

A

Strategy: Be familiar with time and location structures

Questions about time and location are common in the TOEIC test. This will familiarize you with the types of questions and answer choices you will see in this section.

1 Language building: Be familiar with time and location marker words

A The table below contains sentences that answer different time and location questions. Common marker words are shown in **bold**.

Match each answer to the correct question type. The first one is done for you.

1 Where/Directions? **b**

2 How long?

3 When?

- a We will be finished **in February**.
- b It's **at** Eastern State University, **on** the 3rd floor.
- c She's been working here **for** several months.
- d **Down** the hall, **turn left** and it's just **across** from the cafeteria.
- e The package was delivered about **an hour ago**.
- f They've been in the meeting **since** 6:00.
- g **To** Florida, as usual.
- h I've had it **about** a month.
- i **On Tuesday July 7th**, at 1:00.
- j It's **in** the refrigerator, **behind** the vegetables.

B Some questions do not have obvious time or location marker words. Write in the space whether the answer is for "Where/Directions", "How long", or "When" questions. The first one is done for you.

1 Where / Directions?	Berlin.
2	It could take all night.
3	Sorry, I'm not from around here.
4	Bermuda again. I can't wait!
5	It hasn't arrived yet.



C Now listen to four answer choices, and for each tick whether it is a "Where/Directions", "When" or "How long" question. After the recording compare your answers with a partner.

- 1. Where/Directions? When? How long?
- 2. Where/Directions? When? How long?
- 3. Where/Directions? When? How long?
- 4. Where/Directions? When? How long?

Test tip

Answers to time and location questions often use common marker words

Being familiar with the prepositions and other words common to these answers will help you choose the correct answer.

Test tip

Often the correct answer will use very short or indefinite answers

Listen for these and use meaning to decide what kind of question they answer.

Test tip

Learn to identify questions about location

Usually they involve the word *where*, but other words can also be used when asking for directions to a place.

Test tip

"Where" questions can sometimes have a "Directions" answer

Listen carefully for this.

Test tip

Learn to identify "When" questions

Usually "When" questions involve the phrases *How long ...?*, *When .../* *What time ...?*

Understanding natural English

In natural spoken English, sounds are changed, combined and dropped. Listen to these sentences spoken naturally and write in the missing words.

..... A4 paper kept?

..... taxi coming?

Tactics checklist

Listen for location questions, decide the type and listen for the appropriate answer.

Listen for marker words in time questions.

2 Test tactic: Identify and answer time and location questions

A For each question below, tick whether it is a "Where", "Directions", "When" or "How long" question. The first one is done for you.

- Excuse me. Where are the stairs? (A) Go out this door and walk around the corner.
 Where? (B) They are away on business.
 Directions? (C) It's not polite to stare.
 When?
 How long?
- When did they cancel the order? (A) Back in March, I think.
 Where? (B) Yes, they were ordered to do it.
 Directions? (C) I really think we have to cancel it.
 When?
 How long?
- How long did you have to wait? (A) Yes, it is very long.
 Where? (B) I was waiting for it on Tuesday.
 Directions? (C) Not as long as I thought I would.
 When?
 How long?
- Do you know where my keys are? (A) Yes, it's the wrong key.
 Where? (B) In the drawer, as usual.
 Directions? (C) I locked the front door.
 When?
 How long?
- Do you know of a good cleaners near here? (A) I think it's not so clean.
 Where? (B) I prefer a different cleaner.
 Directions? (C) There's one on Bank Street.
 When?
 How long?

B Now listen and choose the best answers for each question. Be careful of the distractors noted in activity 1.

Follow up: Compare your answers with a partner.

3 Tactic practice

Use the tactics you have practiced for the next five questions.

1	(A)	(B)	(C)
2	(A)	(B)	(C)
3	(A)	(B)	(C)
4	(A)	(B)	(C)
5	(A)	(B)	(C)

Follow up: Discuss with a partner which answers you chose and why.

Understanding natural English

B**Mini-test** 

Now apply the *Test tactics* at the actual test speed with questions 1–10.



You will have 5 seconds at the end of each item to make your choice. You must then be ready to listen to the next question.

1	(A) (B) (C)	6	(A) (B) (C)
2	(A) (B) (C)	7	(A) (B) (C)
3	(A) (B) (C)	8	(A) (B) (C)
4	(A) (B) (C)	9	(A) (B) (C)
5	(A) (B) (C)	10	(A) (B) (C)

C**Learn by doing: Time and location questions**

- A** Look at the model conversation below. Use the words on the right to complete the conversation.

A: Where do you live, Ken?

B: Right now

A: Oh yeah? How long have you lived there?

B: Oh, I moved there

A: Really? Where did you live before?

B:

I lived in Georgetown with my family
just after University

I'm living in Hamilton
for about 5 years

- B** Now make a similar conversation with a partner, using the questionnaire below. Add some more questions of your own.

Interview your partner

Where do you live?

How long have you lived there?

Where did you live before?

How long does it take you to come to class?

Where do you think is the best place to eat around here?

If you could take a holiday anywhere in this country, where would you go?

How long would you like to stay there?

What time of year do you think would be best to go?

What other country would you most like to visit?

How long have you been studying for the TOEIC test?

When do you think you will be able to get the score you want?

D**Further study**

Think of a famous person and write two “Where”, two “When”, and two “How long” questions you could ask them. Then write the answers you think they would give. In the next class read the answers you wrote to see if your partner can guess the questions you asked and the famous person you chose.

Go to word list and quiz page 173.