

# Lesson

# 2

## Questions/Responses

### *Lesson Outline*

- **Format**
- **Tactics**
- **Preview Test**
- **Testing Points and Skill-Building Exercises**
  - A. *Information Questions*
  - B. *Yes/No Questions*
  - C. *Other Types of Questions*
  - D. *Recognizing Sound/Meaning Distractors*
  - E. *Recognizing Other Types of Distractors*
- **Review Test**

### *Format*

#### Part II

This part of TOEIC consists of thirty items. Each item consists of a question on the audio program followed by three possible responses (answers) to the question, also on the audio program. Your job is to decide which of these three best answers the question. Between each item is a five-second pause. Part II problems do not involve any reading skills; therefore, this part is considered a “pure” test of listening skills. Your test book simply tells you to mark an answer for each problem.

### *Tactics*

#### Part II

1. There are no answer choices to consider before or while the item is being read. You should just concentrate on the question and the three responses on the audio program, and pay no attention to the test book.
2. Try to identify the type of question (information question, yes/no question, alternative question, and so on). The correct response, of course, often depends on the type of question being asked.
3. Try to eliminate distractors. Parts D and E of the “Testing Points and Skill-Building Exercises” section of this lesson, pages 72-74, will help you recognize distractors.
4. Don’t mark an answer until you have heard all three responses. When you hear a response that you think is correct, rest your pencil on that oval on the answer sheet. If you change your mind and hear a response that you think is better, move your pencil to that choice. Once you have heard all three responses, mark the oval that your pencil is resting on. (This technique helps you remember which choice you think is best.)
5. If you hear all three responses and none of the three seems correct, take a guess and get ready for the next item.
6. There is very little time (only five seconds) between items in Part II. You need to decide on an answer and fill in the blank quickly to be ready for the next item.

## Preview Test Part II

Start the audio program and read along as the directions are read.

**Directions:** In this part of the test, you will hear a question asked on the audio program. After that, you hear three possible responses to the question. Each question and response is given only once and is not written out in your book, so listen carefully. Mark the answer that corresponds to the best response to the question.

### Listen to a sample

**You hear:**

**You then hear:**

- B  C

Choice (A), "At the gymnasium," is the best response to the question "Where have you been, Steve?" You should mark (A).

- |                      |                         |                         |                         |                       |                         |                         |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Mark your answer. | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | 7. Mark your answer.  | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C |
| 2. Mark your answer. | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | 8. Mark your answer.  | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C |
| 3. Mark your answer. | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | 9. Mark your answer.  | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C |
| 4. Mark your answer. | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | 10. Mark your answer. | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C |
| 5. Mark your answer. | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | 11. Mark your answer. | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C |
| 6. Mark your answer. | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | 12. Mark your answer. | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C |

## Testing Points and Skill-Building Exercises

The questions you hear on this part of TOEIC can be broken down roughly as follows:

Information questions (wh- questions)	50%
Yes/No questions	25%
Other types of questions	25%

Information questions begin with a **wh-** question word or the word **how**:

- When can we begin?
- Where's the post office?
- How are you today?

Yes/No questions begin with an auxiliary verb or a form of the main verb **to be**.

- Did Hiroshi attend the lecture?
- Would you like to come with us?
- Were you in Nairobi last year?

Other types of questions include embedded questions, alternative questions, tag questions, and negative questions.

Do you know who wrote this report? (embedded question)

Do you want to play chess or checkers? (alternative question)

You've been to Seoul before, haven't you? (tag question)

Isn't this interesting? (negative question)

## Exercise 2.1

**Focus:** Distinguishing between information questions, yes/no questions, and other types of questions.

**Directions:** Decide whether the question you hear is an information question, a yes/no question, or some other type of question (embedded question, alternative question, tag question, or negative question) and then mark the appropriate blank. The first one has been done as an example.



Now start the audio program.

	Information Question	Yes/No Question	Other Type of Question
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# A. Information Questions

Nearly half the questions in Part II are information questions. These questions ask for specific pieces of information. Questions with *what ... ?* and *how ... ?* are the most common.

1. What ... ?
2. How ... ?
3. When ... ?
4. Where ... ?
5. Why ... ?
6. Who ... ?
7. Whose ... ?
8. Which ... ?

Responses to information questions may be either short answers (a word or phrase) or complete sentences.

## Sample Items: Information Questions

What color is your new car?

- (A) I bought a sports car.
- (B) New cars are expensive.
- (C) It's bright blue.

This question asks about color. Only (C) provides this information.

How was that party Friday night?

- (A) Very enjoyable.
- (B) By car.
- (C) Until around midnight.

This question asks a person for his or her general impression of the party. Choice (A) provides this.

What do you think of the plan to open an office in Yokohama?

- (A) I think it's a great idea.
- (B) I'll leave the office open.
- (C) I'm going next month.

The question asks for an opinion of the plan, such as the one expressed in (A).

How many suitcases are you bringing?

- (A) Quite expensive.
- (B) They're very full.
- (C) Two or three.

A *how many ... ?* question asks about quantity (number). The only response containing a quantity is (C).

## Questions with What...?

The question word *What . . . ?* is used to ask about things, names, actions, ideas, and definitions, among others.

Sample Questions	Possible Responses
What are you thinking about?	I'm thinking about my family.
What did Cathy say to you?	She just said, "Good morning."
What is George going to do tomorrow?	He's going to a job interview.
What's her name?	It's Joyce Wong.
What happened here?	There was an accident.

*What type of . . . ?* and *What kind of . . . ?* are used to ask about classification.

Sample Questions	Possible Responses
What kind of music does he listen to?	He usually listens to jazz.
What type of people read this magazine?	Well-educated people, generally.

*What time . . . ?* is used to ask about the time of day.

Sample Questions	Possible Responses
What time does your flight leave?	At 7:30.
What time is the news on television?	It's on at 11.

*What do/did you think of . . . ?* asks for an opinion.

Sample Questions	Possible Responses
What do you think of Scott Graham's latest novel?	It's a real thriller.
What do you think of your new supervisor?	I don't know her well enough to say.

*What . . . like?* is used to ask for a general description or impression. It is also used to ask about the weather.

Sample Questions	Possible Responses
What are your new co-workers like?	They seem very pleasant.
What does your house look like?	It's a two-story, red-brick bungalow.
What's the weather like here in the winter?	It's cool and often rainy.

*What does . . . do for a living?* is used to ask about a person's occupation.

Sample Question	Possible Response
What does your brother do for a living?	He's an accountant.

What's the matter with . . . ? and What's wrong with . . . ? are used to ask about problems.

Sample Questions	Possible Responses
What's the matter with Joe?	He ate too much and doesn't feel well.
What's wrong with this microphone?	I don't know; it just doesn't seem to work.

What . . . ? is also used before many nouns to ask questions.

Sample Questions	Possible Responses
What size sweater do you wear?	Medium, usually.
What sports do you enjoy?	Tennis and volleyball.
What color is your new suit?	It's dark blue.
What flavor ice cream do you want?	Strawberry, please.

## Exercise 2.2

**Focus:** Answering information questions beginning with *what*.

**Directions:** You will hear a number of questions, each followed by three possible responses. For each item, choose the letter of the response that best answers the question.



Now start the audio program.

1. Mark your answer.    (A)    (B)    (C)
2. Mark your answer.    (A)    (B)    (C)
3. Mark your answer.    (A)    (B)    (C)
4. Mark your answer.    (A)    (B)    (C)
5. Mark your answer.    (A)    (B)    (C)
6. Mark your answer.    (A)    (B)    (C)
7. Mark your answer.    (A)    (B)    (C)
8. Mark your answer.    (A)    (B)    (C)
9. Mark your answer.    (A)    (B)    (C)
10. Mark your answer.    (A)    (B)    (C)

## Questions with *How...?*

The question word *how . . . ?* is used to ask about manner and methods.

Sample Questions	Possible Responses
How did she get to Melbourne?	By plane.
How did you get in touch with Mr. Suyoto?	By faxing him.
How does he drive?	Slowly and carefully.
How did you make these holes?	With a drill.
How did they get a loan for their business?	By providing collateral.
How do you know Christina?	She works in my office.

*How . . . ?* can be used to ask about the general condition of someone or something.

Sample Questions	Possible Responses
How's your father doing?	He's doing well, thanks.
How has Ellen been?	As far as I know, just fine.
How was dinner?	Great — we went to a good Mexican restaurant.

*How much . . . ?* is used to ask about cost or amount. *How many . . . ?* is used to ask about quantity (number).

Sample Questions	Possible Responses
How much is a motorcycle like that one?	Around \$5,000.
How much water should we bring?	A couple of liters each.
How many guests were at the party?	There were twenty or thirty.

*How do/did you like . . . ?* is used to ask for an opinion of someone or something.

Sample Question	Possible Response
How did you like that new movie?	I enjoyed it, but my husband didn't.

*How . . . get to . . . ?* is used to ask for directions.

Sample Question	Possible Response
How do I get to the post office from here?	Walk down Liberty Avenue until you come to Third Street.

*How about . . . ?* is used to offer something to someone or to invite someone to do something.

Sample Questions	Possible Responses
How about some French pastries?	I'd love to have some, but I'm on a diet.
How about coming to a barbecue at our house on Saturday?	Sure, that sounds great.



*How . . . ?* is used with adverbs and adjectives to ask about age, duration, frequency, size, distance, and other characteristics.

Sample Questions	Possible Responses
How old is Fritz?	He's twenty-seven.
How long will this session last?	For another hour, perhaps.
How often does Michelle go skiing?	Once or twice a month.
How far is it from Boston to Washington, D.C.?	It's around 400 miles.
How late is this store open tonight?	Until nine o'clock, I believe.
How soon can you be here?	In about fifteen minutes.

## Exercise 2.3

**Focus:** Answering information questions beginning with *how*.

**Directions:** You will hear a number of questions, each followed by three possible responses to the question. For each item, choose the letter of the response that best answers the question.



Now start the audio program.

1. Mark your answer.    (A)    (B)    (C)                      8. Mark your answer.    (A)    (B)    (C)
2. Mark your answer.    (A)    (B)    (C)                      9. Mark your answer.    (A)    (B)    (C)
3. Mark your answer.    (A)    (B)    (C)                      10. Mark your answer.    (A)    (B)    (C)
4. Mark your answer.    (A)    (B)    (C)                      11. Mark your answer.    (A)    (B)    (C)
5. Mark your answer.    (A)    (B)    (C)                      12. Mark your answer.    (A)    (B)    (C)
6. Mark your answer.    (A)    (B)    (C)                      13. Mark your answer.    (A)    (B)    (C)
7. Mark your answer.    (A)    (B)    (C)                      14. Mark your answer.    (A)    (B)    (C)



## Questions with *When ... ?* and *Where ... ?*

The question word *when ... ?* is used to ask about time: times of day, days, dates, years, decades.

Sample Questions	Possible Responses
When did Christos arrive?	Last Wednesday.
When will the planning session take place?	Tomorrow at eleven.
When is Maria's birthday?	On March 3.

The question word *where ... ?* is used to ask about locations: rooms, buildings, streets, cities, countries, and so on.

Sample Questions	Possible Responses
Where is the television studio?	It's downtown on Wells Street.
Where is your passport?	In my briefcase.
Where are you going?	To the drugstore.
Where are my glasses?	Over there, on your desk.

*Where ... from?* is used to ask about place of origin.

Sample Question	Possible Response
Where is Jaewoo from?	He's from Pusan, South Korea.

## Exercise 2.4

**Focus:** Answering information questions beginning with *when* and *where*.

**Directions:** You will hear a number of questions, each followed by three possible responses to the question. For each item, choose the letter of the response that best answers the question.



Now start the audio program.

- |                      |     |     |     |                      |     |     |     |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. Mark your answer. | (A) | (B) | (C) | 5. Mark your answer. | (A) | (B) | (C) |
| 2. Mark your answer. | (A) | (B) | (C) | 6. Mark your answer. | (A) | (B) | (C) |
| 3. Mark your answer. | (A) | (B) | (C) | 7. Mark your answer. | (A) | (B) | (C) |
| 4. Mark your answer. | (A) | (B) | (C) | 8. Mark your answer. | (A) | (B) | (C) |

**Note:** An incorrect choice may be an appropriate response for a *where...?* question, but it does not answer the question asked.

*Where is the French Embassy?*

*In the filing cabinet.*

## Questions with *Why . . . ?*, *Who . . . ?*, *Whose . . . ?*, and *Which . . . ?*

The question word *why . . . ?* is used to ask about reasons and purposes.

Sample Questions	Possible Responses
Why did she go to Brussels?	To attend a conference.
Why did you leave your last job?	Because of the low wages.

*Why don't you . . . ?* is used to make suggestions.

Sample Question	Possible Response
Why don't you order the soup?	Good idea — soup sounds great.

The question word *who . . . ?* is used to ask questions about people.

Sample Questions	Possible Responses
Who were you talking to on the phone?	To my wife.
Who is that woman in the blue raincoat?	That's Patricia Wedgewood.

The question word *whose . . . ?* is used to ask about possession.

Sample Question	Possible Response
Whose scarf is this?	It's Fran's.

The question word *which . . . ?* is used to ask about choices from a limited number of selections.

Sample Questions	Possible Responses
Which salesperson won the award?	Mr. Ishimura did.
Which floor is your office on?	It's on the fourth floor.

*Which way . . . ?* is used to ask about directions.

Sample Question	Possible Response
Which way is it to Concourse E?	Walk straight ahead, and you'll see a sign.