Lesson 3 Short Conversations

Lesson Outline

- **Format** 70
- **Tactics** 70
- **Preview Test** 71
- **Testing Points and Skill-Building Exercises** 72
  - *A. Overview Questions* 72
  - *B. Detail Questions* 79
  - *C. Inference Questions* 86
- **Review Test** 88

Format Part 3

This part of the test consists of ten short conversations. Each of the ten conversations has three questions. The conversations are between a man and woman, between two women, or between two men. The conversations are either three-part or four-part exchanges. The first speaker says something, the second speaker responds, and the first speaker says something else. There may be an additional exchange by the second speaker to add information or to answer a question. A few typical patterns are given below:

Speaker 1: Asks a question. Speaker 2: Responds to the question.	Speaker 1: Makes a statement. Speaker 2: Questions the statement.	Speaker 1: Asks a question. Speaker 2: Responds to the question and asks a question.
Speaker 1: Comments on the response.	Speaker 1: Responds to the question.	Speaker 1: Responds to the question. Speaker 2: Comments on the response.

In your test book, the three questions for each conversation are written out. Four possible answer choices are provided for each question. Your job is to decide which one of these best answers the question. Then you need to mark the corresponding answer on your answer sheet.

Tactics Part 3

1. Between each question is an eight-second pause. That means there are twenty-four seconds between each conversation. You can accomplish quite a bit during this time. You need to mark your answers for the three questions and then preview the next three questions and answer choices. They tell you what to listen for.
2. While listening to each conversation, keep your eyes on the corresponding set of three questions and answer choices. Don't close your eyes or look away. Try to evaluate the four choices as you are listening.
3. Remember that distractors are sometimes mentioned in the conversations but are not answers to the question. Don't choose an answer just because you hear a word or two from the answer in the conversation.
4. If the correct answer is not obvious, try to eliminate answer choices that seem to be incorrect. If more than one answer choice is left, take a guess.
5. Mark your answers as quickly as possible so that you can preview the next item.
6. Never leave any answers blank. If you are not sure, always guess.

Preview Test Part 3

Start the audio program and read along as the directions are read.

Directions: In this part of the test, you hear short conversations involving two speakers. Each conversation is spoken only once and is not written out in the book, so listen carefully.

In your book, you will read three questions about each conversation. Following each question are four answer choices. Choose the best one — (A), (B), (C), or (D) — and mark the answer.

1. Where are they?
   (A) At a theater
   (B) At a party
   (C) At an airport
   (D) At a restaurant
2. How long will they have to wait for seats?
   (A) A couple of minutes
   (B) Less than twenty minutes
   (C) A half hour
   (D) Two hours
3. Why was the man worried?
   (A) He didn't have any reservations.
   (B) He reserved the seats too late.
   (C) He didn't know if this was a good restaurant.
   (D) He thought he might be late for a party.
4. What is the problem?
   (A) The new shipment has not arrived.
   (B) The wrong order was delivered.
   (C) The company sent too many packages.
   (D) The invoice number was incorrect.
5. What can be inferred from this conversation?
   (A) The problem has already been taken care of.
   (B) There is no blue paper in stock at present.
   (C) Ms. Tupton's manager wasn't upset last time.
   (D) Janice Nelson is a new employee.
6. What is Ms. Nelson planning to do?
   (A) Make a copy of the invoice
   (B) Speak to her manager
   (C) Call Ms. Tupton later today
   (D) Send a new order
7. What are they mainly discussing?
   (A) Shopping for clothes
   (B) An important meeting
   (C) Dry cleaning a suit
   (D) Scheduling a dinner meeting
8. Who is the first speaker?
   (A) A waiter
   (B) A hotel clerk
   (C) A journalist
   (D) A dry cleaner
9. What does the second speaker want?
   (A) A receipt
   (B) A menu
   (C) A newspaper
   (D) A new suit

LIVEWORKSHEETS

10. What is the man doing now?

(A) Working as a manager
(B) Marketing products
(C) Training new employees
(D) Designing products

11. What does the man think about his job?

(A) It isn't challenging enough for him.
(B) He doesn't like the long hours.
(C) He wants to quit immediately.
(D) It doesn't provide any options.

12. What advice does the woman give?

(A) To stay on the job
(B) To take a risk
(C) To apply for another position
(D) To give someone a present

Testing Points and Skill-Building Exercises

Many kinds of questions may be asked about the conversations, but they can be divided into these general categories:
A. Overview questions
B. Detail questions
C. Inference questions

A. Overview Questions

These questions require you to have a "global" or overall understanding of the dialogs that you hear. There are four kinds of overview questions:

Types of Overview Questions	Typical Question Words
1. Questions about locations	1. Where . . . ?
2. Questions about occupations	2. Who . . . ?
3. Questions about activities	3. What . . . doing?
4. Questions about topics	4. What . . . talking about?

Location Questions

These ask where the conversation occurs. There are a number of ways these questions can be asked:

- *Where are they?*
- *Where are the speakers?*
- *Where is the man/woman?*
- *Where is the conversation taking place?*

The answer choices for these questions are the names of four locations of various types — for example, a restaurant, a bank, an advertising agency, a tailor shop. To answer these questions, you can't simply listen for the name of the location, which is seldom provided in the conversation. You need to listen for vocabulary that is tied to a certain location. For example, if you hear the words *reservations*, *first class*, and *tickets*, the answer will probably be "In a travel agency." However, don't choose an answer on the basis of just one of these words or phrases. The word *reservations* could also be heard in a restaurant or hotel; the phrase *first class* could also be heard at a post office; the word *tickets* could also be heard at a concert, movie, or sporting event.

Sample Item: Location Question

Man: We don't have any reservations. Is it still possible for us to get a table for two?
Woman: You're in luck — a party of two just canceled their reservations. We can seat you in about fifteen or twenty minutes.
Man: Great! I was worried, but I guess this is our lucky night!

Q. Where are they?

(A) At a theater
(B) At a party
(C) At an airport
● At a restaurant

The mention of *reservations*, *table*, and *party of two* indicates that they are at a restaurant.

Exercise 3.1

Focus: Linking vocabulary to locations.

Directions: Match the locations below with the appropriate group of vocabulary words by writing the appropriate letter in the blank. The first one has been done as an example.

There is no audio program for this exercise.

a. airport	**g.** construction site	**m.** hair salon	**r.** post office
b. apartment complex	**h.** courtroom	**n.** hardware store	**s.** restaurant
c. bakery	**i.** farm	**o.** hotel	**t.** stationery store
d. bank	**j.** football stadium	**p.** jewelry store	**u.** theater
e. beach	**k.** freeway	**q.** laundromat	**v.** travel agency
f. computer store	**l.** grocery store		

1. C	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____
rolls	stage	bulldozer	chain
cake	cast	hard hat	ring
bread	box office	crane	bracelet

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5. _____
menu
terminal
keyboard

6. _____
dryer
hangers
detergent

7. _____
terminal
concourse
gate

8. _____
surf
towel
umbrella

9. _____
pens
envelopes
letterhead

10. _____
lanes
drivers
exit

11. _____
suite
front desk
reservations

12. _____
field
barn
fertilizer

Occupation Questions

These questions are very similar to the ones asked about locations, but they ask about the job or profession of one or both of the speakers. There are various ways these questions can be asked:

- *Who is the man/woman?*
- *Who are they?*
- *What is he/she?*
- *What are they?*
- *What is the man's/woman's profession?*
- *What is the man's/woman's occupation?*
- *What is the man's/woman's job?*

The answer choices for these questions are the names of four occupations: banker, bus driver, travel agent, secretary, and so on. The occupations are seldom given directly in the conversations. As with location questions, you must listen for key vocabulary that ties the speaker or speakers to one of the answers. For example, if you hear the terms *fare, transfer,* and *next stop*, the correct answer will be "bus driver." Again, don't choose an answer based on just one term; the word *fare* could also be used by a travel agent.

Sample Item: Occupation Question

1st Man: Front desk.
2nd Man: Yes, I'd like to have my suit cleaned and pressed. I have an important dinner meeting, so I'll need it by 5:00.
1st Man: Certainly, sir. I'll have someone come by your room in just a few minutes to pick it up.
2nd Man: Please put the charges on my bill. Oh, and I didn't receive the morning paper I asked for. Can you have someone bring that to me as well?

Q. Who is the first speaker?

(A) A waiter
● A hotel clerk
(C) A journalist
(D) A dry cleaner

The words *front desk* and *room* indicate that the first speaker is the clerk at the front desk of a hotel.

Exercise 3.2

Focus: Linking vocabulary to occupations.

Directions: Match the occupations below with the appropriate group of vocabulary words by writing the letter of the occupation in the blank.

There is no audio program for this exercise.

a. carpenter	**e.** immigration officer	**i.** painter	**m.** surgeon
b. dentist	**f.** manicurist	**j.** postal clerk	**n.** tailor
c. florist	**g.** mechanic	**k.** secretary	**o.** taxi driver
d. hair stylist	**h.** musician	**l.** student	**p.** travel agent

1. _____
anesthesia
scalpel
operation

2. _____
transmission
spark plug
tune-up

3. _____
nails
file
hammer

4. _____
stamp
visa
passport

5. _____
drill
polish
cavity

6. _____
brushes
rollers
coat

7. _____
alterations
tape measure
suit

8. _____
first class
stamps
parcel post

9. _____
notes
arrangement
orchestration

10. _____
arrangement
delivery
bouquet

Exercise 3.3

Focus: Answering overview questions about locations and occupations.

Directions: Listen to the conversation. Read the question about the conversation and then choose the one option — (A), (B), (C), or (D) — that best answers the question.

Now start the audio program.

1. Who is the second speaker?
(A) An electrician
(B) A banker
(C) An engineer
(D) A jeweler

2. Where are they?
(A) In a grocery store
(B) On a farm
(C) At an outdoor market
(D) In a vegetable garden

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3. Where is this conversation taking place?
   (A) At a men's clothing store
   (B) In a courtroom
   (C) At an art gallery
   (D) In a paint store

4. Who are they?
   (A) Printers
   (B) Architects
   (C) Fashion designers
   (D) House painters

5. Who is Thomas?
   (A) A sailor
   (B) A mechanic
   (C) A plumber
   (D) A carpenter

6. Where are they?
   (A) At a coffee shop
   (B) On an airplane
   (C) In an automobile
   (D) In a clothing store

7. Who is the man?
   (A) A police officer
   (B) A gardener
   (C) A security guard
   (D) A pilot

8. Where is this conversation taking place?
   (A) On a bus
   (B) In a taxi
   (C) At the library
   (D) On Clifton Avenue

9. Where are the speakers?
   (A) At a cinema
   (B) At a television studio
   (C) At a bookstore
   (D) At a video rental store

10. Who is Lisa?
   (A) An interior designer
   (B) The director
   (C) A painter
   (D) A newspaper reporter

11. Where are they?
   (A) In a hardware store
   (B) In a dentist's office
   (C) In an artist's studio
   (D) In an electronics store

12. Who is the first speaker?
   (A) A teacher
   (B) A mechanic
   (C) A doctor
   (D) A pharmacist

Activity Questions

These questions ask what one or both speakers are doing or are going to do. These questions can be asked in several ways:

- *What are they doing?*
- *What is happening now?*
- *What is the situation?*
- *What is the man/woman doing?*
- *What is going to happen?*

Answer choices for these questions are the names of different activities: buying a car, playing cards, eating breakfast, getting a haircut, and so on. There are two or three key vocabulary terms that can be connected with a certain activity. For example, if you hear the words *deck*, *cards*, and *deal*, the answer will be "playing cards."

Sample Item: Activity Question

Woman: It must be a big change to go from being a marketing manager to a product designer. So, are you enjoying the job?
Man: Not as much as I thought I would. I didn't think I'd have to work so late to meet the deadlines.
Woman: Well, give it a chance — you've only been in this position for a month. It took me a year of on-the-job training to adjust to the pace around here.
Man: Oh, I intend to. I'm not a quitter. I actually enjoy challenges.

Q. What is the man doing now?
   (A) Working as a manager
   (B) Marketing products
   (C) Training new employees
   ● Designing products

The woman says that the man has gone from being a marketing manager to a product designer. This means he has changed jobs, and is now designing products.

Topic Questions

These questions ask about the general subject of the conversation. The subject of the conversation can be a person, a thing, or an activity. Topic questions can be phrased in a variety of ways:

- What/whom are they discussing?
- What are they referring to?
- What is the topic of the conversation?
- What are they talking about?
- What is the conversation about?
- What is the subject of the conversation?

The answer choices will be four plausible topics. Incorrect answers may include details that are mentioned in the conversation but that are not the main subject of the conversation.

Sample Item: Topic Question

1st Man: Front desk.
2nd Man: Yes, I'd like to have my suit cleaned and pressed. I have an important dinner meeting, so I'll need it by 5:00.
1st Man: Certainly, sir. I'll have someone come by your room in just a few minutes to pick it up.
2nd Man: Please put the charges on my bill. Oh, and I didn't receive the morning paper I asked for. Can you have someone bring that to me as well?

Q. What are they mainly discussing?
   (A) Shopping for clothes
   (B) An important meeting
   ● Dry cleaning a suit
   (D) Scheduling a dinner meeting

The main focus of the dialogue is on arranging to have the second man's suit dry cleaned. Dry cleaning includes both cleaning and pressing a garment.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 3.4

Focus: Answering overview questions dealing with activities and topics.

Directions: Listen to the conversation. Read the question about the conversation and then choose the one option — (A), (B), (C), or (D) — that best answers the question.

Now start the audio program.

1. What are they discussing?
   (A) A boat trip
   (B) Fishing
   (C) A ball game
   (D) Medical care
2. What are they doing?
   (A) Buying clothing
   (B) Going through customs
   (C) Going grocery shopping
   (D) Getting their luggage
3. Who are they talking about?
   (A) A sculptor
   (B) A novelist
   (C) A painter
   (D) A gardener
4. What is the second speaker doing?
   (A) Renting a car
   (B) Looking for retail space
   (C) Trying to find an apartment
   (D) Going shopping
5. What is the conversation about?
   (A) A computer
   (B) A photographer's model
   (C) A sports car
   (D) An old photograph
6. What is Mr. Krueger going to do?
   (A) Have his carpet cleaned
   (B) Get his car repaired
   (C) Have his lawn mowed
   (D) Get his hair cut
7. What is the subject of the conversation?
   (A) A dangerous intersection
   (B) A new store
   (C) An airline accident
   (D) Outdoor lighting
8. What are they going to do?
   (A) Go horseback riding
   (B) Go skiing
   (C) Go on a plane trip
   (D) Go shopping
9. What is the situation?
   (A) The woman is being interviewed for a job.
   (B) The man is trying to sell the woman a computer.
   (C) The woman is applying to a college.
   (D) The man is asking the woman if he can use her computer.
10. What will they do?
   (A) Go deep-sea fishing
   (B) Examine some documents
   (C) Watch television
   (D) Go out to a movie

B. Detail Questions

Detail questions ask about specific points in the conversation. However, the answers to these questions are generally not found in a single line of the conversation. It's usually necessary to understand the entire conversation. Some of the most common detail questions are given below, but there are other types.

Types of Detail Questions	Typical Question Words
1. Questions about time	1. When . . . ?
2. Questions about reasons	2. Why . . . ?
3. Questions about plans	3. What . . . do?
4. Questions about problems	4. What's the matter with . . . ?
5. Questions about suggestions	5. What . . . suggest . . . ?
6. Questions about opinions	6. What . . . think of . . . ?

Questions About Time

These questions ask when an event or activity takes place. Some time questions ask about frequency or duration. Time questions can be asked in several ways:

- *When . . . ?*
- *How often . . . ?* (frequency)
- *At what time . . . ?*
- *How long . . . ?* (duration)

The answer choices are times of day, parts of the day, days of the week, dates, years, amounts of time, and so on. Often, one or more of the distractors are mentioned in the conversation but do not answer the question. And sometimes the correct answer is not mentioned directly by the speakers.

Sample Item: Time Question

Man: We don't have any reservations. Is it still possible for us to get a table for two?
Woman: You're in luck — a party of two just canceled their reservations. We can seat you in about fifteen or twenty minutes.
Man: Great! I was worried, but I guess this is our lucky night!

Q. How long will they have to wait for seats?
(A) A couple of minutes
● Less than twenty minutes
(C) A half hour
(D) Two hours

The woman says that she can seat them "in about fifteen or twenty minutes." Therefore, answer (B), "Less than twenty minutes," is the correct answer.

Questions About Reasons

These questions ask why someone does something, why someone feels a certain way, why an event occurs, and so on.

These are typical reason questions:

- *Why did . . . happen?*
- *Why is the man/woman going to . . . ?*
- *Why does the man/woman want to . . . ?*
- *Why is the man/woman upset/happy/puzzled?*

Some reason questions are negative questions:

- *Why did . . . not happen?*
- *Why does he/she not want to . . . ?*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Sample Item: Reason Question

Man: We don't have any reservations. Is it still possible for us to get a table for two?
Woman: You're in luck — a party of two just canceled their reservations. We can seat you in about fifteen or twenty minutes.
Man: Great! I was worried, but I guess this is our lucky night!

Q. Why was the man worried?

- ● He didn't have any reservations.
- (B) He reserved the seats too late.
- (C) He didn't know if this was a good restaurant.
- (D) He thought he might be late for a party.

The man says he doesn't have reservations and that he "was worried."

Exercise 3.5

Focus: Answering detail questions dealing with time and reasons.

Directions: Listen to the conversation. Read the question about the conversation and then choose the one option — (A), (B), (C), or (D) — that best answers the question.

Now start the audio program.

1. Why is Mr. Maras leaving?
- (A) To talk to a client
- (B) To go to his office
- (C) To board an airplane
- (D) To meet his wife

2. When will the office open again?
- (A) This weekend
- (B) On Monday
- (C) On Tuesday
- (D) On Wednesday

3. At what time will the man see the movie?
- (A) At 7:30
- (B) At 7:40
- (C) At 9:00
- (D) At 9:10

4. Why does Carlos congratulate Eva?
- (A) She'll be making a lot more money.
- (B) She found a better job.
- (C) She's been promoted.
- (D) She likes the region where she'll be working.

5. When did Frank start working here?
- (A) In 2003
- (B) In 2004
- (C) In 2005
- (D) In 2006

6. When does Patrick hope to come to work?
- (A) At lunchtime
- (B) This afternoon
- (C) Tomorrow morning
- (D) Tomorrow afternoon

7. Why did the man NOT take the shuttle bus?
- (A) He wanted to save time.
- (B) He wanted to impress someone.
- (C) It left without him.
- (D) There was no room on it.

8. Why is Dan upset?
- (A) He does not have his coffee mug.
- (B) He could not attend the conference.
- (C) He did not get any coffee this morning.
- (D) He could not find some important papers.

9. How long was Ms. Shearson out of the country?
- (A) For a few days
- (B) For a month
- (C) Exactly a year
- (D) Just over a year

10. Why is Jim NOT going to the trade fair?
- (A) The distribution manager will not permit it.
- (B) He is too busy.
- (C) The trip is too expensive.
- (D) He does not want to attend.

Questions About Plans

These questions ask what a person intends to do in the future. They can be phrased in a number of ways:

- *What is the man/woman planning to do?*
- *What plan has been suggested?*
- *What does the man/woman plan to do next?*
- *What does the man/woman want to do?*

The answer choices are four plausible plans. One or two of the distractors may be discussed in the conversation but are incorrect because the plan or plans are changed or rejected.

Sample Item: Plan Question

1st woman: Good Morning, National Office Supplies — Customer Service Department. Janice Nelson speaking.
2nd woman: Hello, Janice, this is Ms. Tupton. I'm calling about an order I just received. There were twenty packages of blue paper, but we ordered white paper. I believe we spoke last week about a similar situation. And this time, my manager's upset!
1st woman: I'm really sorry, Ms. Tupton — I'll take care of the problem right away. Give me the invoice number on the shipment, and I'll get an order of white paper out to you later this afternoon.

Q. What is Ms. Nelson planning to do?

- (A) Make a copy of the invoice
- (B) Speak to her manager
- (C) Call Ms. Tupton later today
- ● Send a new order

Ms. Nelson says, "I'll get an order of white paper out to you later this afternoon." This means that she is planning to send a new order with the correct color of paper.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Questions About Problems

These questions ask about some difficulty that one or both of the speakers experience. There are several ways to phrase these questions:

- *What is the problem here?*
- *What is wrong with . . . ?*
- *What is the man/woman concerned about?*
- *What is the man's/woman's problem?*
- *What is bothering the man/woman?*
- *What is the man/woman worried about?*

The answer choices are four possible problems. One or more of the choices may be mentioned but are not the problem being asked about.

Sample Item: Problem Question

1st woman: Good Morning, National Office Supplies — Customer Service Department. Janice Nelson speaking.
2nd woman: Hello, Janice, this is Ms. Tupton. I'm calling about an order I just received. There were twenty packages of blue paper, but we ordered white paper. I believe we spoke last week about a similar situation. And this time, my manager's upset!
1st woman: I'm really sorry, Ms. Tupton — I'll take care of the problem right away. Give me the invoice number on the shipment, and I'll get an order of white paper out to you later this afternoon.

Q. What is the problem?

(A) The new shipment has not arrived.
● The wrong order was delivered.
(C) The company sent too many packages.
(D) The invoice number was incorrect.

Ms. Tupton's manager is upset because they received a shipment of blue paper, but they had ordered white paper.

Exercise 3.6

Focus: Answering detail questions that deal with plans or problems.

Directions: Listen to the conversation. Read the question about the conversation and then choose the one option — (A), (B), (C), or (D) — that best answers the question.

Now start the audio program.

1. What is the problem with the bicycle?

(A) It is very old.
(B) There is no key for the lock.
(C) It has been stolen.
(D) There is no air in one tire.

2. What is Mr. Neufield's immediate plan?

(A) To postpone the meeting with Mr. Utsumi
(B) To meet with the chief engineer
(C) To talk with Mr. Utsumi
(D) To make several phone calls

3. What does Mary plan to do?

(A) Change her field
(B) Go on vacation
(C) Start her own business
(D) Go to graduate school

4. What is the problem here?

(A) The CD is damaged.
(B) The woman dislikes the music.
(C) The CD player is out of order.
(D) The man can't find the CD.

5. What does Ms. Powers plan to do before hiring Katie?

(A) Interview her again
(B) Write her a letter
(C) Give her a test
(D) Contact her references

6. What plan does the second speaker suggest?

(A) Traveling to Manila
(B) Asking Mr. Quizon to visit
(C) Changing their place of operations
(D) Offering Mr. Quizon another position

7. Why is the woman concerned about the documents?

(A) They have been lost.
(B) They contain many mistakes.
(C) They are not in the proper order.
(D) They have not been read.

8. What is wrong with the apartment?

(A) It is too big for him.
(B) It does not have enough rooms.
(C) It is too expensive.
(D) It is not in the right location.

9. What is the problem?

(A) The flowerpot is broken.
(B) The glass cannot be replaced.
(C) The table has not been set.
(D) The tabletop was damaged.

10. What does Mr. Dufour plan to do?

(A) Become an artist
(B) Buy some art
(C) Hire more advisors
(D) Study art

Questions About Suggestions

These questions ask what advice one speaker gives to another person (usually the other speaker). These questions can be phrased in various ways:

- What is the man's/woman's suggestion?
- What suggestion is made?
- What does the man/woman advise . . . to do?
- What is the man/woman suggesting?
- What is the man's/woman's advice?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Sample Item: Suggestion Question

Woman: It must be a big change to go from being a marketing manager to a product designer. So, are you enjoying the job?
Man: Not as much as I thought I would. I didn't think I'd have to work so late to meet the deadlines.
Woman: Well, give it a chance — you've only been in this position for a month. It took me a year of on-the-job training to adjust to the pace around here.
Man: Oh, I intend to. I'm not a quitter. I actually enjoy challenges.

Q. What advice does the woman give?

● To stay on the job
(B) To take a risk
(C) To apply for another position
(D) To give someone a present

The man indicates that he doesn't like working there very much. The woman tells him to "give it a chance" — in other words, to stay on the job for now.

Questions About Opinions

These questions ask how a speaker feels about something or someone. These questions can be phrased in a number of ways:

- What is the man's/woman's opinion of . . . ?
- How does the man/woman feel about . . . ?
- What does the man/woman think about . . . ?

Sample Item: Opinion Question

Woman: It must be a big change to go from being a marketing manager to a product designer. So, are you enjoying the job?
Man: Not as much as I thought I would. I didn't think I'd have to work so late to meet the deadlines.
Woman: Well, give it a chance — you've only been in this position for a month. It took me a year of on-the-job training to adjust to the pace around here.
Man: Oh, I intend to. I'm not a quitter. I actually enjoy challenges.

Q. What does the man think about his job?

(A) It isn't challenging enough for him.
● He doesn't like the long hours.
(C) He wants to quit immediately.
(D) It doesn't provide any options.

The man says that he doesn't like the job very much because he has to work "late to meet the deadlines." If he is working late, this means he is working long hours.

Exercise 3.7

Focus: Answering detail questions involving suggestions and opinions.

Directions: Listen to the conversation. Read the question about the conversation and then choose the one option — (A), (B), (C), or (D) — that best answers the question.

Now start the audio program.

1. What is Mr. Lo's advice?
(A) That the woman bring her child to the party.
(B) That the woman contact his wife.
(C) That his wife take care of the woman's child.
(D) That the couple stay home.

2. What suggestion is made?
(A) To cut prices
(B) To reduce the number of workers
(C) To get some good advice
(D) To bring in fewer consultants

3. What did the man think of the play?
(A) It was boring.
(B) He liked it better than the woman did.
(C) He did not see it.
(D) It lasted too long.

4. How does the man feel about Arlene's job?
(A) It provides many opportunities.
(B) It takes up too much of her time.
(C) It does not pay well enough.
(D) It is interesting work.

5. What does Hans suggest?
(A) That she go out for a meal.
(B) That she work in her room.
(C) That she have food delivered.
(D) That she go to sleep now.

6. What does she think they should do?
(A) Have the copier repaired
(B) Buy some antique furniture
(C) Replace the copier
(D) Get some more copies made

7. What does the first man think of the plan?
(A) It will never be adopted.
(B) It may save money.
(C) It will not impress customers.
(D) It is a waste of time.

8. What does she suggest the man do?
(A) Go to a nearby café
(B) Wait for Ms. Bauer
(C) Go to the meeting
(D) Come back another day

9. How does Donna feel about the building?
(A) It is not warm enough.
(B) It has too many windows.
(C) It is too stuffy.
(D) It is not safe.

10. What does the woman suggest the man sell?
(A) His business
(B) His automobile
(C) His exercise equipment
(D) His health club membership

LIVEWORKSHEETS

C. Inference Questions

The answers for inference questions are not directly stated in the conversations. Instead, you have to draw a conclusion — called an inference — based on the information that is presented by the speakers. In other words, you have to interpret what the speakers are implying.

Inference questions can be phrased in various ways:

- *What does the man/woman imply?*
- *What is the man/woman saying about . . . ?*
- *What can be said about . . . ?*
- *What is known about . . . ?*
- *What can be inferred from the conversation?*
- *What does the man/woman mean?*
- *What is probably true about . . . ?*

Sample Item: Inference Question

1st woman: Good Morning, National Office Supplies — Customer Service Department. Janice Nelson speaking.

2nd woman: Hello, Janice, this is Ms. Tupton. I'm calling about an order I just received. There were twenty packages of blue paper, but we ordered white paper. I believe we spoke last week about a similar situation. And this time, my manager's upset!

1st woman: I'm really sorry, Ms. Tupton — I'll take care of the problem right away. Give me the invoice number on the shipment, and I'll get an order of white paper out to you later this afternoon.

Q. What can be inferred from this conversation?

(A) The problem has already been taken care of.
(B) There is no blue paper in stock at present.
● Ms. Tupton's manager wasn't upset last time.
(D) Janice Nelson is a new employee.

Although the information in choice (C) is not stated directly, it can be inferred. Ms. Tupton says, "And this time, my manager's upset!" "This time" implies a change from last time. Her manager was not upset last time.

Exercise 3.8

Focus: Answering inference questions.

Directions: Listen to the conversation. Read the question about the conversation and choose the one option — (A), (B), (C), or (D) — that best answers the question.

Now start the audio program.

1. What can be inferred about their situation?

(A) They are having dinner by candlelight.
(B) The electricity is not on.
(C) They are examining something with a flashlight.
(D) It is the middle of the day.

2. What can be said about the situation?

(A) They are not at home.
(B) The sky is seldom clear here.
(C) The smell is unpleasant.
(D) They have just walked for miles.

3. What does the woman imply?

(A) She cannot go sailing tomorrow.
(B) Her decision depends on the weather.
(C) There will not be enough wind for sailing.
(D) She enjoys this kind of weather.

4. What is probably true about Natalie?

(A) She makes her own clothing at home.
(B) She does not need any new clothes.
(C) She has worked there only for a few weeks.
(D) She no longer works as a clerk.

5. What is the man implying?

(A) He just started playing the piano.
(B) He would like to take lessons from the woman.
(C) He has never taken lessons.
(D) He does not play as well as the woman.

6. What is known about the security system?

(A) It is generally on in the morning.
(B) It is an unusual system.
(C) It was broken when the man arrived.
(D) It was recently installed.

7. What can be inferred about the climate where they live now?

(A) It has four seasons.
(B) It is always warm.
(C) It is usually cool and brisk.
(D) It is nicest in the autumn.

8. What can be inferred about these two?

(A) They do not have to work today.
(B) They have to attend a meeting.
(C) They wrote the memo.
(D) They are not new employees.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Review Test Part 3

Directions: Listen to the conversations. Read the three questions about each conversation and choose the best option — (A), (B), (C), or (D) — for each question.

Now start the audio program.

1. What is the problem with the project?
   (A) Mr. Stern isn't working on it.
   (B) They needed to start it sooner.
   (C) There aren't enough people available for it.
   (D) The boss has not approved it.

2. What does Mark suggest they ask for?
   (A) A new project
   (B) More time
   (C) A new supervisor
   (D) More money

3. What is the woman planning to do?
   (A) Meet with Mark tomorrow.
   (B) Discuss the idea with Mr. Stern.
   (C) Finish the project by herself.
   (D) Make sure everyone is working.

4. Who is the first speaker?
   (A) An airline attendant
   (B) A travel agent
   (C) A tour guide
   (D) Ms. Simmon's boss

5. Why is Ms. Simmons going to Bangkok?
   (A) To attend a conference
   (B) To go sightseeing
   (C) To work on an engineering project
   (D) To promote a new product

6. What is famous?
   (A) The tour
   (B) The hotel
   (C) The conference
   (D) The temple

7. Who is the man?
   (A) An elevator operator
   (B) A salesman
   (C) A reporter
   (D) A safety inspector

8. When will the man go to the downtown office building?
   (A) Later today
   (B) Tomorrow
   (C) The day after tomorrow
   (D) In three days

9. How does the woman feel about what the man says?
   (A) She is anxious.
   (B) She is glad.
   (C) She is surprised.
   (D) She is angry.

10. Where are they?
    (A) At a police station
    (B) In a bank
    (C) At a driver's license bureau
    (D) In a supermarket

11. What is Mr. Lee doing?
    (A) Paying some bills
    (B) Exchanging some merchandise
    (C) Getting a new passport
    (D) Changing money

12. What can be inferred about Mr. Lee?
    (A) He doesn't have any identification with him.
    (B) He will have to pay an extra service charge.
    (C) He makes this transaction frequently.
    (D) He didn't realize the transaction was free.

13. What does Dennis think about the restaurant?
    (A) The music is too loud.
    (B) The service is very slow.
    (C) People are talking too loudly.
    (D) It's too expensive.

14. Why does the woman NOT want to leave?
    (A) The waiter was very attentive.
    (B) It is her favorite place.
    (C) They have already ordered.
    (D) She likes the music.

15. What will the woman do next?
    (A) Leave the restaurant
    (B) Ask the man to sit down
    (C) Cancel the order for dinner
    (D) Talk to the waiter

16. Who is Marcus Kolb?
    (A) A real estate investor
    (B) An architect
    (C) A resident of Market Street
    (D) An office worker

17. What can be implied about the tower?
    (A) It was built a long time ago.
    (B) It is smaller than the neighboring buildings.
    (C) It is like all the other buildings on Market Street.
    (D) It is quite modern.

18. What is the woman's opinion of the tower?
    (A) She is unimpressed with it.
    (B) She is unsure about it.
    (C) She feels that it suits the neighborhood.
    (D) She thinks it is a wonderful building.

19. What does the woman say about the bid?
    (A) It was accepted.
    (B) It did not arrive on time.
    (C) It was misplaced.
    (D) It was not sent.

20. How did the man send the bid?
    (A) By email
    (B) By messenger service
    (C) By express mail
    (D) By fax

21. Why is the man going to check his email?
    (A) To see if he understood correctly or not
    (B) To see if Mr. Rusnak has sent a reply
    (C) To get the correct address for the delivery
    (D) To make sure it is possible to return the contract

LIVEWORKSHEETS