

MEETING 8

ANSWERING OVERVIEW QUESTIONS ABOUT EXTENDED CONVERSATIONS

A. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To explain how to anticipate overview questions that may be asked over conversations.
2. To anticipate the answers on overview questions,

B. THE AIMS OF THE TOPIC

1. Students are able to anticipate overview questions that may appear over conversations.
2. Students are able to anticipate the best answers asked on overview questions

C. GUIDANCE AND METHODS OF LEARNING

1. Lectures
2. Discussions
3. Presentations
4. Practices

D. MATERIAL DESCRIPTION

I. Overview Questions about Extended Conversations

After each extended conversation, there are four to five questions. Usually the first and sometimes the last question are **overview questions**. To answer these questions, you need an understanding of the whole conversation rather than of any specific point.

Overview Questions for the Extended Conversations

- What is the main topic of this conversation?

- What are these people primarily discussing?
- Where does this conversation take place?
- When does this conversation take place?
- What is the relationship between the speakers?
- What is the man's/woman's occupation?
- What is one speaker's attitude toward the other speaker?

Main topic questions must correctly summarize the conversation. Incorrect answers for these questions are too general, too specific, or incorrect according to the conversation.

Although these questions require an overall understanding of the conversations, the first few sentences often "set the scene." In other words, the opening lines of the talk establish the time, place, and main topic. Read the opening lines of the extended conversation given below:

M1 : (Answering phone) Hello?

F1 : Hi, Rod, this is Rita-I'm in your nine o'clock class. I missed class because of a cold, and I was wondering if I could borrow your notes.

M1 : I don't know if you could read my notes-I have terrible handwriting. But I can tell you what happened. Professor Phillips went over the material in Chapter 4, about different types of stars in our galaxy. And she talked about what the mid-term exam is going to be like.

F1 : Uh-oh, you better tell me all about the mid-term—I really need to do well on it.

From this portion of a conversation, we learn that

..... both of the speaker are students

..... they are probably taking a course in astronomy

..... the class is about halfway over (because they are taking mid-term exams)

.....the rest of the talk will probably deal with the material that will be on the examination

II. EXERCISES

Exercise 8.1

Focus : Listening to the opening lines of extended conversations, and answering overview questions about the topics, settings, and speakers.

Directions : Listen to the conversations and the questions about them. Then mark the answer choice-(A), (B), or (C)-that correctly completes the sentence. The first one is done as an example.

*Now start the audio

1. ____ (A) Methods of predicting earthquakes.
 ___√___ (B) Ways to improve the man's presentation.
 ____ (C) The many new uses of computer graphics.
2. ____ (A) Statistics.
 ____ (B) Computer science.
 ____ (C) Geology.
3. ____ (A) A language teacher and a student
 ____ (B) A dean and a teacher.
 ____ (C) A teacher and an assistant.
4. ____ (A) The language of the deaf.
 ____ (B) Methods of teaching German.
 ____ (C) Communication networks.
5. ____ (A) Professor Quinn's approach to teaching.
 ____ (B) The process of getting a student identification card.
 ____ (C) Procedures for checking out reserve material.
6. ____ (A) At a university library.
 ____ (B) In a psychology class.
 ____ (C) In a laboratory.
7. ____ (A) To ask for a job.
 ____ (B) To get some advice.
 ____ (C) To discuss medical research.
8. ____ (A) Academic advisor.
 ____ (B) Physician.

- _____ (C) Administrator.
9. _____ (A) Helpful.
_____ (B) Discouraging.
_____ (C) Inconsiderate.
10. _____ (A) The art of raising Dogs.
_____ (B) A softball game.
_____ (C) A dogsled race.
11. _____ (A) An archaeologist.
_____ (B) An anthropologist.
_____ (C) A university student.
12. _____ (A) Their plans for the coming school year.
_____ (B) Tina's volunteer position.
_____ (C) Tina's trip to Europe.
13. _____ (A) A clerk at a bookstore.
_____ (B) A librarian.
_____ (C) A publisher's sales officer.
14. _____ (A) Before the spring term begins.
_____ (B) In the middle of the spring term.
_____ (C) After the spring term ends.
15. _____ (A) In Nicholson Hall.
_____ (B) In the graduate Admission Office.
_____ (C) In the Financial Aid Office.
16. _____ (A) Requirements for graduate admission.
_____ (B) Directions to another office.
_____ (C) The woman's need for scholarship.