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Аннотация: *Generally we can divide stories for Listening Comprehension into Short Conversations and Longer Conversations or Talks. Hence the strategies for short conversations are different from the strategies for the longer conversations and talks.*

LISTENING STRATEGIES

Generally we can divide stories for Listening Comprehension into Short Conversations and Longer Conversations or Talks. Hence the strategies for short conversations are different from the strategies for the longer conversations and talks.

Strategy for Short Conversations. The Backwards Way.

The directions you hear on the Listening Comprehension disk, tell you to listen to the question and then read several (3-4) choices and decide on the answer. This means that first you listen to the text and next you read the answer choices. For some people this strategy works well, but other people find it helpful to read the answer choices first. The strategy of reading the answer choices first is called the Backwards Way. Here is how the Backwards Way works:

1. Listen to the directions. During this time do not look at the answer choices in your test booklet or your practice test.

2. Before the conversation begins you may have only a second or two, and this time you glance quickly at the choices printed in the test booklet. You must try to look for words that are repeated, such as names or places. This will help you understand those words if you hear them. You might even be able to make a general guess about the topic by looking at the main nouns or verbs.

3. When the speakers on the disk begin the conversation, stop reading immediately and concentrate on the conversation.

4. After the question is asked, read the choices again and choose your answer. If you don't immediately know the answer, try to eliminate some of the answer choices and then pick an answer from the choices that remain.

5. Mark your answer. Return to Step 2 and glance at the answer choices for the question, looking for repeated words, main nouns and verbs. Repeat Step 2 through 5 for all questions.

The Backwards Way is not easy to learn because it is hard to get into the rhythm of reading the answer choices first. Many people find, however, that looking at the answer choices first helps them to understand the conversation better. They may recognize some of the vocabulary and, possibly, make a general guess about the topic before hearing the questions. Even if you cannot guess the topic seeing the words before you hear them may help to understand the speakers find answer the questions more quickly.

There are three main benefits of the Backwards Way:

1. You can get clues about the general topic of the questions.
2. You can use your reading ability and summarizing ability to enhance your listening skills.
3. You will have less anxiety if you guess what the general topic is before you hear the conversation. This will help you focus on specific information that you hear.

Strategies for Longer Conversations or Talks.

The Backwards Way is difficult to use for longer conversations and talks because each listening passage is followed by three or four sets of answer choices.

The following strategies are for different levels of proficiency. The first strategy is for people who have difficulty getting even a very general idea of the conversation or talk. The second and the third strategies are for people who get the general idea of the talk but have difficulty remembering the details.

Strategy 1

As the speakers are talking, close your eyes and concentrate completely on the general topic of the conversation. Don't worry if you do not understand all the words. Try to understand what the conversation is about, where it is taking place, who the speakers are. Answer the questions based on your general understanding of the whole conversation.

Strategy 2

As the speakers are talking, listen for the general topic, as described above. But also listen for more details. Pay attention to specific names, places, activities. Think about who the speakers are, what is their relationship. The questions that follow these conversations are often based on the exact words of the speakers.

Strategy 3

As the speakers are talking, look at your test booklet. Try to match the speakers' words with the possible answer choices. Often you will be able to pick out possible questions and answers as you are listening. If you feel that you are getting lost, however, stop reading immediately and concentrate on listening.

General Strategies for Listening Comprehension.

1. Get information in a quick glance.

-- look for words that are repeated in some of the answer choices; these words give you a clue about the topic;

-- look for the major differences between answer choices. You might see a different name or different place. You might see a different verb or activity. These help you focus what to listen for.

2. Eliminate wrong answers.

If you are using the Backwards Way you will be glancing at the answer choices first and then guessing the topic and possible questions. Then you will focus on what the speakers say, looking for a match to your guess. After that you don't need to read the whole sentence again in order to eliminate wrong answers. Some of the answers may immediately seem wrong.

2. Keep up the rhythm as you practice.

Rhythm is very important in the Listening Comprehension. You should take a listening story only once. If it is difficult for you, do the following:

-- take the practice test the first time without stopping the disk. Check your answers with the answer key.

-- take the listening section of the test again without stopping the disk. If you still find difficulty answering the questions, listen to the conversation to check your understanding and to learn new words.

Practice Test

Longer Conversations

Directions: you will hear a longer conversation between two people. After the conversation you will be asked several questions. You will hear the conversation only one time, so you must listen carefully to what each speaker says. After you hear a question, read the four possible answers in your test book and decide which one is the best answer to the question you heard.

You will hear: (questions 1 and 2 are based on the following conversation between two friends at school):

Man: Hi, Joanie. Where are you going?

Woman: Oh, hi, Paul! I'm on my way to the library.

Man: I just wondered if you want to go to the movie with me.

Woman: I'd love to, but I can't. I can't believe all the work I have this semester. I only have three classes, but in all of them I have lots of reading, term papers, reports and essay exams. It's incredible! I feel like I'll never get through everything.

Man: That's terrible! I felt that way last year when I had term papers to write, but this semester seems much easier. I spend a lot of time in class, but most of it is in labs doing experiments. I hated writing all those term papers.

Now listen to the **sample question 1**: Where is the woman going?

In the booklet you will read: A To the cafeteria

B To the movie theatre

C To the hostel

D To the library.

Your choice is D.

Now listen to **sample question 2**: Which best describes the man's feeling about his classes?

In the booklet you will read:

- A Term papers are easy for him
- B He has a lot of essay exams
- C He finds lab experiments easier than writing term papers
- D He is busier this semester than last semester.

The correct answer is C.