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## STRATEGIES FOR THE LISTENING SECTION

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### OVERVIEW OF THE IBT LISTENING SECTION

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The Listening section is Section 2 on the Internet-Based TOEFL. The Listening section tests your ability to understand spoken English that is typical of interactions and academic speech on college campuses. During the test, you will listen to conversations, lectures, and discussions, and you will answer questions about them.

There are two formats for the Listening section: On the short format, you will listen to two conversations, two lectures, and two discussions. On the long format, you will listen to three conversations, three lectures, and three discussions. After each listening passage, you will answer five or six questions about it. Only two conversations, two lectures, and two discussions will be graded. The other passages are part of an experimental section for future tests. Because you will not know which conversations, lectures, and discussions will be graded, you must try to do your best on all of them.

You will hear each passage one time. You may take notes while you listen, but notes are not graded. You may use your notes to answer the questions.

Choose the best answer for multiple-choice questions. Follow the directions on the screen for computer-assisted questions. Click on **Next** and then on **OK** to go on to the next question. You cannot return to previous questions.

The Listening section is divided into sets. Each set includes one conversation, one lecture, and one discussion. You will have 20 minutes to answer all of the questions on the short format and 30 minutes to answer all of the questions on the long format. A clock on the screen will show you how much time you have to complete your answers for the section. The clock does NOT count the time you are listening to the conversations, lectures, and discussions.



## OVERVIEW OF THE ITP LISTENING COMPREHENSION SECTION

The Listening Comprehension section is Section 1 on the Paper-Based ITP. The Listening Comprehension section tests your ability to understand spoken English. During the test, you will listen to dialogues, longer conversations, and talks, and answer questions about them.

In Part A, you will hear short dialogues between two people. After each exchange, you will hear a question about the information in the dialogue. In Part B, you will hear longer conversations. After each conversation, you will hear several questions. In Part C, you will hear several short talks. After each talk, you will hear several questions.

You will hear each dialogue, conversation, or talk one time. The questions are not printed in your test book. You may NOT take notes while you listen and you may NOT write in your test book.

Choose the best answer from four possible answers written in your test book. Then, on your answer sheet, fill in the oval that corresponds to the letter of the answer you have chosen.

You will have 35 minutes to listen and answer 50 questions.



## TIPS FROM SUCCESSFUL TOEFL STUDENTS



### WHAT TO DO ON THE LISTENING SECTION

- Look for opportunities to attend free lectures in English. If you are near a university that offers academic courses in English, ask the professors if you can listen to a lecture or two in their classes.
- If you have access to television in English, watch the Discovery Channel, National Geographic Channel, Smithsonian Channel, and other stations that offer academic topics. Don't pay too much attention to the screen. Take notes while you listen.
- When you are taking notes for the Internet iBT, don't try to write down every word. You are not required to take a dictation. Just jot down what you need to remember the main ideas and important details.
- Get familiar with the directions. If you don't have to read the directions and think about what to do, you will save time. Be sure that you understand how to use the **OK** button. On the Listening section of the iBT, you have to click on **Next** and then on **OK** to go to the next question. If you forget to click on **OK**, you will not move to the next screen.
- Don't click on the **Help** button on the iBT unless you absolutely don't understand what to do. The only information in the **Help** menu is a recap of the directions. And the clock keeps running!