



Lesson 3

Short Talk Strategies

"Short Talks". Authentic examples of spoken English from the workplace and everyday life situations. These talks will vary in their level of formality and they will include such talks as announcements, short speeches, and advertisements. In the actual test, the recording is played only once and you will read two or three questions about the conversation and each question is followed by four choices. There are questions for each part so listen up.

Read the questions first

There are two or three questions about each talk. Short Conversation, try to read the questions before you listen to the talk. Reading questions will help you focus on what to pick up and perhaps give you some idea of what the talk is going to be.

There are different types of questions: about details and General Information.

Who is talking?

What is the talk all about?

When does it happen?

Where is the setting?

Questions about details

In order to answer these type of questions, you need to pay attention to the specific details such as time, facts and dates.

General Information questions

To answer these type of questions, try to grasp the main ideas of the talk.

Inference questions

The answer for the question is not necessarily stated directly. Some questions require you to make inferences or to come up with a conclusion from the information given in the talk. These answers can be either general information or specific details. Here is a related exercise

In this Exercise both questions are inference questions. The first question is a general question "Where would the announcement most likely be heard?" which requires you to make an inference. The second question "when is the speaker talking?" is a question relating to details and requires you to work out the answer from the choices based on those details.

SEE TOEIC Lesson 4/Short Talk Exercises 1-5