

A

Strategy: Focus on the meaning of factual questions

Focus on what the question is actually asking for. Some answers may closely relate to the topic in the question, but not actually answer it.

Test tip

Answers in the TOEIC test do not always answer the question directly. Listen for answers with related details or explanations.

Test tip

Often the question and answer will be different tenses. Don't expect the tense to be the same, e.g. the answer to a future or present question may explain something in the past.

Test tip

The focus in Part 2 is on meaning. Listen for key words (nouns/verbs) to help you avoid distractors and find the correct answer choice.

Test tip

Watch out for common distractors. Being familiar with the ways the test tries to distract you can help you to avoid choosing the wrong answer.

1 Language building: Focus on meaning in Wh- questions

Match each question 1–3 with two answers from a–f.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. What are you doing on Sunday? | a I heard Miller was chosen. |
| | b I always go to my brother's house. |
| 2. Who is going to represent them at the meeting? | c Mary gave me a lift. |
| | d They haven't decided yet. |
| | e Oh, I didn't. My trip was put off until next week. |
| 3. How did you get to the airport? | f Actually, I don't have any plans. |

Follow up: Write two more answers for each question. Read them to your partner and ask them which question 1–3 they are the answer to.

2 Test tactic: Focus on the key words and avoid common distractors**Focus on the key words**

Listen to sentence 1 and write number 1 next to three key words or phrases as you hear them. Compare the words with your partner, and then make a true answer for the question.

Why?	When?	rest	get	company	last birthday
How?	What?	come	improve	class	TOEIC score

Now do the same for the next two sentences.

Avoid common distractors

A Read the information in the box carefully. It shows three common ways the test can trick you into choosing the wrong answer.

A. Same word – unrelated meaning

If you hear the same word in the question and the answer choices, be careful! It is often a distractor.

Q. Has the sale improved profits?
A. Yes, it is for sale.

B. Related subject – doesn't answer the question

Often the test will use words that relate to one of the key words in the question, but don't actually answer the question.

Q. Where can I buy a cheap air conditioner?
A. I agree that it's too hot.

C. Similar sound – different/unrelated word

A word that sounds similar, but is totally different is often used to trick you.

Q. Have you met the new staff?
A. No, it's not the same stuff.

B Read questions 1–3 and underline the key words. Then read the two incorrect distractors for each question and mark the type A–C from the box on page 11.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. What did the <u>customer</u> <u>cancel</u> his <u>contract</u> for?</p> <p>2. Why did you buy a new car?</p> <p>3. How are they going to ship the documents?</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> He says he <u>can sell</u> it quite cheap. (cancel sounds like can sell)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My customers live in Boston.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Traffic can be terrible in this city.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My wife usually drives the car.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Have you seen the notice about the sheep?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I just love ocean cruises.</p> |
|--|--|

Follow up: Think of a correct answer choice for each of the questions, and then compare your answers and new sentences with your partner.

3 Tactic practice

You will hear six Part 2 questions. After each question stop the audio. Tell your partner the key words you heard. As soon as the answer choices start, stop speaking, and mark your answer choice.

1	(A)	(B)	(C)	4	(A)	(B)	(C)
2	(A)	(B)	(C)	5	(A)	(B)	(C)
3	(A)	(B)	(C)	6	(A)	(B)	(C)

Tactics checklist

Remember:

- Listen for key words and focus on meaning.
- Don't expect the form of the answer to be the same as the question.
- Listen for common distractors.



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.

..... quit your last company?

..... get for your last birthday?

B

Mini-test

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



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

Role play: Student A use the information below.
Student B look at Activity file 2.1 on page 151.

Student A

You just received the following fax from the Director of your company. Unfortunately, your fax machine is broken and some of the words are unclear.

Task

- Work with your partner and write out the questions you will ask him or her.
- Call him or her up, apologize for the problem and ask the questions to get the information you need.

Fax Message

Important

Re: August 14 meeting

Mr. Carson,

I am writing to let you know that I will be arriving on (1) ~~Tuesday August 13~~ **Tuesday August 14**. I am flying with United Airlines and my plane is scheduled to land at (2) ~~9:45 PM~~ **9:15 PM**. Could you arrange my hotel for me?

The main purpose of my visit is (3) ~~the problem with our~~ **the Accuron Line of watches**. We have had many complaints about water damage. We must discuss (4) ~~how we can deal with the problem~~ **how we can deal with the problem**. Please invite (5) ~~Paul Smith and Mary Davis~~ **Paul Smith and Mary Davis** also.

Barton Donovan.

Useful language

Opening

I'm sorry to bother you Mr. Donovan, but I'm afraid we couldn't read your fax properly.

Closing

Thanks very much. That's all the information I need. I will take care of this right away.

Further study

Write down one of the questions you asked Mr. Donovan, and then make up your own answer and two other Part 2 type distractors to test other students in your next lesson.

Go to word list and quiz page 159.