

## A

**Strategy:** Skim read to predict the context before listening

The questions and answer choices in this part of the test can help you predict what you are going to hear. Using the time available to skim read these before listening will help you focus on the key parts of the conversation.

**Test tip**


Predicting the context of the conversation can make the listening easier

Use the key information in the answer choices to make a rough guess about what you are going to hear.

**1 Language building: Paraphrasing**

Match the statements 1–4 with those with a similar meaning a–d. Underline the words which have similar meaning.


- |                                      |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. You can run it with an AC adapter | a The adapter is missing        |
| 2. Look to see if they have the item | b Buy the part                  |
| 3. The part wasn't included          | c Check the parts stock         |
| 4. Purchase an adapter               | d You can plug it into a socket |
| 5. ....                              | e Give a replacement part       |
| 6. ....                              | f The label is incorrect        |
| 7. ....                              | g It's an expensive model       |

 *Follow up:* Now listen to three more statements 5–7 and match them with the remaining three phrases with a similar meaning in e–g.

**2 Test tactic: Pick out key words to predict the context**

A Skim the questions and answer choices and underline key words (10–15 seconds per item). Compare with a partner and discuss what the conversation may be about. Try to predict who and where the speakers are.

- What does the woman want to do?
  - Buy batteries for her CD player
  - Purchase an adapter
  - Have a missing part replaced
  - Check the parts stock
- What does the man tell her?
  - It doesn't run on batteries.
  - The label is incorrect.
  - The adapter isn't included.
  - She should buy another model.
- What does the man offer to do?
  - Order the item
  - Check the box label
  - Give her a new model
  - Include the adapter

 B Focus on the answer choices as you listen. Mark the best answer. Guess if you aren't sure, and move on to the next question.

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

## Tactics checklist

- Use the time before and after the listening to predict the context.
- Think of other ways to say the answer choices.
- Answer quickly.

## 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.

..... borrow your lawnmower?


..... mail these packages?

## 3 Tactic practice

Now listen to two more short conversations. Before each conversation begins, use the time to predict the context with your partner, and think of other ways to say the answer choices.

1. What are the men speaking about?
  - (A) The new hardware store
  - (B) Harry's job
  - (C) Martha's birthday
  - (D) Harry's lawnmower
2. What does the neighbor want?
  - (A) To finish his model
  - (B) To hire a new employee
  - (C) To try Harry's birthday present
  - (D) For Harry to loan him some money
3. What isn't Harry pleased with?
  - (A) The price
  - (B) How well it cuts grass
  - (C) The new model
  - (D) His old lawnmower
4. How does the man feel about their new training program?
  - (A) It's not as good as the old one.
  - (B) It's an improvement on their previous one.
  - (C) It doesn't have any practical value.
  - (D) It's full of useful ideas.
5. What did the woman ask the man about?
  - (A) How many trainees attended
  - (B) A package she needs
  - (C) The trainees' practical skills
  - (D) Comments from the participants
6. What did some trainees criticize?
  - (A) There were too many ideas.
  - (B) There was no opportunity for feedback.
  - (C) It was too theoretical.
  - (D) It was hard to say anything in the session.

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)

 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. What does the man want the woman to do?
  - (A) Pay the money she owes
  - (B) Mail some packages
  - (C) Attend a meeting
  - (D) Give him the addresses
2. What does the woman ask?
  - (A) For the destinations
  - (B) For the time
  - (C) Where the meeting is
  - (D) If he wants a coffee
3. Why doesn't the man do it himself?
  - (A) The woman has the list.
  - (B) The woman owes him a favor.
  - (C) He doesn't know the address.
  - (D) He has to rush to a previous appointment.
4. What does the woman want?
  - (A) To share a ride
  - (B) To go shopping
  - (C) To take her car
  - (D) To take Eric for a drive

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE 

5. What is the woman's problem?  
 (A) She has missed the bus  
 (B) Her car is broken  
 (C) She is late to get to work  
 (D) She needs to buy a new car
6. What will the man do?  
 (A) Meet her at the company around 8:00  
 (B) Show his appreciation  
 (C) Take her to the hotel  
 (D) Give her a lift to the auction
7. What does the man want the woman to do?  
 (A) Go to the theater  
 (B) Move to a different parking spot  
 (C) Change her mind  
 (D) Go to the other building
8. What is the woman concerned about?  
 (A) She can't read the sign.  
 (B) She is at the wrong branch.  
 (C) She thinks the man is making excuses.  
 (D) She may not be able to find another space.
9. Why couldn't the woman see the sign?  
 (A) It was around the corner.  
 (B) It had been cut down.  
 (C) It was partly hidden.  
 (D) It was behind the truck.
10. What's the problem with the man's watch?  
 (A) It needs a new battery.  
 (B) It has a crack in the face.  
 (C) The buckle is damaged  
 (D) It needs to be replaced.
11. What will cause the delay?  
 (A) There is a problem with the battery.  
 (B) They don't have the correct strap.  
 (C) The new watches haven't arrived.  
 (D) They must order a replacement watch.
12. When will the watch finally be ready?  
 (A) This afternoon  
 (B) On Tuesday  
 (C) On Wednesday  
 (D) On Thursday

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

## C

### Learn by doing: Requests

A Complete the two conversations using the words in the box.

I'll do it  
 Sure  
 Would you mind

Any time will be fine  
 Do you think I could  
 Sure, no problem  
 Would that be alright

- A: ..... mailing these packages for me?  
 B: ..... . When do they have to arrive?  
 A: They need to be delivered by Tuesday at the latest.  
 B: OK, ..... this afternoon.

- C: ..... borrow your lawnmower? Mine is broken.  
 D: ..... . When do you want it?  
 C: How about Saturday afternoon? .....?  
 D: Yeah, of course. .... .

Follow up: Practice the conversations.



- B** Make similar conversations with your partner using the situations 1–4 below. Before you begin, look at the useful expressions in the box and read the *Culture note*.

**More common request phrases**

Would you mind (helping me with these files)?

Are you by any chance (driving down to the auction)?

I wonder if you would mind (moving your car)?

I need you to (replace this battery for me)?

**Response vocabulary/phrases**

Of course.

Certainly.

Sorry, (I'm using it on the weekend).

I'm afraid I can't (right now).

Sorry, I'm really busy. Maybe (Bob) could give you a hand.

1. Ask them to help you make some copies (you need them for a meeting in one hour).
2. Ask to borrow their calculator (yours is at home).
3. Ask for some help moving some boxes (the courier is going to pick them up in 15 minutes).
4. Ask them for a ride home (your car is in the shop).

**Culture note**

If you don't know the person well, start your request with:

*Excuse me ... or*

*I'm sorry to bother you, but ...*

*Follow up:* With your partner, write down one of the conversations you had. Then write three Part 3 type questions (no answer choices) for your conversation. Join up with another pair, read out the conversation as naturally as possible and ask them the questions you wrote.

**D**

**Further study**

Think of an actual request you made recently, or imagine one you might make, and write up the conversation in English. Write three questions (you don't need to make answer choices) to test your classmates in the next lesson.

Go to word list and quiz page 160.