

SKILL 4: DRAW CONCLUSIONS ABOUT WHO, WHAT, WHERE

It is common in Listening Part A 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 conversation. 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 conversation.

Example

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, you read:

- (A) A newspaper editor.
- (B) A police officer.
- (C) A teacher.
- (D) A student.

The clues *your class*, *homework*, and *quiz* in the conversation tell you that the man is probably a teacher. Answer (C) is therefore the correct answer.

Another type of conclusion that is common in Listening Part A is to determine *what* will probably happen next, based on clues given in the conversation.

Example

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, 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.

A final type of conclusion that is common in Listening Part A is to determine *where* the conversation probably takes place, based on clues given in the conversation.

Example

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, you read:

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

The following chart outlines the key point that you should remember about this type of question:

CONCLUSIONS ABOUT WHO, WHAT, WHERE
It is common for you to be asked to draw one of the following conclusions in Listening Part A: 1. <i>WHO</i> is probably talking? 2. <i>WHAT</i> will s/he probably do next? 3. <i>WHERE</i> does the conversation probably take place?

EXERCISE 4: In this exercise, read the short conversation 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.
- (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.

TOEFL EXERCISE 4: In this exercise, listen carefully to the short conversation and question in the recording program and then choose the best answer to the question. You will have to draw conclusions about *who*, *what*, and *where*.



NOW BEGIN THE RECORDING PROGRAM AT TOEFL EXERCISE 4.

1. (A) In a photography studio.
 (B) In a biology laboratory.
 (C) In an office.
 (D) In the library.
2. (A) He's a pilot.
 (B) He's a flight attendant.
 (C) He's a member of the grounds 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) It depends on where the file is.
 (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.