

A

Strategy: Be familiar with re-statements

Be aware of questions involving numbers and quantities

Numbers and quantities are a commonly tested feature in the TOEIC test. The tactics in this section will help you to pick out the correct answers when dealing with Part 4 and other listening parts of the test.

Test tip

The correct answer choice often uses different words from what you will hear

Be aware of this and listen for meaning, not just the key words.

Test tip

Specific information questions appear in the same order they appear in the listening

Focus on the questions in order. When you hear the answer, mark it and move on immediately.

Test tip

Be careful of questions involving number and quantity

Read the question and carefully note what it is asking, then quickly read the answer choices. When you hear one of the numbers in the listening decide whether it answers the question or not.

1 Language building: Re-statements of key vocabulary

A Look at the three questions with just the correct answer choice. Circle the words in the tapescript which have the same meaning as each answer choice.


- Where is the announcement made?
(A) **At an annual convention**
- Which of the following is NOT true about Dr. Abrahams?
(B) **He has less than three qualifications.**
- What will Dr. Abrahams do tomorrow?
(C) **Take part in a seminar**

Tapescript

Our final speaker today was also our guest presenter at last year's conference. Dr. Harel Abrahams is perhaps best known for his best-selling work "Meeting business challenges", but his area of expertise extends far beyond the topics dealt with in that book.

A graduate of Yale University, with no fewer than three PhD degrees to his name, he is the current chair of Economics at McGuire University, and we are delighted that he has agreed to speak to us once more. As well as today's lecture, Dr. Abrahams has kindly agreed to join tomorrow's round table discussion, which I am sure you will all be keen to attend.

So, without further ado, to speak on "Small companies and macro economics", let me present Dr. Harel Abrahams.

 **B** Now listen to three sets of sentences and mark the answer choice that is closest in meaning.

- Part of the shipment was damaged. A B C
- They started the job a month ago. A B C
- Mr. Holmes has always been a huge help to the team. A B C

Follow up: Compare your answers with a partner.

2 Test tactic: Choosing the correct number/quantity answer

A Underline the key words in the question below, then quickly read the answer choices.

- How many boats will join the event?
(A) 14 (B) 17 (C) 35 (D) 70

Test tip


Be careful of sound distractors using similar numbers

Example: 13 sounds like 30.

- B** Scan the following tapescript for the numbers in 1 A–D. When you find one, decide if it answers the question or not. Remember, the words in the question and the tapescript may be different even if the meaning is the same.

Tapescript

The Jamestown regatta kicks off Saturday afternoon at 14 hundred hours, that's 2 p.m. to you landlubbers. With 70 racing yachts competing this year for 3500 dollars in prizes, this is sure to be one of the sailing events of the season. Spectators should try ...

-  **C** Underline the key words in the question below. Now listen to the rest of the passage and choose the best answer.

2. How many salvaged civil-war items are on display?

(A) 19
(B) 90
(C) 150
(D) 200

3 Tactic practice

Use the tactics you have practiced for the next three questions. Before the start of each question a) predict the content and b) think of other ways to say the key words or phrases.

1. How many people are required to attend the conference?

(A) One
(B) Two
(C) Three
(D) Four

2. How long does the conference last?

(A) One afternoon
(B) All day Saturday
(C) A couple of hours
(D) Two days

3. How much time off can volunteers expect?

(A) About an hour
(B) Two days
(C) About four hours
(D) A day

1	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
2	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
3	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)



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.

... both conference.

She's top designers.

Tactics checklist

- Listen for different words with the same meaning as the answer choices.
- Listen for numbers noted in the answer choices and decide if these answer the question or not.
- Be careful of similar number sound distractors, e.g. 13/30.
- Expect specific info questions to come in the same order they appear in the answer choices.

Now apply the *Test tactics* at the actual test speed with questions 1–12.



You will have 30 seconds to skim the questions and answer choices before the first listening starts. After that you will have exactly 8 seconds between each question to mark your answer and focus on the next question.

1. Who can attend the last show of *Indigo Heart*?
 - (A) Everyone
 - (B) People over the age of 13
 - (C) People over the age of 18
 - (D) People under the age of 18
2. Which movie features Deborah Legg?
 - (A) *Monterrey*
 - (B) *Long Vacation*
 - (C) *Phantom Knight*
 - (D) *Indigo Heart*
3. How many movies are showing?
 - (A) 3
 - (B) 2
 - (C) 4
 - (D) 9
4. What does Elvira Kaur do?
 - (A) She is a video game designer.
 - (B) She works in the fashion industry.
 - (C) She is a student.
 - (D) She is an actress.
5. How long has Elvira been working for the company?
 - (A) 2 months
 - (B) 19 years
 - (C) Since she graduated
 - (D) From September
6. What is Elvira planning to speak about today?
 - (A) Her designs
 - (B) Next year's sales target
 - (C) How to understand fabrics
 - (D) Her project group
7. How many crimes is the man wanted for?
 - (A) 6
 - (B) 7
 - (C) 8
 - (D) 10
8. How many of the man's family are said to live in the area?
 - (A) 1
 - (B) 2
 - (C) 3
 - (D) 5
9. Who is this announcement intended for?
 - (A) Social workers
 - (B) Police
 - (C) Lawyers
 - (D) Local citizens
10. What kind of product is being advertised?
 - (A) Exercise equipment
 - (B) A training video
 - (C) A fitness club
 - (D) A suitcase
11. Why might people use the single-hand technique?
 - (A) To strengthen their arms
 - (B) To build flexibility
 - (C) To work on their abs
 - (D) To carry it with them
12. How much is the product?
 - (A) \$9.99 plus post and packaging
 - (B) \$555 plus delivery
 - (C) More than \$30 including delivery
 - (D) The advertisement doesn't say

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

C**Learn by doing: Introducing people**

- A** Look at the biography speech below describing Bill Gates. With a partner write down the questions you would need to ask to get the information that is underlined in the text.

Examples

Bill Gates – *May I have your name please?*

being the head of the computer company Microsoft – *What are you famous for?*

Today I would like to give you some background on Bill Gates. Although he is quite famous for being the head of the computer company Microsoft, that is not what I am going to talk about today.

Born on Oct. 28, 1955, Bill grew up in Seattle, Washington with his two sisters. His father, William H. Gates II, was a Seattle attorney while his late mother, Mary Gates, was a schoolteacher.

In 1973, Gates entered Harvard University, where he developed a computer operating system. This interest in computers continues to this day.

Apart from computers Bill enjoys reading, and playing golf and bridge.

- B** Interview your partner using the questions you wrote. Note their answers and make a similar speech, then write two or three questions about it.

Follow up: Test another group of students with your speech and questions.

D**Further study**

Write a similar short biography about someone in your family or a famous person. Write two questions and answer choices to test your classmates in the next lesson.

Go to word list and quiz page 175.