We will be closing in fifteen minutes. Please take your items to be purchased to a cashier now. If you are purchasing ten items or fewer, you may use one of the express checkout lanes. Cash, check, and credit cards are all accepted in the express checkout lanes. As a reminder, our sale continues all week, with manager's specials through- out the store, so see you tomorrow! And thank you for shopping with us.

4. Where would you hear this announcement? A
5. What is the announcement about? D
6. Who is the announcement for? B

SKILL 5 PARAPHRASES

When completing the loan application form, it is important to use black ink, as blue and other colors do not copy well on our machine. We will make four copies, which will be distributed to the departments that will track your loan application. After you have completed the form, please submit it through the postal service. We do not accept e-mailed applications. You will be contacted by each department head individually after they have reviewed your case within two weeks of receipt of the form.

1. What is the purpose of the form? B
2. How should the form be made? A
3. When will the listener be contacted? D

Hello. I'm calling from Springfield Furniture Company. The table you ordered has arrived in our warehouse. Our truck will be in your neighborhood on Wednesday and Friday of next week and can drop off the table at your office on either one of those days. We have your address on file, so all you need to do is let me know which day you prefer and whether morning or afternoon is best. Please contact me by phone before Friday, so I can put you on next week's schedule. Thank you for shopping with us.

4. Why did the speaker make the call? A
5. What does the speaker say about the listener's address? C
6. What does the speaker ask the listener to do? B

SKILL 6 GRAPHIC

Number 1

Hi, this is Pamela Chang calling to let you know I've finalized the details of my trip. I'll be arriving tomorrow morning by train, and if I could get a ride from the station, that'd be great. My train gets into Springfield Station at just after eleven. Let me know if you can meet me there. Otherwise, I'll take a cab to your office. I'm looking forward to meeting you. See you tomorrow.

Look at the graphic. Which train will Pamela take? C

Number 2

Thank you all for being here at today's meeting. As you know, we need to take a close look at our budget and discuss where we can start cutting back. If you'll look at the chart, you'll see how our dollars were allocated across different categories in the past year. In my view, as we make our plans for the next quarter, the most logical place to start cutting is in the category where the largest percentage of our budget has been spent.

Look at the graphic. Which part of the budget does the speaker want to reduce first? B

Number 3

Welcome to the Hyattsville Public Gardens tour. We'll begin our tour with a stroll through the pine grove, and then continue along the river to the footbridge. After crossing the bridge, we'll stop for lunch just on the other side. Then we will continue our walk along the river and end at the nature center. Please remember to stay with the group at all times. Are there any questions?

Look at the graphic. Where will the group have lunch? C

Number 4

Let's take a look at the graph, which shows sales in June and December. As you can see, there was a significant increase in sales in one part of the country. That's exactly the region where we launched our new ad campaign. Now, was this increase a result of the ad campaign only? Or were other factors involved? That is what I want to go over with you today.

Look at the graphic. Which region will the speaker discuss? D

Number 5

Hi, I'm calling about ordering lunch for a workshop we'll be hosting at our office. It's not a large group of people. We're expecting probably ten or twelve people, and certainly no more than fifteen. I'm interested in ordering the cold cuts platter and some sort of simple dessert. We'll provide the tea and coffee ourselves. Please call me back and let me know how much this would cost. Thanks.

Look at the graphic. Which platter will the speaker probably order? A

SKILL 7 IMPLIED MEANING

Number 1

Hi. This is Timmy Cho. I'm calling to reschedule my appointment yet again. I'm sorry about this, but things just keep coming up. Would next Tuesday at two o'clock be OK?

Number 2

This is Marge Smith with the morning weather report. Today we're looking at a high of around twenty-four degrees Celsius, with clear skies and plenty of lovely, warm sunshine. Could we ask for a better day? I don't think so!

Number 3

To purchase your ticket, first insert your credit card, and then select your destination on the screen. Paying cash? Please approach the ticket office on the other side of the station.

Number 4

This is Rita Edwards reporting live from the National Day Celebration at City Stadium. It's only ten a.m. and the place is already mobbed. It looks like we're going to have a huge turnout, certainly much more than we had a year ago.

Number 5

The ticket booth is now open. Please line up over here to buy tickets. Please have your membership card ready to show the ticket seller. We regret that tickets cannot be sold to non-cardholders.

1A 2B 3B 4A 5B

SKILL 8 MULTIPLE ACCENTS

Number 1

Good evening and welcome to tonight's presentation. We are very excited to have with us tonight a world-famous journalist. I am sure you will enjoy his talk very much.

Number 2

Here is the weather outlook for the weekend. We will have cloudy skies all day Saturday. Expect rain to begin late Saturday evening and continue through Sunday morning. The rain will clear up on Sunday afternoon.

Number 3

Thank you for calling the Acme Company. We value your call. To check your order status, press one. For shipping information, press two. To speak with a customer service representative, press three. To repeat this menu, press four.

Number 4

Attention shoppers. We will be closing the store in ten minutes. Please take your purchases to the checkout area at this time. If you are purchasing ten items or fewer, you may use the express checkout lane.

Number 5

The tour will begin in just a few minutes. Please line up by the main entrance. If you don't have a ticket, you can purchase one in the gift shop.

THE END

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