

Lesson 5

Strategies in Short Conversations

WHO answer is a proper noun, personal noun, group name or

other references to people

WHEN answer is an adverb (sooner or later), adverb clause

(when I'm ready), or preposition of time (at 6:00)

WHY answer is a reason (because I like to)

WHERE answer is a source or place (from my mother, at home)

WHAT answer depends on the words in the question; what

requires you to pay attention to every word.

What do you do? I'm a dentist. What time is it? Iunchtime.

What's your name? Mark.

What's your address? 765 Riverdale
What's your excuse? The bus was late.

HOW

answer depends on the words in the questions; how requires you to pay attention to every word.

How did you get here? How much does the computer cost? One thousand dollars How many people attended? How long did the meeting last? About three hours. How often do you process the records? Once a month.

By train. About two hundred.

Note: The English sentence is like a puzzle. You must examine all the pieces to make sense of it.

In the conversation, you will hear:

Man: Would you keep this for me until I get back?

Woman: I`m leaving in half an hour, so be fast. It's 4 now. I'll be back in 10 minutes. Man:

In your test book, you will see:

What time will the woman leave?

- (A) 4:00
- (B) 4:10
- (C) 4:30
- (D) 10:00

Let`s analyze the choices:

Choice A 4:00

The man says that it is 4:00 now. But that is not when the woman is leaving

Pay attention to the context.

Choice B 4:10

The man will return at 4:10, but the woman will leave at 4:30 Pay attention to the context.

Choice C 4:30

This particular conversation example requires not only that you listen for facts, but that you do a small calculation to arrive at the correct answer. The woman says she is leaving in half an hour and the man tells her it is 4 o` clock. Consequently, the woman is leaving at 4:30. Answer choice C most closely answers the question. Therefore, you should mark the oval (C) on your answer sheet.

Choice D 10:00

The number 10 refers to minutes, not the hour.

Be careful of the semantic associations.

More..... TOEIC Lesson 6/ Short Conversation Exercise