

Question-response

A

Strategy: Be familiar with language used in offers, requests and opinions

Offers, requests and opinions are common in this part of the TOEIC test. This unit will familiarize you with the types of questions and answers choices you will see in this section.

Test tip

Social interaction, including offers, requests and opinions, is a common feature of Part 2

Be aware of the language commonly used in these situations.

1 Language building: Be familiar with language for offers, requests and opinions

A Match each question on the left with the two best responses on the right. The first one is done for you. The words commonly used in each category are in **bold**.

Offers

- | | |
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| 1. Would you like some help with those?
c, e | a Actually , it's already done. |
| 2. Do you need (any) help with setting up the room? | b No , I've already eaten. |
| 3. Can/May I get you anything? | c Yeah , could you take this box? |
| | d A cup of tea would be lovely . |
| | e No, that's alright . They aren't as heavy as they look. |
| | f That would be great . Let's start with the tables. |

Requests

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| 4. Could/Can you tell me how to use this machine? | g Actually , I am a bit cold. |
| 5. Would you mind if I opened the window? | h I'm afraid it's not mine. |
| 6. May/Can/Could I borrow your pen for a moment? | I Certainly , it's pretty easy. |
| | J Sure , give it back after class. |
| | k I'm sorry , I haven't been trained on it yet. |
| | l No , go ahead. |

Opinions

- | | |
|--|---|
| 7. How was Mr. Smitt's presentation? | m I don't think we will find a lower one. |
| 8. What's your opinion of their price quote? | n Frankly , our sales staff isn't motivated. |
| 9. What would you say is our greatest weakness? | o To tell the truth , it seemed a bit long. |
| | p I'd say we need to lower our prices. |
| | q Good . He really is an amusing speaker. |
| | r It seems a bit high to me. |

B Now write one possible answer for each of the following questions.

1. Would you care for a slice of pie?
2. Can you tell Ms. Jackson that her parcel has arrived?
3. What do you think of your new boss?

Test tip

Common distractors for this section include use of incorrect grammar, use of the same word/similar sounds, or incorrect meaning

Noticing these types of wrong answer can help you to choose the correct one.

2 Test tactic: Identify correct/incorrect offer, request and opinion answers


For the question below, choose the correct answer. Tell your partner why the other choices were wrong: because of incorrect grammar, the same/similar sounding word or incorrect meaning.

1. Is there anything I can do to help with the project?
 - a Yes, they finished the project.
 - b No, that's fine. It's already taken care of.
 - c We could have done it last week.
2. Do you have a calculator I could borrow?
 - a Yes, I will call you later.
 - b I remember you borrowed it last week.
 - c Sorry, I forgot mine at home.
3. How was your test?
 - a You have to pass the test to get a license.
 - b I think it will be easy.
 - c Harder than I expected.

Test tip

Repeat each question and answer choice silently after you hear it

This will help you to remember and compare the meanings.

 *Follow up:* Now listen to two more questions followed by three answer choices. After each answer choice, stop the audio and repeat what you heard. If it is correct, circle the letter. If not, tick the distractor type(s).

1. (A) incorrect grammar same word/similar sound incorrect meaning
 (B) incorrect grammar same word/similar sound incorrect meaning
 (C) incorrect grammar same word/similar sound incorrect meaning
2. (A) incorrect grammar same word/similar sound incorrect meaning
 (B) incorrect grammar same word/similar sound incorrect meaning
 (C) incorrect grammar same word/similar sound incorrect meaning

Tactics checklist


- Listen for vocabulary common to offers, requests and opinions.
- Listen for and eliminate answers with common distractors.
- Repeat each question and answer choice (silently) after you hear it.

3 Tactic practice

Use the tactics you have practiced for the next five questions. Stop the audio after each one to allow you to repeat each question and answer choice to your partner.

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

Follow up: After each question you will have one minute to discuss with your partner which answer you chose and why.

 Understanding natural English

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.

..... carry these books for me?

..... mind showing Mark the system?

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: Offers, requests and opinions**

Look at the model conversations below. Practice them with a partner. Then make similar conversations by replacing the words in **bold** with the words below.

Offers	Requests	Opinions
A: Would you like me to call you a taxi? B: No, It's not far. Thanks.	C: Can I reserve a table for 8:00? D: Sorry, we are fully booked for this evening.	E: What do you think about the changes to the retirement plan? F: I'm sure a lot of people will be upset.
... open the door for you? ... help you with your homework? ... lend you some money?	... I borrow 10 dollars till pay day? ... you give me a hand with this table? ... you work late this Wednesday?	... the new sales manager? ... your new apartment? ... our chances of getting the contract?
No, thanks. That would be great. Yes, please. I'd appreciate it.	Yes, (of course). Sure. (I'd be glad to). I'm afraid/sorry, (I can't).	(He) seems (friendly). It's great. I'm really pleased. Frankly, I think we have an excellent chance./I don't think we will.

Follow up: Make more offer, request and opinion conversations, using your own ideas and words from the unit.

D**Further study**

Think of one offer, request and opinion you have used or heard recently and write them out in English. In the next lesson, say them to your partner, who should respond appropriately.

Go to word list and quiz page 180.