

MEETING 12

LISTENING – LONG CONVERSATION: *Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How*

A. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this meeting, students will learn about *Who, Where, When, Why, and How* in long conversation. At the end of the lesson, students are expected to be able to:

1. understand what long conversation is.
2. understand how to answer the questions after long conversation.
3. answer the questions about *who, where, when, why, and how* after long conversation.

B. MATERIAL DESCRIPTION

Before we get started, it is better to discuss what long conversation means. Long conversation is consists of longer conversations between a man and a woman or (sometimes) between two men or two women. Each conversation lasts from thirty to ninety seconds. It is preceded by brief introductory comments. After each of the conversations, there are from three to five questions. The questions are separated by a twelve-second pause. You must decide which one of the four answer choices in your test book is the best answer for the question, then mark that answer on your answer sheet.

The Introductory Comments

These comments tell you which questions the conversation refers to and provide some brief information about the conversation:

"Questions 31 to 34: Listen to two students talk about their psychology class."

"Questions 31 to 35: Listen to a conversation about plans for a class trip."

"Questions 35 to 38: Listen to two friends discussing a performance that they attended."

"Questions 36 to 39: Listen to a conversation in a student housing office."

"Questions 35 to 39: Listen to a conversation between two teaching assistants."

Not only do these introductory comments tell you to get ready to listen; they also tell you how many questions in your test book to preview at one time. Moreover, they give you a general idea of what to expect as you listen.

Sample Item

You will hear:

- M2 : Listen to a conversation between two students.
- FI : Bill, you're a physics major, aren't you?
- MI : That's right.
- FI : I need some advice. I want to take an introductory physics class, and I have to choose between two teachers, Professor Hunter and Professor McVey. Do you know much about them?
- MI : I've taken classes from both of them. To tell you the truth, I don't really like Hunter's style of teaching. He doesn't seem to care if his students understand or not, and his lectures are pretty dry.
- FI : Well, then, what about McVey? I've heard his course is difficult.
- M 1 : It's not easy, but you'll learn a lot, and he always encourages his students to ask questions and join in discussions.

Question 1

You will then hear:

- M2 : What does the woman ask Bill to do?

You will read:

- (A) Give her information about two teachers.
- (B) Help her with a physics assignment.
- (C) Speak to a professor for her.
- (D) Lead a discussion.

The correct answer is (A). The woman asks Bill for some advice about the two professors who are teaching basic physics courses. Therefore, the best answer is (A).

Question 2

You will then hear:

M2: What does Bill imply that the woman should do?

You will read:

- (A) Change her major to physics.
- (B) Discuss her problem with Professor Hunter.
- (C) Sign up for an easy class.
- (D) Take Professor McVey's class.

The correct answer is (D). Bill speaks critically of Professor Hunter's teaching methods, but favorably of Professor McVey's, so he would probably advise her to take McVey's course. Therefore, the best answer is (D).

The Questions

The questions may be overview questions or detail questions. The first question after the conversation is often an overview question. Overview questions require a broad understanding of the entire conversation. To answer them correctly, you must understand what *both* speakers say. There are several types of overview questions:

Type of Overview Question

Topic question

"What are the speakers discussing?"

Questions about setting (time and location)

"Where did this conversation take place?"

"When did this conversation take place?"

Questions about the speakers

"Who are the speakers?"

"What is the probable relationship between the speakers?"

TACTICS FOR EXTENDED CONVERSATIONS

- a. Be familiar with the directions, but remember that you cannot turn the page to look over answer choices while the directions are being read.
- b. Pay attention to the introductory comment for each conversation. These comments will tell you which items each conversation refers to and may give you an idea of what the conversation will be about.
- c. Preview the answer choices during the conversations and the pauses between questions. Try to guess what the questions will be.
- d. Listen for overall concepts:

- Who is taking part in the conversation?
- Where and when does the conversation take place?
- What is the main topic of the conversation?

The answers to these questions are often suggested in the first few lines of the conversations.

- e. You are not permitted to take written notes, but try to take "mental notes" on specific details: facts, figures, dates, places, and so on. You can sometimes check the information you think you hear against information you read in the answer choices while you are previewing.
- f. Answer items right away.
- g. Never leave any blanks on your answer sheet. Always guess.

C. EXERCISES: COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Part 1

Focus: Guessing the questions that will be asked about an extended conversation and the situation in which the conversation takes place by previewing answer choices.

Directions: Look over the answer choices below. First try to guess the general type of question that will be asked about each item. Then look at the list of questions after each group of items and match the letter of the appropriate question with the item. Then answer the question about the overall topic of the conversation. The first one is done as an example.

There is no audio material for this exercise

Conversation 1

1. (A) A grade the student received.
(B) A story about a dance recital.
(C) The need for correct spelling.
(D) The role of a reporter.

Question: b

2. (A) Business.
(B) Architecture.
(C) Journalism.
(D) Dance.

Question:

3. (A) She submitted it too late.
(B) It was too long.
(C) Some important details were omitted.
(D) Almost every word was misspelled.

Question:

4. (A) Rewrite the story.
(B) Buy a better dictionary.
(C) Go to more dance recitals.
(D) Get a job as a reporter.

Question:

Questions for Conversation 1

- a) For what class did the man do the assignment?
- b) What is the main topic of this conversation?

- c) What does the man advise the woman to do?
- d) What problem does the man mention in connection with the story?

Situation Question: Conversation 1

Which of the following best describes the situation in which the first conversation probably takes place?

- ___ (A) One student is telling another a story about a dance.
- ___ (B) A professor is criticizing a student's story about a dance performance.
- ___ (C) An instructor is teaching a student a new dance.
- ___ (D) One student is suggesting ways in which the other student can improve her spelling.

Conversation 2

- 5. (A) He doesn't get enough exercise.
- (B) He's nervous about an important test.
- (C) He's spending too much time at the Recreation Center.
- (D) He doesn't know how to swim.

Question:

- 6. (A) Across campus from the Student Center building.
- (B) South of the stadium.
- (C) On the north side of campus.
- (D) Between the Student Center and the stadium.

Question:

- 7. (A) Sign up for some classes at the Recreation Center.
- (B) Spend more time studying for exams.
- (C) Take a break from his studies.
- (D) Take a bus to the Recreation Center.

Question:

- 8. (A) Just before the beginning of the semester.
- (B) During mid-term exams.

- (C) Near the end of the semester.
- (D) Just after the end of the semester.

Question:

Questions for Conversation 2

- a) Where is the Recreation Center?
- b) What does the woman suggest the man do?
- c) What problem does the man complain about?
- d) At what point in the semester does this conversation take place?

Situation Question: Conversation 2

Which of the following best describes the situation in which the conversation probably takes place?

- ___ (A) One student recommends that another get some exercise in order to relax during exams.
- ___ (B) Two students discuss their plans for a vacation.
- ___ (C) A physical education instructor suggests that a student register for classes in her department.
- ___ (D) A student explains to a visitor to campus how to get to the stadium.

Conversation 3

- 9. (A) At an art gallery.
- (B) At an art museum.
- (C) In an artist's studio.
- (D) In a special room in the library.

Question:

- 10. (A) Paintings.
- (B) Sculptures.
- (C) Book covers.
- (D) Photographs.

Question:

- 11. (A) A story in a newspaper.

- (B) An article in an art magazine.
- (C) A class she attended.
- (D) A show she saw on television.

Question:

12. (A) An art historian and a student.
- (B) Two students.
 - (C) Two visitors to a museum.
 - (D) A tour guide and a tourist.

Question:

13. (A) Primitive.
- (B) Life-sized.
 - (C) Realistic.
 - (D) Stylized.

Question:

Questions for Conversation 3

- a) Who is taking part in this conversation?
- b) How would the woman probably describe the works of art that she saw?
- c) What was the source of the woman's information?
- d) Where did the exhibit take place?
- e) What kind of art are the speakers discussing?

Situation Question: Conversation 3

Which of the following best describes the situation in which the conversation probably takes place'

- ___ (A) One speaker describes to the other her techniques for painting pictures.
- ___ (B) The woman tells the man about a recent book she read.
- ___ (C) An art expert gives some advice to the other speaker about becoming an artist.
- ___ (D) One speaker tells the other about some art she saw at an exhibit.

Part 2

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?

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. 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 Admissions Office.
..... (C) In the Financial Aid Office.
16. (A) Requirements for graduate admission.
..... (B) Directions to another office.
..... (C) The woman's need for a scholarship.

Part 3

Focus: Answering detail and inference questions based on specific points in short portions of extended conversations.

Directions: You will hear three extended conversations, each one divided into several short portions. After each portion, there will be a number of questions based on that part of the talk. Mark the best answer choice-(A), (B), or (C)-for each question.

Now start the audio

1. (A) A doctor .
..... (B) A newspaper.
..... (C) A magazine.
2. (A) It's too tiring.
..... (B) It can cause injuries.
..... (C) It's not demanding enough.
3. (A) Downhill skiing.
..... (B) Jogging.
..... (C) Cross-country skiing.
4. (A) It doesn't require much snow
..... (B) It is a recently developed sport.
..... (C) It can be done in flat areas .
5. (A) Use a cross-country ski machine.
..... (B) Travel to ski resorts.
..... (C) Take up jogging.
6. (A) The expense.
..... (B) The weather conditions.
..... (C) The danger.
7. (A) He stayed up most of the night.
..... (B) He's been studying all morning.
..... (C) He took an exam last night.
8. (A) It was an improvement.
..... (B) It was disappointing.

- (C) It was unfair.
9. (A) Undergraduate students.
..... (B) Teachers.
..... (C) Graduate students.
10. (A) She learned how to do research.
..... (B) She was prepared for her sociology test.
..... (C) She learned teaching techniques.
11. (A) Basic scientific research.
..... (B) Business management.
..... (C) Test-taking skills.
12. (A) In the library.
..... (B) In the Physics Tower.
..... (C) In Staunton Hall.
13. (A) Study for his next exam.
..... (B) Go to the Study Skills Center.
..... (C) Get some sleep.
14. (A) To buy something at an auction.
..... (B) To pay for employees' salaries.
..... (C) To improve their broadcasts.
15. (A) Apply for a job at the station.
..... (B) Donate his services for the station's auction.
..... (C) Direct the construction of a new tower.
16. (A) She must work on her own research project.
..... (B) She has to help her parents.
..... (C) She must study for exams.
17. (A) They seldom attend auctions.
..... (B) They might bid on the man's services.
..... (C) They use the library often.

Part 4

Focus: Answering detail and inference questions based on specific points in complete extended conversations.

Directions: You will hear four extended conversations. After each conversation, there will be a number of questions based on it. Mark the best answer choice-(A), (B), or (C)-for each question.

Now start the audio

1. ___ (A) North of Los Angeles.
___ (B) Between Los Angeles and San Diego.
___ (C) East of San Diego.
2. ___ (A) They are a type of insect.
___ (B) They are a kind of fish.
___ (C) They are a type of bird.
3. ___ (A) In March.
___ (B) In early summer.
___ (C) In October.
4. ___ (A) About 200 miles.
___ (B) About 1,000 miles.
___ (C) About 7,000 miles.
5. ___ (A) The swallows' arrival.
___ (B) The parade.
___ (C) The swallows' departure.
6. ___ (A) Only during the first week of classes.
___ (B) Whenever students ask for them.
___ (C) Only in the afternoon.
7. ___ (A) A tour guide.
___ (B) A classroom.
___ (C) A map.
8. ___ (A) In the Science Building.
___ (B) In the Student Center Building.
___ (C) In the University Recreation Center.

9. ____ (A) A test in a composition class.
____ (B) A road test.
____ (C) The written test for her driver's license.
10. ____ (A) He drove too fast.
____ (B) He couldn't park well.
____ (C) He made an improper turn.
11. ____ (A) Drive her to the test site.
____ (B) Help her get ready for the road test.
____ (C) Sell her a car.
12. ____ (A) It doesn't belong to her.
____ (B) She's not a licensed driver.
____ (C) It isn't running right.

Part 5

Mini Test

Directions: Listen to the conversations and the questions about them. Decide which one of the four answer choices-(A), (B), (C), or (D)-is the best answer to the question. Then mark the appropriate answer on the answer sheet.

Now start the audio

1. ____ (A) To look up some terms.
____ (B) To meet Stanley
____ (C) To get a snack.
____ (D) To prepare for an exam.
2. ____ (A) His library card.
____ (B) A statistics book.
____ (C) Some index cards.
____ (D) A notebook.
3. ____ (A) Piles of note cards.
____ (B) The part of the library where journals are stored.

- ___ (C) The part of the library where books are shelved.
___ (D) A place to get something to eat.
4. ___ (A) Behind the main desk.
___ (B) The periodicals room.
___ (C) A lost and found office.
___ (D) The reference room.
5. ___ (A) The sport of mountain climbing.
___ (B) Classes the man is taking.
___ (C) An exhibit the man saw in a museum.
___ (D) A new activity the man is involved in.
6. ___ (A) A means of descending slopes.
___ (B) A method of climbing cliffs.
___ (C) A way to clean walls.
___ (D) A type of graffiti.
7. ___ (A) Educating people about geology.
___ (B) Cleaning up after careless people.
___ (C) Photographing mountain peaks.
___ (D) Rescuing people who are in danger.
8. ___ (A) Explore a cave with him.
___ (B) Take some photographs.
___ (C) Attend a meeting.
___ (D) Examine a crystal.

D. REFERENCES

Rogers, Bruce. 2011. *The Complete Guide to the TOEFL Test PBT Edition*. USA:
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