

TOEFL Listening Lesson 31

Setting: A university dining hall, two students are sitting with trays of food, talking during lunch.

Questions

1. What is the main purpose of the conversation?

- A. To compare different elective courses available for next semester
- B. To discuss the pros and cons of online course registration
- C. To explain how to use the course selection portal to register for electives
- D. To complain about the difficulty of finding available courses

Correct answer: C. To explain how to use the course selection portal to register for electives

2. According to the female student, why might the male student not see the course list when he logs in?

- A. He selected the wrong term on the website
- B. He hasn't declared a major yet
- C. Registration for his year group hasn't opened yet
- D. The course list has not been published by the registrar

Correct answer: C. Registration for his year group hasn't opened yet

3. What does the female student suggest the male student check in his email?

- A. The syllabus for elective courses

- B. The list of approved general education courses
- C. A notification about the photography class
- D. His assigned registration time

Correct answer: D. His assigned registration time

4. Why does the female student mention the course waitlist?

- A. To explain that it guarantees enrollment eventually
- B. To warn that popular courses cannot be joined later
- C. To suggest that students should have backup classes
- D. To show how the portal handles course conflicts

Correct answer: C. To suggest that students should have backup classes

5. Why does the male student say, “I feel way less lost now”?

- A. Because he found the class he wanted to take
- B. Because the female student explained how to register
- C. Because his registration time was just posted online
- D. Because he was added to the waitlist for photography

Correct answer: B. Because the female student explained how to register

Script

Male Student:

Hey, do you know how we're supposed to sign up for electives next semester? I've been trying to figure it out but the course selection site is kind of confusing.

Female Student:

Yeah, I just finished registering for mine this morning. It can definitely be a little tricky the first time. Have you logged into the portal yet?

Male Student:

I tried, but I wasn't even sure if I was on the right page. I clicked on "Course Enrollment," and then it asked me to choose a term, but nothing was showing up.

Female Student:

Oh, yeah—that's probably because enrollment for next semester doesn't open for everyone at the same time. What's your year?

Male Student:

I'm a sophomore.

Female Student:

Okay, so you probably get access later this week. You should have gotten an email from the registrar's office with your assigned registration time. Did you check?

Male Student:

Hmm, I might've missed it. I've been kind of ignoring the email blasts lately.

Female Student:

Yeah, I get it—but that one's important. Check your inbox or the portal homepage. Your time slot should be listed there. Once registration opens for you, you'll be able to access the course list and actually add classes to your cart.

Male Student:

Cart?

Female Student:

Yeah, like a shopping cart. You search for the classes you want and “add” them to your cart. Then when your time slot opens, you can officially register. But the cart doesn't mean you're enrolled—it's more like planning ahead.

Male Student:

Got it. And electives are mixed in with everything else?

Female Student:

Yep. You can filter by department or course type. There's even a filter for “General Education” if you're looking to fulfill those requirements with electives.

Male Student:

Okay, that makes sense. Is there a way to see if a class is already full?

Female Student:

Yeah, there's a little icon next to each class name. If it's green, that means it's open. Yellow means it's almost full, and red means it's full. But if it's full, you can still join the waitlist.

Male Student:

What happens if I don't get off the waitlist?

Female Student:

Then you're out of luck, unless someone drops the class and a spot opens up. That's why it's a good idea to have a backup or two ready. Some students even register for a backup elective and then drop it if they get into their first choice later.

Male Student:

That's smart. Is there any way to know what electives are popular?

Female Student:

Kind of. You can check the class reviews on the student forum—that usually gives you a good idea. And if a class has a long waitlist as soon as registration opens, that's a pretty clear sign it's popular.

Male Student:

Right. I'm thinking about taking something in photography or creative writing. I need something fun after this semester.

Female Student:

Totally. I took Intro to Digital Photography last semester and loved it. You should definitely check that out.

Male Student:

Thanks. This helps a lot. I feel way less lost now.

Female Student:

No problem! Just don't forget to log in when your time slot opens. The good classes fill up fast.

Answers

1. What is the main purpose of the conversation?

Correct answer: C. To explain how to use the course selection portal to register for electives

2. According to the female student, why might the male student not see the course list when he logs in?

Correct answer: C. Registration for his year group hasn't opened yet

3. What does the female student suggest the male student check in his email?

Correct answer: D. His assigned registration time

4. Why does the female student mention the course waitlist?

Correct answer: C. To suggest that students should have backup classes

5. Why does the male student say, "I feel way less lost now"?

Correct answer: B. Because the female student explained how to register