

## **TOEFL Listening Lesson 4**

**Setting:** The student has scheduled a meeting at the campus housing office. The housing advisor is seated behind a desk in a shared office space.

### **Questions**

**1. What is the student mainly trying to learn during the conversation?**

- A. How to report problems with dorm facilities
- B. What the responsibilities of a resident assistant are
- C. Whether he is eligible to stay in campus housing next year
- D. How to request a different dorm assignment

**2. What does the housing advisor say is part of a resident assistant's job?**

- A. Helping professors plan campus events
- B. Organizing the academic schedules of students
- C. Supervising students during their exams
- D. Supporting the dorm community and resolving conflicts

**3. What does the student learn about the housing assignments for resident assistants?**

- A. They are always placed in their preferred building.
- B. They are placed randomly by the housing office.

- C. Assignments are based on a combination of factors.
- D. Returning RAs can choose any dorm they want.

**4. Why does the student say, “I’m not the loudest person in the room”?**

- A. He is worried about speaking up during RA staff meetings.
- B. He wants to know if being quiet will hurt his chances of being selected.
- C. He is asking for public speaking resources offered by the housing office.
- D. He is unsure if he wants to live with many other students.

**5. Why does the housing advisor mention the student’s current RA?**

- A. To recommend the student get a reference letter from them
- B. To suggest that the student speak with someone who has RA experience
- C. To ask whether the student has ever had conflicts with their RA
- D. To explain who will be interviewing RA applicants

## Script

### **Housing Advisor:**

Hi there! Come on in. How can I help you today?

### **Student:**

Hi, yeah, I was hoping to get some information about becoming a resident assistant next semester. I saw the flyer in the dorm and thought it sounded kind of interesting.

### **Housing Advisor:**

Absolutely! We're actually starting to accept applications now, so good timing. Do you have specific questions, or do you just want the general rundown?

### **Student:**

A bit of both, I guess. I mean—I know RAs get free housing, which is a big deal. But I don't really know what the job *actually* involves day-to-day.

### **Housing Advisor:**

Fair question. The RA position is more than just free housing. Basically, you'd be responsible for building community on your floor, helping with conflict resolution, and making sure everyone follows the university's housing policies. There's also event planning—things like movie nights, game tournaments, study sessions. That sort of thing.

### **Student:**

Okay... so it's kind of like being a team leader for your dorm?

**Housing Advisor:**

That's a good way to put it, yes. You'd be the first point of contact for your residents if they have questions, concerns, or just need someone to talk to. You're also expected to be a positive role model and stay on top of things academically.

**Student:**

Makes sense. What about the time commitment? I'm taking a pretty full course load next semester.

**Housing Advisor:**

That's something we always talk through with applicants. Generally, you're expected to be available on your floor most evenings, especially Sunday through Thursday. We also have weekly staff meetings and a few mandatory training sessions throughout the semester. But it's very manageable if you're good at balancing your time.

**Student:**

Hmm. Do RAs get to choose what building they're in?

**Housing Advisor:**

You can indicate preferences, especially if you've lived in a certain building and feel comfortable there. But assignments are based on need, availability, and how we think you'll fit with a particular community. For example, some buildings are mostly first-year students, so we might place people who are especially good at mentoring.

**Student:**

Got it. So how competitive is it, exactly? Are there a lot of people applying?

**Housing Advisor:**

It does get competitive, yes. We usually have more applicants than open positions, especially for the more popular buildings. But we really do look for a wide range of people—different backgrounds, majors, personalities. We're not just choosing people with perfect GPAs or who are super outgoing.

**Student:**

That's good to hear. I mean, I think I'd be good at it, but I'm not the loudest person in the room, you know?

**Housing Advisor:**

Totally understood. Quiet leadership is still leadership. What matters is that you're dependable, approachable, and committed to building a good floor culture.

**Student:**

Alright. So how do I apply?

**Housing Advisor:**

It's an online application. You'll need to answer a few short essay questions—things like why you want to be an RA, how you'd handle certain situations, that sort of thing. You'll also need one faculty or staff reference.

**Student:**

Okay. And when's the deadline?

**Housing Advisor:**

Applications are due by March 15. Then we'll do interviews later that month, and final decisions are usually out by mid-April.

**Student:**

Cool. Is there anything I can do to make myself a stronger candidate?

**Housing Advisor:**

Good question. I'd say focus on those essay responses—really show us who you are and what kind of community you'd want to build. If you've participated in campus events or done any kind of mentoring or leadership—even informally—definitely talk about that. And don't hesitate to reach out to your current RA. They've been through the process and can give you a great perspective.

**Student:**

Actually, yeah, my RA's awesome. I bet they'd be happy to talk about it.

**Housing Advisor:**

I'm sure they would. And if you decide to apply, feel free to come back if you want someone to look over your application or practice for the interview.

**Student:**

Thanks! This has been super helpful. I'm definitely thinking about it more seriously now.

**Housing Advisor:**

Glad to hear it! And best of luck if you do apply—we're always excited to meet potential new RAs.

**Student:**

Thanks. I really appreciate your time.

## Questions

1. What is the student mainly trying to learn during the conversation?

Correct Answer: B

2. What does the housing advisor say is part of a resident assistant's job?

Correct Answer: D

3. What does the student learn about the housing assignments for resident assistants?

Correct Answer: C

4. Why does the student say, "I'm not the loudest person in the room"?

Correct Answer: B

5. Why does the housing advisor mention the student's current RA?

Correct Answer: B