B. News, Weather, and Public Service Bulletins

These talks are similar to ones you might hear on radio and television, especially on news programs. Questions usually ask what is being reported and about details given in the talk.

Sample Items: News, Weather, and Public Service Bulletins

Woman: It looks as though our warm, sunny, summer-like weather will continue at least through Saturday and Sunday, so this weekend will be the perfect time to go out to the countryside to view the colorful fall foliage. On Monday, though, it appears we're in for a change. It should be a little cooler with cloudy conditions, and there's a chance of rain. The long-range forecast shows a few snow flurries coming our way by Wednesday of next week. And you can expect to see the temperatures drop to around 22 degrees Fahrenheit that day — that's minus 5 degrees Celsius, folks, so you'd better get out those winter coats.

Q. What kind of weather is predicted for the weekend?

(A) Rapidly changing
(B) Cloudy and cooler
(C) Rainy or snowy
● Warm and sunny

The speaker says that the weather will be warm and sunny through the weekend. Choice (B) refers to the prediction the speaker makes for Monday.

Q. During what season is this forecast probably being given?

(A) Spring
(B) Summer
● Autumn
(D) Winter

The speaker says that the weather will be "summer-like." This indicates that the weather will be warm, as it is in the summer. The speaker also forecasts cool and cloudy conditions for Monday. However, it is clear from the mention of "colorful fall foliage" (leaves) that it is autumn.

Q. What does the speaker suggest people do on Wednesday?

(A) Listen to the weather forecast
● Dress warmly because it will be cold
(C) Carry umbrellas in case of rain
(D) Go out to the countryside

The speaker says snow is predicted for next Wednesday, so the temperature will be getting much colder. Therefore, the speaker suggests that people dress in their winter coats to stay warm.

Exercise 4.2

Focus: Understanding and answering questions about news, weather, and public service bulletins.

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Now start the audio program.

1. What caused the delay in the launch?
   - (A) Bad weather
   - (B) The failure of the rocket engines
   - (C) Scheduling problems
   - (D) Computer problems

2. How do new-generation space shuttles differ from older shuttles?
   - (A) They have more powerful engines.
   - (B) They can stay in space longer.
   - (C) They are not affected as much by the weather.
   - (D) They have far more sophisticated computers.

3. When will the shuttle *Pathfinder* probably be launched?
   - (A) This afternoon
   - (B) Tonight
   - (C) Tomorrow
   - (D) The day after tomorrow

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4. What is the purpose of this bulletin?
   - (A) To warn residents of a damaging storm
   - (B) To indicate that there is no danger
   - (C) To report on the destruction
   - (D) To ask for listeners' help

5. Where is the hurricane now moving?
   - (A) Towards the open ocean
   - (B) To the southeast
   - (C) Towards the Eastern Seaboard
   - (D) Over Bermuda

6. How fast were the winds predicted to be?
   - (A) 80 miles per hour
   - (B) 100 miles per hour
   - (C) 120 miles per hour
   - (D) 200 miles per hour

7. What is the purpose of this talk?
   - (A) To sell more balloons
   - (B) To invite parents to a special event
   - (C) To discuss a potential danger
   - (D) To introduce a new type of balloon

8. Which of these may present a danger to children?
   - (A) An inflated balloon
   - (B) The gas inside a balloon
   - (C) The sound of a popping balloon
   - (D) A piece of popped balloon

9. Which of the following would the speaker NOT approve of for safety reasons?
   - (A) Allowing young children to blow up balloons
   - (B) Using balloons at an adult's birthday party
   - (C) Tying strings to balloons
   - (D) Popping balloons with a pin

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10. Where is the speaker?
    - (A) In a radio station
    - (B) In a helicopter
    - (C) On the side of the road
    - (D) In a truck

11. How did the truck cause a delay?
    - (A) It dropped its cargo.
    - (B) It collided with a car.
    - (C) It broke down.
    - (D) It ran out of fuel.

12. Which of the following does the speaker recommend for northbound drivers?
    - (A) Interstate 74
    - (B) The Valley Expressway
    - (C) Lake Avenue
    - (D) Route 8

LIVEWORKSHEETS

C. Commercial Messages

These talks resemble the advertisements that you hear on radio or television. They attempt to sell listeners goods or services. Questions about commercial messages often ask what product is being advertised, what kind of people would be interested in the product, and, sometimes, how much the product costs.

Sample Items: Commercial Messages

Man: Are you frustrated because you need to know a language for business reasons but you're just too busy to take classes? Then order a language kit from Translingua. Watch our DVDs and work from our CD-ROM in the comfort of your home. Learn in a natural way by listening to native speakers in business situations and then responding to them in your own words. Courses now available in English, Spanish, and Japanese. Courses in French and Russian will be available in the next few months. Each kit contains four workbooks, two DVDs, and one CD-ROM. Call Translingua today.

Q. Who would be most interested in what is being offered in this talk?

- (A) Business travelers
- (B) University students
- (C) Language teachers
- (D) International tourists

The advertisement begins by discussing the problem businesspeople face in learning another language. It also mentions that the course involves "native speakers in business situations." This course would probably be of most interest to business travelers.

Q. Which of these courses is NOT presently available?

- (A) Japanese
- (B) Spanish
- (C) English
- (D) Russian

According to the speaker, courses in English, Spanish, and Japanese are currently available. The course in Russian will not be available for a few months.

Q. How many DVDs are enclosed in each kit?

- (A) One
- (B) Two
- (C) Four
- (D) Eight

According to the talk, there are two DVDs in each language kit.

Exercise 4.3

Focus: Understanding and answering questions about commercial messages.

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Now start the audio program.

1. Which of the following is NOT available at the time this talk is being given?
   - (A) Water sports
   - (B) Golf
   - (C) Skiing
   - (D) Fishing
2. Which of the following people would be most interested in the festival held in June?
   - (A) People who enjoy jazz
   - (B) Artists and craftspeople
   - (C) Classical music fans
   - (D) Beginning skiers
3. How do summer hotel rates compare to winter rates?
   - (A) They are twice as high.
   - (B) They are slightly higher.
   - (C) They are the same.
   - (D) They are half as high.

4. Which of these products is especially for international use?
   - (A) The radio
   - (B) The clock
   - (C) The iron
   - (D) The briefcase
5. What claim is NOT made of these products?
   - (A) They are attractive.
   - (B) They are very durable.
   - (C) They are lightweight.
   - (D) They are inexpensive.
6. Where would you NOT be able to purchase these products?
   - (A) Europe
   - (B) North America
   - (C) Asia
   - (D) South America
7. What advantage does this magazine have over other business magazines?
   - (A) It is more interesting and readable.
   - (B) It is available in more locations.
   - (C) It offers more up-to-date news.
   - (D) It covers more international business.
8. How often is this business magazine published?
   - (A) Once a month
   - (B) Once a week
   - (C) Five times a week
   - (D) Seven times a week
9. How much does the guide mentioned in the talk cost?
   - (A) It's free if the order is for two or more subscriptions.
   - (B) It's free if the subscription is ordered today.
   - (C) It's three dollars per copy if you subscribe today.
   - (D) It's thirty dollars for each additional copy.

10. What is being offered?
    - (A) Message delivery
    - (B) Package design
    - (C) Coffee products
    - (D) Baked goods
11. What claim does the speaker make about the products?
    - (A) They can be made to suit special occasions.
    - (B) They are sold at discount prices.
    - (C) They are available twenty-four hours a day.
    - (D) They can be found all over the world.
12. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as an occasion to use these products?
    - (A) Retirements
    - (B) Weddings
    - (C) Birthdays
    - (D) Meetings

LIVEWORKSHEETS