

TOEFL Listening Lesson 25

Setting: Career services office on campus. The student enters the advisor's office, looking a little anxious.

Questions

1. What is the student mainly concerned about?

- A. Deciding which internship offer to accept
- B. Preparing for a formal interview for the first time
- C. Choosing the right outfit for an in-person interview
- D. Scheduling a second interview with the company

2. What advice does the advisor give about answering the question “Tell us about yourself”?

- A. Keep the answer under thirty seconds
- B. Avoid talking about academic experiences
- C. Focus on prior internships and job titles only
- D. Include educational background and relevant experiences

3. What method does the advisor recommend for answering behavioral interview questions?

- A. The PAST method – Problem, Action, Strategy, Timeline
- B. The STAR method – Situation, Task, Action, Result
- C. The GOAL method – Goal, Obstacle, Action, Learning
- D. The PREP method – Point, Reason, Example, Point

4. Why does the advisor mention the student's background and lighting during the interview?

- A. To suggest using a virtual background with a company logo
- B. To remind the student to showcase their personality
- C. To ensure the student appears professional on screen
- D. To encourage filming a video résumé instead

5. Why does the student plan to schedule a mock interview?

- A. To earn extra credit for a communications class
- B. To test out different video conferencing platforms
- C. To rehearse answering common interview questions
- D. To meet internship application requirements

Script

Student:

Hi, um, I was wondering if I could get some help preparing for an internship interview I have coming up.

Career Advisor:

Of course! That's exactly what we're here for. When's the interview?

Student:

Next Tuesday. It's for a summer internship at a marketing agency downtown. I've never done a formal interview before, so I'm kind of nervous.

Career Advisor:

Totally understandable. First interviews can feel intimidating, but the good news is, with a little preparation, you'll go in feeling way more confident. Do you know if it's in-person or virtual?

Student:

It's virtual—on Zoom. They already sent me the link and the time. It's going to be with a panel of two people, I think.

Career Advisor:

Great, that's helpful. So, let's start with the basics. Have you researched the company?

Student:

A little bit. I looked at their website and saw some of the brands they work with, but I haven't gone too deep.

Career Advisor:

Okay, so that's homework item number one. You'll want to get a solid sense of their values, major clients, and recent campaigns. You don't need to memorize their whole history, but you should be able to talk about what drew you to apply there.

Student:

Right. That makes sense. I want to sound interested—not like I just applied randomly.

Career Advisor:

Exactly. Now, let's talk about how you'll introduce yourself. One of the first things they'll ask is something like "Tell us about yourself." Do you have a response prepared?

Student:

Sort of? I usually just say my name, major, and that I'm looking for experience.

Career Advisor:

That's a start, but you'll want to go a little deeper. Think of it as your elevator pitch—brief but engaging. You could talk about why you chose your major, what kind of projects you've worked on, or any skills that relate to the internship.

Student:

Okay, so like, "I'm a marketing major with a focus on digital media, and I recently worked on a student-run campaign for a campus organization," or something like that?

Career Advisor:

Yes, perfect! That gives them a clear idea of what you've done and shows initiative. Also, be ready for behavioral questions—like “Tell me about a time you worked in a team” or “Describe a challenge you faced and how you handled it.”

Student:

I think I can come up with examples for those. Should I write out answers ahead of time?

Career Advisor:

Not word for word, but it's a good idea to have a few stories in mind. Use the STAR method: Situation, Task, Action, Result. That'll keep your answers organized and clear.

Student:

Got it. What about what to wear? Even though it's virtual, should I still dress up?

Career Advisor:

Yes, definitely wear professional attire—even if they're just seeing you from the shoulders up. Also, check your background and lighting before the interview. You don't want distractions.

Student:

Yeah, my room's kind of messy... I'll use a plain wall or maybe one of those virtual backgrounds.

Career Advisor:

That works as long as it's not too distracting. A plain background is

usually better. And one more thing—have a few questions prepared to ask them at the end of the interview.

Student:

Like what?

Career Advisor:

You could ask about what a typical day looks like for an intern, or what they enjoy most about working at the company. Just don't ask about pay or time off in the first interview.

Student:

Right. Keep it professional.

Career Advisor:

Exactly. Would you like to schedule a mock interview later this week? We can go through some common questions and give you feedback.

Student:

That would be great. I think that would help a lot.

Career Advisor:

Perfect. I'll send you a calendar invite. In the meantime, review the company's website, prepare your STAR stories, and practice your intro. You've got this!

Student:

Thanks so much. I already feel a little better just having a plan.

Career Advisor:

That's what I like to hear. Good luck—you're going to do great!

Answers

1. What is the student mainly concerned about?

Correct Answer: B. Preparing for a formal interview for the first time

2. What advice does the advisor give about answering the question “Tell us about yourself”?

Correct Answer: D. Include educational background and relevant experiences

3. What method does the advisor recommend for answering behavioral interview questions?

Correct Answer: B. The STAR method – Situation, Task, Action, Result

4. Why does the advisor mention the student’s background and lighting during the interview?

Correct Answer: C. To ensure the student appears professional on screen

5. Why does the student plan to schedule a mock interview?

Correct Answer: C. To rehearse answering common interview questions