

MASTERING
TOEFL IBT
LISTENING

2024-2025

**WITH 20 FULL-LENGTH
REAL PRACTICE TESTS**

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***MASTERING
THE NEW
TOEFL IBT
LISTENING***

2024-2025

***WITH 20 FULL-LENGTH
AUTHENTIC PRACTICE TESTS***

DR. HIKMET SAHINER

PREFACE

Mastering the new TOEFL iBT® Listening Section 2024-2025 is designed to give test takers an edge in answering the questions on the TOEFL® iBT Listening Section.

This ebook edition includes step-by-step strategies and practice drills for each of the 7 question types on the TOEFL Listening Section.

Mastering the new TOEFL iBT® Listening Section 2024-2025 Features:

- Step-by-step strategies for each question type on the TOEFL Listening Section
- Test-taking Strategies, Mini Tests, Intensive Drills for each question type
- Vocabulary Reviews
- 7 Theme-based Practice Tests
- 5 TOEFL Listening Progress Tests
- 20 full-length Authentic Practice Tests
- Sample Note-taking, Audio Scripts & Answer Keys

This TOEFL test prep ebook comes with mp3 audio attachments, which is downloadable via the webpage at: **toeflieltsonline.org/audioload**

CHAPTER 1 - MAIN IDEA QUESTIONS

☛ Main Idea questions ask you what the passage is generally about. They may ask you about the subject or main idea of a lecture, or in the case of a conversation, they may also ask about the main topic or purpose of the conversation. The Main Idea question will always be the first question after each listening.

How the Question is Worded

What is the main topic of the lecture?

What is the lecture mainly about?

What are the speakers mainly discussing?

Why does the student go to see the professor?

Why does the student visit the registrar's office?

Why did the professor ask to see the student?

What problem does the woman have?

Sample Question

Track 002

Why does the student go to see the professor?

- (A) To ask if he can skip class for a competition
- (B) To ask about the material on an exam
- (C) To reschedule the date for an exam
- (D) To ask about how to study for exams

Answer & Explanations

☛ The student explains to the professor that he has a competition throughout the exam week and asks if he can take the test when he gets back. Therefore, the best answer to the question is (C).

Listening Script

Listen to part of a conversation between a student and a professor.

Professor (female): Oh, hello, Steven. Come in. So, you said that you needed to ask me about something?

Student (male): Uh, that's right, Dr. Ashton. I was kind of concerned about something I saw on the syllabus. In two weeks we have a test on Shakespeare's play Hamlet, right?

Professor: That's correct. But you've been doing very well in my class so far, so I don't think you should worry about that.

Student: Um, that's not really what bothers me. See, I have to go to a big competition for the school's swim team. It's out of state, so I will be gone for the entire week. I wanted to know if I could possibly, you know, take the test when I get back.

Professor: [Sighs] Well. Look, I can sympathize. But that's not really fair to the other students, is it? This is an important test, and you'll have more time to prepare for it than they will.

Student: [Resigned] Yeah, you're right.

Professor: Well, look. If you're willing, what I can do is give you the test earlier, so you won't miss it for your swim competition.

Student: Earlier, huh? Hmm. Well, I'll have to study sooner than I expected. But I don't think that will be a problem.

STRATEGIES

- ☛ Listen carefully to the beginning of the lecture or conversation. Often, the main idea is stated in the beginning of the passage.
- ☛ Pay attention to the words after the following expressions:

Lecture:

I'd like to talk about ... / We're going to discuss ...

Today we'll be focusing on ...

Today I'd like to continue our discussion on ...

Main Idea Markers

Today, what I'm going to talk about is ~

I'd like to talk about ~ / I'd like to look at ~ / I'd like to explain ~

From now on, we'll be focusing on ~ / Today, I want to focus on ~

Today, I would like to continue our discussion on ~

Conversation:

I have some problems ...

I was wondering if ...

I was just coming by to tell you ...

Main idea Markers

I heard ~ / I was wondering if ~

I'd like to talk you about ~ / I want to tell you ~

Could I ask you something? / I've got some questions about

I have some problem ~ / I have trouble ~

I am here because ~ / I am here to tell you ~

☛ Listen for frequently repeated words or any idea that is mentioned in different ways. Words or ideas that occur frequently in the listening most likely have something to do with the main idea.

☛ The correct answers for main idea questions correctly summarize the main points of the passage; they must neither be too specific nor too broad.

Basic Drill

Listen to each passage and choose the best answer to the question.

Listen to part of a conversation between a student and a human

resources office clerk.

 **Track 003**

1. Why does the student go to see the clerk?

- (A) To see what jobs are available
- (B) To apply for an advertised job
- (C) To get information about career possibilities
- (D) To ask about the department's website

Listen to part of a lecture in an American history class.

 **Track 004**

2. What is the main topic of the lecture?

- (A) The causes of the American Civil War
- (B) The effects of the American Civil War
- (C) The battles of the American Civil War
- (D) The status of slaves in the North and South

Listen to part of a lecture in a medical science class.

 **Track 005**

3. What is the main topic of the lecture?

- (A) The ways to properly use antibiotics
- (B) The side-effects of antibiotics
- (C) The discovery of antibiotics
- (D) The rise of antibiotic-resistant bacteria

Listen to part of a conversation between a student and a professor.

 **Track 006**

4. Why does the student go to see the professor?

- (A) To ask about a possible topic for her paper
- (B) To ask about the way to document sources for her paper
- (C) To ask about resources for her paper
- (D) To ask about including charts in her paper

Listen to part of a lecture in an earth science class.

 **Track 007**

5. What is the lecture mainly about?

- (A) Properties of the Earth's center
- (B) The geological layers of the Earth
- (C) The Earth's magnetic field
- (D) Theories about the Earth's core

Listen to part of a talk in a philosophy class.

 **Track 008**

6. What is the main topic being discussed?

- (A) Artistic works based on Thoreau
- (B) Thoreau's protest against slavery
- (C) The life of Henry David Thoreau
- (D) The beliefs of Henry David Thoreau

CHAPTER 2 - DETAIL QUESTIONS

☞ Detail questions ask you about explicit facts and details given in the listening passage. They generally ask about the important details related to the gist of a lecture or conversation. Typically, there will be 1-2 Detail questions. Sometimes these questions ask you to select more than 1 correct answer.

How the Question is Worded

According to the professor, who / when / where / what / why / how ...?

What are X?

What does the professor suggest to the man?

Which of the following are true about X?

Sample Question

Track 009

Which La Venta monument depicts a god of the Olmecs?

- (A) The giant head statues
- (B) The giant central mound
- (C) The giant mosaics found in the city
- (D) The carvings on their stone altars

Answer & Explanations

☞ The professor mentions stone altars as one of the Olmec remains and says most people believe their carved figures are some kind of divine being that was worshipped. Therefore, the best answer to the question is (D).

Listening Script

Listen to part of a talk in an American history class.

Professor (female): Now, in Central America, between two to three thousand years ago, there existed an ancient civilization known as the Olmec. Much of what we know about them comes from the excavation of an ancient city known as La Venta, located on the coast of southern Mexico on the Gulf of Mexico and first excavated in the 1940s. Who can tell me some things we've found there?

Student 1 (male): Well, there are those giant stone head monuments, right?

Professor: Yes, that's the most famous discovery. These statues of rulers are an impressive 9 feet high and weigh about 18 tons, but they are just one amazing find. There's also a large central clay mound that resembles a volcano, large mosaics representing jaguar masks, and elaborate stone altars. Now, these altars contain some interesting features. What might those be?

Student 2 (female): Are you talking about the images of their gods, the weird jaguar-babies?

Professor: Right. Some of them have carved figures that look like a mixture of a jaguar and a human infant. While they are very mysterious, most people believe that these were some kind of divine being that was worshipped. This has been indicated in Olmec monuments from other locations, too.

STRATEGIES

- ☛ Detail questions ask about the important details of a conversation or lecture, not minor ones. Take notes on major points and important details while you listen.

- ☛ Major details often include:

Definitions of new terms / concepts / ideas

Important features of things or concepts

Causes or effects of specific events

New facts, reasons, results, examples, etc.

- ☞ The correct answer is often paraphrased.
- ☞ Do not simply choose the answer choices that have the same words or phrases from the listening.
- ☞ To answer these questions, you need to understand the essential ideas from the passage and make sure that the answer accurately conveys the information from the listening.

Basic Drill

Listen to each passage and choose the best answer to the question.

Listen to part of a conversation between a student and a professor.

Track 010

1. Why does the student need a letter of recommendation?

- (A) She wants to get into an engineering program.
- (B) She wants to get a teaching position.
- (C) She wants to get admitted into graduate school.
- (D) She wants to get a summer internship.

Listen to part of a lecture in a history class.

Track 011

2. Why is Saint Patrick important?

- (A) He exterminated most of Ireland's natural pests.
- (B) He was an important political leader of Ireland.
- (C) He was the very first Christian to travel to Ireland.
- (D) He was an important early missionary in Ireland.

Listen to part of a talk in a psychology class.

 **Track 012**

3. What was the Milgram Experiment meant to test?

- (A) The methods of concentration camp guards
- (B) The extent to which people will obey immoral commands
- (C) The amount of electricity people can handle
- (D) The capacity to provide the correct answers when punished

Listen to part of a conversation between a student and a residence hall assistant.

 **Track 013**

4. How is the woman trying to stop the fire alarm from being activated? Click on 2 answers.

- (A) Using a special long-staining ink
- (B) Checking the alarms every hour
- (C) Locking the dorms at night
- (D) Using special information from the students

Listen to part of a talk in a zoology class.

 **Track 014**

5. Which of the following are true about spotted hyenas? Click on 3 answers.

- (A) Females are physically smaller than males.
- (B) Males have less social power than females.
- (C) They only hunt weak and sick animals.
- (D) They have powerful stomach acids.
- (E) Females choose mates for reproduction.

Listen to part of a lecture in an art history class.

 **Track 015**

6. Why did Picasso paint Guernica?

- (A) To condemn the destruction of a town
- (B) To experiment with less disturbing subject matter
- (C) To display a never-before-seen painting style
- (D) To celebrate the military might of Spain

LISTENING PRACTICE 1

Listen to part of a conversation between a student and a professor.

 **Track 016-018**

1. Why does the student go to see the professor?

- (A) To get information about local libraries
- (B) To ask about prices at different bookstores
- (C) To discuss different versions of a textbook
- (D) To talk about ways to save money for class

2. Why does the professor say the student needs the newer version of the short story anthology?

- (A) It has new short stories.
- (B) It contains critical essays.
- (C) It has new exercises.
- (D) It discusses British history.

3. Which text can the student check out from the library?

- (A) The history book
- (B) The James Joyce novel
- (C) The collection of essays
- (D) The anthology of stories

LISTENING PRACTICE 2

Listen to part of a talk in an anthropology class.

 **Track 019-021**

1. What are the speakers mainly discussing?

- (A) The cultural practices of the Ainu
- (B) The prejudice against the Ainu
- (C) The similarities between the Ainu and Native Americans
- (D) The ancestral origins of the Ainu

2. What characteristics distinguish the Ainu from other Japanese people? Click on 2 answers.

- (A) The Ainu more closely resemble Europeans.
- (B) The Ainu have darker hair and skin.
- (C) The Ainu had unusual traditional tattoos.
- (D) Ainu men never grew their facial hair.

3. What was the Japanese government's previous policy about the Ainu?

- (A) Ainu people were not human beings.
- (B) Ainu ancestors were from Central Asia.
- (C) Ainu people could not practice Japanese customs.
- (D) Ainu culture would not be officially recognized.

CHAPTER 3 - FUNCTION QUESTIONS

☛ Function questions ask about the speaker's purpose or the implied meaning of a specific statement. To answer these questions, you need to understand why the speaker says something as well as what is said. These types of questions always replay a specific statement from the listening passage. Typically, there will be 1-2 Function questions for each passage.

How the Question is Worded

Why does the woman say this: 🎧 (replay)

What does the professor mean when he says this: 🎧 (replay)

What does the man imply when he says this: 🎧 (replay)

Sample Question

🎧 Track 022

Listen again to part of the conversation. Then answer the question.

Why does the professor say this: 🎧

- (A) To inform the student that she's not responsible for any problems
- (B) To remind the student that he must follow Dr. Mackey's directions
- (C) To indicate to the student that he needs to speak with Dr. Mackey
- (D) To discourage the student from participating in the new program

Answer & Explanations

☛ The professor says Dr. Mackey has all the information when the student asks about the special study-abroad program. From this, the professor indicates that the student should go to see Dr. Mackey. The answer to the question is (C).

Listening Script

Listen to part of a conversation between a student and a professor.

Student (male): Hey, Dr. Simmons. Do you have a minute?

Professor (female): Certainly, James. So what seems to be on your mind?

Student: It's about the special study-abroad program for the French department. I wanted some more information about it, and I heard that you were the supervisor for it last year. So, I just had a few questions that I wanted to ask you.

Professor: Hmm. Dr. Mackey's in charge now, so he would have all the information on that.

Student: Alright, but I still wanted to get your opinion on one thing. What was it like to basically live and work in Paris for several weeks?

Professor: Personally, I loved it. It gives you a new way of looking at life. However, you should keep in mind that you aren't there for too long, and it's not like you're working at a full-time job for a company or anything. But, if you want to do a little traveling, it's best to do it while you're young.

STRATEGIES

☛ In spoken language, a single statement can have different meanings depending on the situation. Therefore, pay close attention to the context in which the statement is made.

☛ The following words are likely to appear in answer choices:

ask, inquire, urge, request

indicate, suggest, imply

point out, remind, correct, clarify, verify

explain, introduce, emphasize, give an example, illustrate

complain, criticize, apologize, praise, encourage

Function Correct Answer Markers

to give / provide an example of
to identify
to emphasize / stress
to note
to indicate / suggest / imply
to point out
to describe / illustrate
to make sure
to correct
to encourage
to remind
to inquire / ask

Basic Drill

Listen to each passage and choose the best answer to the question.

Listen to part of a conversation between a student and a clerk.

 **Track 023**

Listen again to part of the conversation. Then answer the question.

1. Why does the student say this: 

- (A) To prompt the clerk to provide more details
- (B) To get the clerk to change his group
- (C) To indicate her displeasure about the arrangement
- (D) To remind the clerk of his medical needs

Listen to part of a talk in a sociology class.