LISTENING – SKILL PRACTICE

PART 1: SHORT TALKS

1. LISTENING FOR MAIN IDEA

1.1. Identifying The Topic

You will read questions that ask about topics. A topic is the main subject of the talk.
Look for these words in a questions that asks about the topic: **topic, purpose, about, talk about, discussing, kind**

PRACTICE 1.1

Directions: Listen to the talk and then choose the statement that best answers the question

1. **What will Mr. Kim talk about?**
   A. Law.
   B. Retirement.
   C. Photography.
   D. Traveling.

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2. **What is the topic of the meeting?**
   A. Office expenses.
   B. Going out for lunch.
   C. Riding in taxis.
   D. Buying equipment.

3. **What is the purpose of this announcement?**
   A. To give the weather report.
   B. To talk about traffic problems.
   C. To announce that schools are closed.
   D. To report the news.

4. **What is the magazine about?**
   A. Commercials.
   B. Sports.
   C. Television.
   D. News.

5. **What kind of business is advertised?**
   A. A conference planning service.
   B. A hotel.
   C. A catering service.
   D. An entertainment business.

6. **What is this announcement about?**
   A. Weather.
   B. Vacations.
   C. Books.
   D. Mail.

1.2. Identifying The Audience

You will read questions that ask about audience. The audience is the person or persons listening to the talk.
Look for these words in a question that asks about audience: **who, directed to, talking to**

PRACTICE 1.2

DIRECTIONS: Listen to the talk and then choose the statement that best answers the question.

1. **Who is this talk directed to?**
   A. Bookstore owners.
   B. Professors.
   C. Students.
   D. Economists.

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2. **Who is the speaker talking to?**
   A. Store employees.
   B. Customers.
   C. Police officers.
   D. Bank tellers.

3. **Who is this message for?**
   A. Ambulance drivers.
   B. Patients.
   C. Medical advisors.
   D. Office workers.

4. **Who is the speaker talking to?**
   A. Airline pilots.
   B. Flight attendants.
   C. Airplane passengers.
   D. People with small children.

5. **Who is this talk directed to?**
   A. Radio station employees.
   B. Public servants.
   C. Government officials.
   D. All city residents.

6. **Who would call this telephone number?**
   A. People who want information about entertainment.
   B. People who want to hear a weather report.
   C. People who need jobs.
   D. People who need bus and train schedules.

1.3. Identifying A Location

You will read questions that ask about location. A location is the place where an announcement is made.

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PRACTICE 1.3

DIRECTIONS: Listen to the talk and then choose the statement that best answers the question.

1. **Where would you hear this announcement?**
   A. At a coffee shop.
   B. At a grocery store.
   C. At an airport.
   D. At a factory.

2. **Where is this announcement being made?**
   A. On a subway.
   B. At the airport.
   C. On a bus.
   D. In a taxi.

3. **Where would you hear this announcement?**
   A. At a bus station.
   B. At a school.
   C. At a nightclub.
   D. At a soccer stadium.

4. **Where is Martha going?**
   A. To the park.
   B. To the gym.
   C. Home.
   D. To a restaurant.

5. **Where would you hear this announcement?**
   A. On an elevator.
   B. At a theater.
   C. In a store.
   D. On a bus.

6. **Where can this talk be heard?**
   A. In a restaurant.
   B. In a private home.
   C. At a museum.
   D. At a university.

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2. LISTENING FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION

PRACTICE 2

DIRECTIONS: Listen to the talk and then choose the statement that best answers the question.

TALK 1

1. **What can be seen from the window?**
   A. A cemetery.
   B. Radar screens.
   C. Some woods.
   D. A mountain.

2. **What does the pilot ask the passengers to do?**
   A. Stand up and move around
   B. Fasten their seat belts
   C. Read the emergency guide
   D. Turn off all the electronic devices.

TALK 2

3. **What does the tour guide ask the participants to do?**
   A. Pick some flowers
   B. Wear warm clothes
   C. Stay in their seats
   D. Clean the windows

4. **Where is the first stop?**
   A. Under the trees.
   B. On the left.
   C. By a river branch.
   D. To the rear.

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TALK 3

5. **What was the clean-up drive like last year?**
   A. There were free refreshments.
   B. Fifty people showed up.
   C. It wasn't successful.
   D. There were no participants.

6. **What time will the clean-up drive begin?**
   A. 10:00 A.M.
   B. 1:00 P.M.
   C. 3:00 P.M.
   D. 3:15 P.M.

TALK 4

7. **What is Dr. Quimby Jones's profession?**
   A. Radio show host.
   B. Medical doctor.
   C. Professor.
   D. Farmer

8. **How long does the entire radio show last?**
   A. Ten minutes.
   B. Thirty minutes.
   C. One hour.
   D. One hour and ten minutes.

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TALK 5

9. **What will the class do today?**
   A. Read books.
   B. Look at slides.
   C. Watch a video.
   D. Visit an art museum.

10. **Who is Dr. Smith?**
   A. the university president
   B. a historian
   C. a psychology professor
   D. a writer

PRACTICE 3: REVIEW

Listen to the talks, and then answer each of the three questions about them by marking the correct choice – (A), (B), C. or (D).

1. **Where is this announcement being made?**
   A. On an aircraft
   B. In Glasgow
   C. At an airport
   D. On a shuttle bus

2. **Why is Mr. Kim being paged?**
   A. There's a message for him.
   B. His flight has been delayed.
   C. Someone has found his ticket.
   D. There is an emergency.

3. **Where are the white telephones located?**
   A. On board the aircraft
   B. At the ticket counter
   C. All over the airport
   D. At an information booth

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4. **Who is the audience for this talk?**
   A. People at a cafeteria
   B. Shoppers at a grocery store
   C. Guests at a party
   D. People who want to go fishing

5. **What is being offered at a special price?**
   A. Meat
   B. Bread
   C. Charcoal
   D. Fish

6. **How long is the special price being offered?**
   A. One day
   B. Two days
   C. One week
   D. One month

7. **Where is this announcement being made?**
   A. On an airplane
   B. At a shopping center
   C. Aboard a ship
   D. In a seaside restaurant

8. **Who is Nicholas?**
   A. A lost child
   B. A waiter
   C. Someone's father
   D. The purser

9. **What problem is mentioned?**
   A. High waves
   B. Strong winds
   C. Long delays
   D. High prices

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10. What will people see on the tour?

A. A skyscraper
B. A national monument
C. A cavern
D. A factory

11. How long does the tour last?

A. 15 minutes
B. 2 hours
C. 4 hours
D. All day

12. At what age must someone purchase a full-price ticket?

A. 4
B. 6
C. 12
D. 13

13. What is the destination of this flight?

A. Los Angeles
B. The Grand Canyon
C. Flagstaff
D. Denver

14. When will this plane be landing?

A. In a few minutes
B. In around 20 minutes
C. In about 2 hours
D. In around 9 hours

15. What will probably be served on this flight?

A. Breakfast
B. Lunch
C. Dinner
D. Late-night snack

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EXTENDED CONVERSATIONS

ANSWERING OVERVIEW QUESTIONS ABOUT EXTENDED CONVERSATIONS

After each extended conversation in Part 2, 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:

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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 speakers 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

Not all conversations begin with so much detail. However, it is important to concentrate on the opening lines to learn this kind of information.

PRACTICE 4

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

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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. **What will the main topic of this talk probably be?**
   A. Methods of predicting earthquakes.
   B. Ways to improve the man's presentation.
   C. The many new uses of computer graphics.

2. **For what class is the man probably preparing a presentation?**
   A. Statistics.
   B. Computer science.
   C. Geology.

3. **Who are the people taking part in this conversation?**
   A. A language teacher and a student.
   B. A dean and a teacher.
   C. A teacher and an assistant.

4. **What will the rest of the conversation probably be about?**
   A. The language of the deaf.
   B. Methods of teaching German.
   C. Communication networks.

5. **What will the main topic of this conversation probably be?**
   A. Professor Quinn's approach to teaching.
   B. The process of getting a student identification card.
   C. Procedures for checking out reserve material.

6. **Where does this conversation probably take place?**
   A. At a university library.
   B. In a psychology class.
   C. In a laboratory.

7. **Why does the woman want to talk to Dr. Marshall?**
   A. To ask for a job.
   B. To get some advice.
   C. To discuss medical research.

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8. **What is Dr. Marshall's occupation?**
   A. Academic advisor.
   B. Physician.
   C. Administrator.

9. **What is Dr. Marshall's attitude toward the woman?**
   A. Helpful.
   B. Discouraging.
   C. Inconsiderate.

10. **What will the main topic of this conversation probably be?**
   A. The art of raising dogs.
   B. A softball game.
   C. A dogsled race.

11. **Who is Tina?**
   A. An archaeologist.
   B. An anthropologist.
   C. A university student.

12. **What will the two speakers probably discuss?**
   A. Their plans for the coming school year.
   B. Tina's volunteer position.
   C. Tina's trip to Europe.

13. **Who is the woman who answers the phone?**
   A. A clerk at a bookstore.
   B. A librarian
   C. A publisher's sales officer.

14. **When does this conversation take place?**
   A. Before the spring term begins.
   B. In the middle of the spring term.
   C. After the spring term ends.

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15. Where does the man probably work?

A. In Nicholson Hall.

B. In the Graduate Admissions Office.

C. In the Financial Aid Office.

16. What will the rest of the conversation probably deal with?

A. Requirements for graduate admission.

B. Directions to another office.

C. The woman's need for a scholarship.

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