

# Lesson 4

## Short Talks

### Lesson Outline

- **Format**
- **Tactics**
- **Preview Test**
- **Testing Points and Skill-Building Exercises**
  - A. *Public Announcements*
  - B. *News, Weather, and Public Service Bulletins*
  - C. *Commercial Messages*
  - D. *Business Talks*
  - E. *Recorded Messages*
- **Review Test**

### Format

#### Part IV

In Part IV, you will hear a number of talks on the audio program. There are two, three, and sometimes four questions for each talk. The questions are written in your test booklet. There are four answer choices following each question. You have to choose the best answer to the question based on the information that you hear in the talk. Before each of the talks, there is an introductory statement.

#### Examples of introductory statements:

Questions 80 and 81 are based on the following announcement:

Questions 93 to 96 refer to the following lecture:

Following each talk, you'll hear instructions to answer particular questions, with eight-second pauses between each of them. (You do not have to wait for these announcements to answer the questions.)

Because this part of the test consists of both spoken material on the tape and written questions and answer choices, it tests both listening and reading skills.

1. **The talks:** The talks are all monologues — that is, they are delivered by one speaker. They are fairly short — most are less than one minute long.
2. **The questions:** Three main types of questions are asked about the talks: **overview questions, detail questions, and inference questions.**
  - **Overview questions** require a general understanding of the lecture or of the situation in which it is given. Overview questions ask about the main idea or purpose of the lecture, or about the speaker, the audience, or the location where the talk is given. Some typical overview questions:
    - Who is speaking?*
    - What is the purpose of the talk?*
    - What kind of people would probably be interested in this talk?*
    - What is happening in this talk?*
    - Where is this announcement being made?*

- **Detail questions** relate to specific points in the talk. They begin with question words: *who, what, where, why, when, how, how much*, and so on. Some are negative questions; they ask what was *not* mentioned in the talk:  
*Which of the following is NOT true about . . . ?*
  - **Inference questions** require you to make a conclusion based on the information provided in the talk. These questions often contain the word *probably* or forms of the verbs *imply* or *infer*:  
*What is probably true about . . . ?*  
*What does the speaker imply about . . . ?*  
*What can be inferred from this talk?*
3. **The answer choices:** All the answer choices are plausible answers to the questions. In many cases, the distractors are mentioned in the talk. Just because you hear an answer choice mentioned in the talk does not mean it is the correct answer for a particular question.

## Tactics

### Part IV

1. Listen carefully to the introductory announcement that is given before each talk. It will tell you what kind of talk you are going to hear (an announcement or a commercial, for example) as well as which questions to look at during that talk.
2. Always look at the questions as the talk is being given on the audio program. Do not look away or close your eyes in order to concentrate on the spoken material. You must focus on both the talk and the written questions.
3. Because the questions are written out, you can use them to focus your listening for particular information.
4. Do not mark your answer sheet while the talk is going on, even if you know the answer. The act of answering a question may cause you to miss the information you need to answer the question or questions that follow.
5. Do *not* wait for the speaker on the audio program to instruct you to answer the questions. In fact, you should ignore those announcements. Begin answering as soon as the talk is over, and answer all the questions related to that talk as soon as you can. If you have a few seconds left before the next talk begins, preview the next few questions in your test booklet.
6. Never continue working on the questions about one talk after another talk has begun.
7. If you are not sure of an answer, eliminate unlikely choices and then guess.
8. Always answer each question. Never leave any blanks.

## Preview Test

### Part IV



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

**Directions:** During this part of the exam, there are a number of brief talks. These talks are not written out and are spoken only once, so you must listen carefully.

There are two or more questions about each of the talks. Following the questions are four possible answers — (A), (B), (C), and (D). You must decide which of these best answers the question and then mark the correct answer.

1. Which of these is NOT permitted?
- (A) Leaving a vehicle unattended.
  - (B) Unloading suitcases.
  - (C) Letting passengers out of a vehicle.
  - (D) Stopping for a short period.
2. Where is long-term airport parking available?
- (A) In front of the terminal.
  - (B) In the airport parking structure.
  - (C) At a parking lot downtown.
  - (D) At the Jones Road facility.
3. What kind of weather is predicted for the weekend?
- (A) Rapidly changing.
  - (B) Sunny but cooler.
  - (C) Rainy or snowy.
  - (D) Warm and sunny.
4. During what season is this forecast probably being given?
- (A) Spring.
  - (B) Summer.
  - (C) Autumn.
  - (D) Winter.
5. Where is the talk probably being given?
- (A) At a pharmacy.
  - (B) At a sporting event.
  - (C) At a department store.
  - (D) At a gas station.
6. What has been found?
- (A) A black briefcase.
  - (B) A piece of paper.
  - (C) A pair of glasses.
  - (D) Some medicine.
7. Who is Elizabeth Bryce?
- (A) An employee in the shipping department.
  - (B) A supervisor in the shipping department.
  - (C) The winner of the employee of the year award.
  - (D) An assistant to the CEO.
8. Which of the following is NOT true about Elizabeth Bryce?
- (A) Her suggestion may save the company money.
  - (B) She can park next to the CEO this month.
  - (C) She will get a promotion.
  - (D) Her evaluations were very good.
9. What does the employee of the year receive?
- (A) A small bonus.
  - (B) The CEO's parking place.
  - (C) Thousands of dollars a year.
  - (D) A new car.
10. Who would be most interested in what is being offered in this talk?
- (A) Business travelers.
  - (B) University students.
  - (C) Language teachers.
  - (D) International tourists.
11. Which of these courses is NOT presently available?
- (A) Japanese.
  - (B) Spanish.
  - (C) English.
  - (D) Russian.
12. How many videocassettes are enclosed in each kit?
- (A) One.
  - (B) Two.
  - (C) Four.
  - (D) Eight.

# Testing Points and Skill-Building Exercises

The talks that you will hear on the audio program during Part IV concern many different topics and are given in a variety of situations. However, most of the talks can be classified into one of the categories presented in this section. In each part of this section, a different type of talk and the questions about it are briefly analyzed. Then there are exercises involving four or five talks of that type.

## A. Public Announcements

These talks are brief informational messages like those given to groups of people in public places. Among the most common are announcements made on board airplanes or in airports. Others are given at stores, at sporting events, and in other situations.

### Sample Items: Public Announcement

**Woman:** [Attention, shoppers: someone has just turned in a pair of prescription sunglasses in a black leather case. They were found on the floor of the sporting goods department. If these glasses are yours, please come to the customer service counter to claim them.]

**Q.** Where is the talk probably being given?

- (A) At a pharmacy.
- (B) At a sporting event.
- (C) At a department store.
- (D) At a gas station.

This is an overview question about the location where the talk is given. A number of key words and phrases provide clues to the location: *shoppers*, *sporting goods department*, and *customer service counter*. These words and phrases point to the conclusion that the talk is given in a department store.

**Q.** What has been found?

- (A) A black briefcase.
- (B) A pair of glasses.
- (C) A piece of paper.
- (D) Some medicine.

The speaker says that the lost item is a pair of prescription sunglasses in a black leather case.

**Focus:** Understanding and answering questions about public announcements.

**Directions:** Listen to the talks, and then answer the questions about them by marking the correct choice — (A), (B), (C), or (D).



Now start the audio program.

1. Where is this announcement being made?
  - (A) On an aircraft.
  - (B) In Glasgow.
  - (C) At an airport.
  - (D) On a shuttle bus.
2. Why is Mr. Kim being paged?
  - (A) There's a message for him.
  - (B) His flight has been delayed.
  - (C) Someone has found his ticket.
  - (D) There is an emergency.
3. Where are the white telephones located?
  - (A) On board the aircraft.
  - (B) At the ticket counter.
  - (C) All over the airport.
  - (D) At an information booth.
4. Who is the audience for this talk?
  - (A) People at a cafeteria.
  - (B) Shoppers at a grocery store.
  - (C) Guests at a party.
  - (D) People who want to go fishing.
5. What is being offered at a special price?
  - (A) Meat.
  - (B) Bread.
  - (C) Charcoal.
  - (D) Fish.
6. Where is this announcement being made?
  - (A) On an airplane.
  - (B) At a shopping center.
  - (C) Aboard a ship.
  - (D) In a seaside restaurant.
7. Who is Nicholas?
  - (A) A lost child.
  - (B) A waiter.
  - (C) Someone's father.
  - (D) The purser.
8. What problem is mentioned?
  - (A) High waves.
  - (B) Strong winds.
  - (C) Long delays.
  - (D) High prices.
9. What will people see on the tour?
  - (A) A skyscraper.
  - (B) A national monument.
  - (C) A cavern.
  - (D) A factory.
10. How long does the tour last?
  - (A) Fifteen minutes.
  - (B) Two hours.
  - (C) Four hours.
  - (D) All day.

11. At what age must someone purchase a full-price ticket?

- (A) Four.
- (B) Six.
- (C) Twelve.
- (D) Thirteen.

12. Where must someone go right after purchasing tickets?

- (A) To the gift shop.
- (B) To the elevators.
- (C) To the top level.
- (D) To the north side.

13. What is the destination of this flight?

- (A) Los Angeles.
- (B) The Grand Canyon.
- (C) Flagstaff.
- (D) Denver.

14. When will this plane be landing?

- (A) In a few minutes.
- (B) In around twenty minutes.
- (C) In about two hours.
- (D) In around nine hours.

15. What will probably be served on this flight?

- (A) Breakfast.
- (B) Lunch.
- (C) Dinner.
- (D) Late-night snack.

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