

## TOEFL 21

### Listening Practice- Conversation One

1. What is the purpose of this conversation?
  - a-The woman is asking the man's opinion of Professor Hendrix.
  - b-The woman is buying books for a college course.
  - c-The man is training the woman to work in the bookstore.
  - d-The man is helping the woman with her packages.
2. Why didn't the woman use her roommate's book?
  - a-She was taking the course with a different professor.
  - b-The professor was using a different book.
  - c-The book had a lot of marks in it.
  - d-Her roommate had already sold the book.
3. According to the man, what is the problem with using an older edition?
  - a-The instructor refers to different page numbers.
  - b-It is usually very marked up from use.
  - c-The professor doesn't order them.
  - d-They aren't much cheaper than the newer edition.
4. Why does the woman buy the style manual?
  - a-The manual is required.
  - b-The price is not expensive.
  - c-The instructor will refer to it.
  - d-The man found one.
5. Why does the woman say this: "Wouldn't you know?"
  - a-She is asking the man if he knows what her roommate did.
  - b-She is confirming that the man knows her roommate.
  - c-She is commenting about her bad luck
  - d-She is trying to get the man to laugh.
6. What can we infer about the woman?
  - a-She is happy with her purchase.
  - b-She is friends with the man.
  - c-She is an A student.
  - d-She is angry with her roommate.

### Listening Practice- Conversation Two

1. What is the main topic of this conversation?
  - a-the internet
  - b-research methods online
  - c-the school home page
  - d-library computer terminals
2. What is Oasis?
  - a-the online library catalog
  - b-the name of the school
  - c-a website for books
  - d-the password for Netlibrary
3. How does the man set up an account for Netlibrary?
  - a-He tells his password to the librarian.
  - b-He logs in on his home computer.
  - c-He uses the computer in the library.
  - d-He does it by telephoning the library.

4. How does the man pay for Netlibrary?

- a-There is a one-time fee.
- b-He will be charged every month.
- c-The service is free for students.
- d- he pays a fee per book.

5. Why does the man say this: "Let me see if I've got this."

- a-To check whether he has understood the woman.
- b-To look for something he has lost at school.
- c-To ask the woman to show him some books.
- d-To find out if he has a job at the library.

6. What will the man probably do now?

- a-go back to his apartment
- b-open an account
- c-use Netlibrary
- d-ask the librarian for help

**Speaking Practice Tip:** Question one asks for a description and reasons. Most people go straight to the reasons, forgetting the description. This is half of the answer, so don't forget it. If it's a place, tell where it is and briefly what it looks like. If a person, tell how you met and what their personality is like.

Question 2 is a preference between two options. People fail to back up their reasons sufficiently. Back up reasons with personal examples from your own life or hypothetical examples.

**Speaking Practice: (For Questions 1 and 2) You have 15 seconds to prepare and 45 seconds to speak.**

Question One

1. Who is your best friend? Describe this person and say why he/she is your best friend.
2. What is your favorite place to visit on weekends? Describe it and explain why it is your favorite place to go.
3. What is your happiest childhood memory? Describe it and give reasons to explain why it is your happiest memory.
4. What is your most important possession? Describe it and say why it is important.
5. Talk about a person in your life who has inspired you. Describe the person and explain why you found him/her inspirational.

Question Two

6. Some people think it is more fun to spend time with friends in restaurants or cafés. Others think it is more fun to spend time with friends at home. Which do you think is better? Explain why.
7. Do you prefer long-term trips or short-term trips? Use details and examples to support your explanation.
8. Do you prefer indoor activities or outdoor activities? Use details and examples to support your explanation.
9. Do you prefer to study alone or with friends?

**Homework:** Read this passage and be ready to define and use in a sentence each of the underlined words. Be prepared to summarize the article in class next Thursday.

Like other functions of the human mind, perception and memory are imperfect. When we tell a story about something that we witnessed, we may intuitively believe that our recollection is accurate. However, several factors bias our memories of events. To study this anomaly, let us look at the three steps of memory creation: acquisition of memory, storing of memory, and retrieval. At every stage of memory formation, distortion can occur. At the first stage, acquisition of memory, events are perceived and bits of information are prepared for storage in the brain. However, it is impossible for us to remember every single thing we observe. Through processes that are both conscious and unconscious, people determine which details they will focus on.

In its second stage, storage, memories can become further distorted. Over time, our memories degrade, as we forget portions of events. To compensate, we may even creatively fill in the gap created by the recession of long-term memory. Additionally, an individual's memory can be altered during the storage stage by intervening occurrences, which can be subconsciously combined with previously stored memories. Last but not least, we search our memory to locate information. During recall, emotion also seems to play a part in memory distortion. In sum, our memories may not be the indisputable source of information that we would like them to be.