

LC

Listening Comprehension – Diagnostic Test

LISTENING TEST

In the Listening test, you will be asked to demonstrate how well you understand spoken English. The entire Listening test will last approximately 45 minutes. There are four parts, and directions are given for each part. You must mark your answers on the separate answer sheet. Do not write your answers in the test book.

PART 1**Directions:**

For each question in this part, you will hear four statements about a picture in your test book. When you hear the statements, you must select the one statement that best describes what you see in the picture. Then find the number of the question on your answer sheet and mark your answer. The statements will not be printed in your test book and will be spoken only one time.

PART 1 Example

Play Audio 1.01

*Sample Answer*

(A) (B) (C) ●

Statement (D), “He’s standing near the board,” is the best description of the picture, so you should select answer (D) and mark it on your answer sheet.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE →



Play Audio 1.02



- 1. A
- B
- C
- D



- 2. A
- B
- C
- D



- 3. A
- B
- C
- D

PART 2**Directions:**

You will hear a question or statement and three responses spoken in English. They will not be printed in your test book and will be spoken only one time. Select the best response to the question or statement and mark the letter (A), (B), or (C) on your answer sheet.

Example

You will hear: Who is in charge of this department?

You will also hear:

- (A) The total is five dollars.
- (B) It's six o'clock.
- (C) Ms. Villa is.

The best response to the question "Who is in charge of this department?" is choice (C), "Ms. Villa is.", so (C) is the correct answer.

You should mark (C) on your answer sheet. Ⓐ Ⓑ ●



Play Audio 1.03

4. A
B
C

5. A
B
C

6. A
B
C

7. A
B
C

8. A
B
C

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE 

PART 3

Directions:

You will hear some conversations between two or more people. You will be asked to answer three questions about what the speakers say in each conversation. Select the best response to each question and mark the letter (A), (B), (C), or (D) on your answer sheet. The conversations will not be printed in your test book and **will be spoken only one time.**



Play Audio 1.04

9. What is the man doing?

- A Making copies
- B Meeting with Mr. Danvers
- C Organizing files
- D Cleaning his desk

10. What does the woman need to do?

- A Mail a package
- B Print a shipping report
- C Make the blueprints
- D Fill out a shift report

11. What will the woman probably do next?

- A Go to the post office
- B Report to Mr. Danvers
- C Help the man
- D Work late

12. Who most likely are the speakers?

- A Lawyers
- B Apartment hunters
- C Travel agents
- D Real estate brokers

13. What is being discussed?

- A A change to the floor plans
- B A trip to India
- C A house for sale
- D An increase in housing prices

14. Why is the woman pleased?

- A The price has gone down.
- B The house is in a good neighborhood.
- C They will start building the house soon.
- D The house is still on the market.

PART 4**Directions:**

You will hear some talks given **by a single speaker**. You will be asked to answer three questions about what the speaker says in each talk. Select the best response to each question and mark the letter (A), (B), (C), or (D) on your answer sheet. The talks will not be printed in your test book and will be spoken only one time.



Play Audio 1.05

- 15. According to the announcement, why will the fourth floor be closed?**
- A A national holiday
 - B A staff retreat
 - C Harmful paint
 - D Preparation for a meeting
- 16. How long will the fourth floor be closed?**
- A One day
 - B Two days
 - C Three days
 - D Four days
- 17. What will the invoice processing staff do while the fourth floor is closed?**
- A Arrange a company function
 - B Move to another office
 - C Go on vacation
 - D Paint the walls
- 18. What is the purpose of the message?**
- A To cancel a meeting
 - B To propose a meeting
 - C To report a business emergency
 - D To make an appointment
- 19. Who most likely is Annie Loeb?**
- A A family member
 - B An executive assistant
 - C A travel agent
 - D A hotel clerk
- 20. What does the caller suggest the man do?**
- A Write a new proposal
 - B Meet with her instead
 - C Call her back
 - D Apologize to Mr. Gilliard

PART 1: Photographs

Part 1 of the TOEIC® assesses your ability to identify the best spoken description of a photograph. In this part of the test, you will be presented with a series of photographs. Then, you will hear four statements about each photograph. You will hear each statement only once and they will not appear in your test booklet. The context of the photographs ranges from workplace situations to everyday activities. The statements describe the photo in terms of:

- what someone is doing in the picture (*action*)
- where something or someone is in relation to something else (*spatial relationships*)
- the overall situation being depicted (*state*)

What's New in Part 1?

- In the past, a single subject was typically repeated in the answer choices. However, now the subjects are often different.

Example

- A She's going to sleep.
- B The alarm clock is on the table.
- C She's sleeping under a blanket.
- D The alarm clock is being set.

- There are now more state statements than action statements.

TIPS

- Before you hear the statements, look at the picture closely and come up with a description based on the most obvious features in the photograph. The correct answer may be similar to the sentence that you came up with!
- For pictures with people in them, expect to hear an action description.
- For pictures with two or more people in them, make sure to understand what each person is doing.
- When you see a photograph without any people, expect to hear the state or spatial relationship description.

TYPES OF DISTRACTORS

Distractor Type 1: Sound Confusion

Sound confusion distractors include words that sound similar to or rhyme with a key word in the correct answer choice. This distractor type also uses words that share the same root, prefix, or suffix as the key word in the correct answer.

Example  Play Audio 2.01



- A She's driving the car.
- B She's pushing the cart.
- C She's buying a card.
- D She's cleaning the carpet.

(B) In the picture, the woman is moving a shopping cart across the parking lot; therefore, she is pushing the cart.

(A) The word car sounds similar to cart, but the woman is not driving. (C) The word card sounds like cart, but the woman is not buying a card. (D) The word carpet sounds similar to cart. However, there is no carpet pictured in the image and the woman is not cleaning.

SOUND CONFUSION: KEY TO SUCCESS!

The best way to identify sound confusion distractors is by familiarizing yourself with word pairs which have similar sounds or that rhyme. The following word pairs often appear on the test. Memorize these words and their definitions. Then, during the test, listen for context in order to select the correct choice.

Common Sound-Alike Words

apartment	→	department	light	→	right
baking	→	backing	line	→	light
before	→	four	own	→	tow
cart	→	card	pills	→	peels
chicken	→	kitchen	plate	→	late
coat	→	caught	race	→	raise
coffee	→	copy	ride	→	glide
description	→	prescription	sick	→	thick
directly	→	directory	take	→	shake
disk	→	desk	tidy	→	tie
ducks	→	docks	tidying up	→	typing up
help	→	half	vase	→	base
jacket	→	packet	waiting	→	weighing
ladder	→	litter	walking	→	working
lead	→	read			

Skill Building Exercises

SKILL BUILDER 1: THE BASICS

Choose the answer that best fits the photograph.



Play Audio 2.02



1. A The people are working in the office.
B The people are walking in the crosswalk.

SKILL BUILDER 2: BASICS PLUS

Choose the answer that best fits the photograph.  Play Audio 2.03



2. A
B

SKILL BUILDER 3: STEP UP

Choose the answer that best fits the photograph.  Play Audio 2.04



3. A
B
C

THE REAL THING!

Choose the answer that best fits the photograph.



Play Audio 2.05



1. A
B
C
D



2. A
B
C
D

Distractor Type 2: Verb/Noun Confusion

Verb/noun confusion distractors include the same key word as the correct answer choice, but use the word as a different part of speech.

Example  Play Audio 2.06



- A There is a boat rocking in the ocean.
 B There are people sitting on the beach.
 C There are tall waves in the ocean.
 D There are large rocks on the beach.
- (D) There are some large rocks on the right side of the scene.

(A) The word rocking is a verb/noun confusion distractor because it uses the verb form of the key word rock. However, there is no boat in the image. (B) People are not visible in the picture. (C) Few waves are visible in the picture, and they are not tall.

VERB/NOUN CONFUSION: KEY TO SUCCESS

Learn to identify verb/noun confusion distractors by familiarizing yourself with words which are commonly used as both nouns and verbs on the test. When you encounter these words, determine what form the word is and if it is used correctly to describe the picture.

Verb/Noun Confusion Distractors		
Word	Verb	Noun
address	I <i>address</i> the crowd.	I write my <i>address</i> on the form.
light	I <i>light</i> the candle.	I turn on the <i>light</i> .
place	I <i>place</i> it on the chair.	I go to that <i>place</i> .
plant	I <i>plant</i> the seeds.	I put a <i>plant</i> in my office.
play	I <i>play</i> tennis.	I watch a <i>play</i> .
rest	I <i>rest</i> my hand on my lap.	I could really use some <i>rest</i> .
saw	I <i>saw</i> him yesterday.	I cut the wood with a <i>saw</i> .

Verb/Noun Confusion Distractors

Word	Verb	Noun
sink	I <i>sink</i> in the water.	I put the dish in the <i>sink</i> .
store	I <i>store</i> the blanket.	I work at a <i>store</i> .
train	I <i>train</i> new employees.	I take the <i>train</i> to New York.
water	I <i>water</i> the flowers.	I drink some <i>water</i> .
wave	I <i>wave</i> to my friends.	I play in the <i>waves</i> .

Skill Building Exercises

SKILL BUILDER 1: THE BASICS

Choose the answer that best fits the photograph.



Play Audio 2.07



1. A People are boxing up merchandise.
B People are loading boxes into the truck.

SKILL BUILDER 2: BASICS PLUS

Choose the answer that best fits the photograph.



Play Audio 2.08



2. A
- B

SKILL BUILDER 3: STEP UP

Choose the answer that best fits the photograph.



Play Audio 2.09



3. A
- B
- C

THE REAL THING!

Choose the answer that best fits the photograph.



Play Audio 2.10



1. A
B
C
D



2. A
B
C
D

Distractor Type 3: Non-pictured Items

Non-pictured items distractors mention objects or people that do not appear in the photograph. This distractor type is commonly used with photographs that depict an empty place.

Example  Play Audio 2.11



- A The stadium is hosting a soccer game.
- B The seats are completely empty.
- C The crowd is standing and cheering.
- D The track is filled with people.

(B) The image does not show any people, therefore the seats are completely empty.

(A) refers to a soccer game, though no sporting event is taking place in the picture.

(C) mentions a crowd of people in the stadium, though there is no one in the stadium.

(D) also refers to people in the stadium; however, there are none in the picture.

NON-PICTURED ITEMS: KEYS TO SUCCESS

When you encounter a photograph that doesn't show any people, listen carefully to the answer choices for any reference to people or lack of people.

Note that answer choices may not always use the words "person" or "people". For example, in the example above, choice "A" mentions a soccer game, which implies the presence of people.

Skill Building Exercises

SKILL BUILDER 1: THE BASICS

Choose the answer that best fits the photograph.



Play Audio 2.12



1. A The students have taken their seats.
B The chairs are stacked in the classroom.

SKILL BUILDER 2: BASICS PLUS

Choose the answer that best fits the photograph.



Play Audio 2.13



2. A
B

SKILL BUILDER 3: STEP UP

Choose the answer that best fits the photograph.



Play Audio 2.14



3. A
- B
- C

THE REAL THING!

Choose the answer that best fits the photograph.



Play Audio 2.15



1. A
- B
- C
- D



2. A
B
C
D

Distractor Type 4: Misidentification of Background Details

Misidentification distractors incorrectly describe a detail in the photograph, such as the quantity of an item or the state of the item.

Example  Play Audio 2.16



- A There are two beds in the room.
B The curtains are shut.
C The paintings are hung over the bed.
D The blanket is on the bench.

(C) Two-framed paintings can be seen above the bed, or hung over the bed.