

Short talks

A

Strategy: Be familiar with re-statements involving “how” and “why” questions
Be aware of same word distractors

Brainstorming vocabulary related to the answer choices can help you identify information in the short talk that restates the answer choices. Be careful of answer choices that use the same words as the recording, as these may be distractors.

Test tip

Brainstorming related words

Before you listen to the short talk, try to look at the answer choices, and think of other ways the answer choice might be said.

1 Language building: Brainstorming related words

Underline the word from the list of related words on the right that does NOT match any of the words in the answer choices. The first one has been done for you.

- How has the change affected business?
(A) It has decreased by 50%. fallen, double, dropped, half, slumped
(B) The number of potential customers possible, clients, manager, increased
 went up.
(C) There has been no change. stable, increased, the same, constant
- Why might guests need to dial 9?
(A) To contact the concierge hotel staff, speak to, call, chef
(B) To arrange their flight transfers pay, transit, sort out, organize
(C) To place a direct call ring, telephone, luggage, make

Follow up: Now think of a word with a similar meaning for all the underlined words.
Example: double → 200%

Test tip

Listen for related words and restatements

The correct answer to a “how” or “why” question is often a restatement of the wording in the recording. Listen for words with a similar meaning to one of the answer choices.

2 Test tactic: Listen for related words and restatements

- A Underline the key words in the following questions and answer choices. Then read the tapescript on page 125 and choose the best answers.
- Why must attendees wear their identification tags?
(A) So that people can see their names
(B) To get into the presentations
(C) Because presentations are starting shortly
 - How can attendees find out about the presenters?
(A) By looking at the schedule they were given earlier
(B) By checking with the conference organizers
(C) By checking the information on their telephones
 - Why do attendees have to use silent mode?
(A) To ensure safety
(B) To disturb the presentations
(C) To avoid bothering the participants

Test tip

Be careful of same word distractors


If you see the same word in an answer choice as you heard in the recording, think carefully if it is related to the meaning of the question before making your choice.

Tactics checklist

- Read the answer choices and brainstorm related words.
- Listen for related words.
- Be careful of answers containing words you hear in the recording.

Tapescript

The conference organizers would like to remind attendees that identification tags must be worn at all times, in order to gain entry to the lecture halls. The presentations will be starting shortly, but before that, there are a couple of other announcements to make. Firstly, I would like to remind all conference guests to read the presentation timetable, which includes the names of all the presenters. Secondly, I have to ask all guests to ensure their mobile telephones are on silent mode, so as not to disturb any presentations. OK. That's enough of me, I'll hand you over to your first presenter.

-  **B** Skim the questions and answer choices below and note key words. As you listen, circle any "same words" you hear, then decide if the answer is correct, maybe correct or wrong.

1. Why should customers choose Seymour suits?
(A) They use high quality cloth but are reasonably priced. (A) Correct Maybe Correct Wrong
(B) They are expensive but good quality. (B) Correct Maybe Correct Wrong
(C) They are 25% warmer. (C) Correct Maybe Correct Wrong
2. How can customers tell if their suit is a genuine Seymour suit?
(A) They use cheaper materials. (A) Correct Maybe Correct Wrong
(B) There is a special inner layer. (B) Correct Maybe Correct Wrong
(C) It will keep them warm in winter. (C) Correct Maybe Correct Wrong
3. Why should customers hurry to buy the suits?
(A) It is winter now. (A) Correct Maybe Correct Wrong
(B) They can create the right impression. (B) Correct Maybe Correct Wrong
(C) There are limited quantities. (C) Correct Maybe Correct Wrong

Follow up: Compare your answers with your partner, explaining your reasons, and what you remember hearing.

3 Tactic practice

Use the tactics you have practiced for the next two short talks. You will have one minute to a) skim the question and answer choices and identify key words and b) brainstorm related words. Then, listen to the short talks, and select the best answer choices.

1. Why should Mr. Heinrich go to the duty free sales counter?
(A) To collect his unattended bag
(B) To make an announcement
(C) To retrieve an important travel document
(D) To report a suspicious package
2. Who is told to go to gate number 12?
(A) Mr. G. Heinrich
(B) Passengers traveling to Moscow
(C) All passengers
(D) Nobody
3. Why should passengers going to Moscow hurry?
(A) Their flight will leave soon
(B) There are suspicious packages there
(C) The Duty Free shop is about to close
(D) To collect their boarding passes
4. How can guests purchase razors or toothbrushes?
(A) By placing a call to the hotel front desk
(B) By dialing 2
(C) By visiting the housekeeper
(D) By using a coin-operated machine

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.

In first year, made a profit of just \$25. These developments are revolutionizing factory.

5. How can outside calls be made?
(A) By dialing 1
(B) By contacting the concierge
(C) By dialing the number, followed by 9
(D) By dialing 9 first, then the number
6. Why might guests visit the housekeeper on the first floor?
(A) To get their clothes washed
(B) To make an inquiry
(C) To make an outside call
(D) To purchase toiletries

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

Follow up: Now compare your answers with your partner, explaining your reasons, and what you remember hearing.

Understanding natural English

B

Mini-test

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 is probably giving this speech?
(A) A museum visitor
(B) A soda company executive
(C) A tour guide
(D) Samuel Farnestock
2. How was Fizzade usually served until the 1950s?
(A) From bottles
(B) From soda fountains
(C) From cans
(D) From Vera Mulligan's drugstore
3. How much profit did Dr. Longbotham make in his first year?
(A) \$1900
(B) \$13
(C) Less than \$50
(D) The speaker doesn't say
4. How will the weather change in the next few days?
(A) It will get warmer.
(B) The sun will come out.
(C) It will get worse.
(D) There will be a lot of snow.
5. When should people in the DC area hang out their washing?
(A) At the weekend
(B) In the afternoon
(C) In the last few days
(D) As early as possible
6. Why should drivers be careful?
(A) The roads may be icy after dark.
(B) There will be heavy fog.
(C) The roads moving south are busy.
(D) The weather is warmer than usual.
7. Who would be particularly interested in this announcement?
(A) Passengers leaving platform 12
(B) People traveling to Boston
(C) People who have refreshments
(D) Station staff
8. Why was the 12:35 train delayed?
(A) There was a mechanical problem.
(B) There was an accident on the line.
(C) The platform kiosks were closed.
(D) There was bad weather.

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)

9. Where should passengers purchase refreshments?
 (A) On the platform
 (B) In the buffet car
 (C) From the café
 (D) No refreshments are available

10. Why is lunch going to be delayed?
 (A) The last speaker overran.
 (B) There was a safety drill this morning.
 (C) There was a quick announcement.
 (D) People had a lot of questions.

11. How might people know the next speaker?
 (A) He attended the previous conference.
 (B) He is the number two producer.
 (C) He is a revolutionary.
 (D) He is the head of Park-Lee industries.

12. What is the topic of the next presentation?
 (A) A revolutionary new factory
 (B) Fire safety
 (C) Innovations in electronics manufacturing
 (D) How to conduct a symphony

C

Learn by doing: Question my answer

Student A: Look at Activity file 4.4a “Why” questions on page 153.

Student B: Look at Activity file 4.4b “How” questions on page 156.

- A With your partner check you understand the questions below. Then read out one of the answers for your Activity file. Your partner must read out the matching question to get one point. If they don't choose the correct question, you get a chance to steal the point by guessing the correct question. When all the answers are read out, the player with the highest score is the winner.

“Why” questions

- Why is the manager concerned about sales?
- Why are travelers advised to avoid the region?
- Why is there a delay in releasing the new product?
- Why did the visit have to be rearranged?
- Why did the President miss the opening address?

“How” questions

- How can guests arrange transport to the airport?
- How is the new product different from the old model?
- How will the weather be at the weekend?
- How does the manager feel about the delay?
- How can travelers find out about friends or family in the area?

- B Think of a possible true answer for the following questions. Take turns to read out an answer. Your partner must guess the question.

Why are you taking this course?
 How do you usually come to class?

How are you different from your father?
 Why do you want to improve your English?

D

Further study

Look at the “why” and “how” questions in activity C above. Write one more possible answer for each question.

Go to word list and quiz page 182.