

## Making Predictions and Interpretations

**STRATEGY** In Part 1 of the listening test, you will hear short conversations. You then choose from the three answer choices the one that means about the same thing as what you heard. Familiarizing yourself with some common responses that indicate feelings, attitude, agreement and disagreement will make this task easier.

**A BUILD UP YOUR UNDERSTANDING**

1 Use the correct form of the words and phrases in the box to complete the dialogues below. The definitions at the end of each line will help you.

• knock off for the day • under the weather • give (somebody) a piece of (my) mind  
• have second thoughts • totaled • fall behind • catch the game • get over (something) • haven't got a clue • can't wait (for something)

**A Philip:** Hi Helen. How are you?

**Helen:** Well, I'm a little bit (1) under the weather (not feeling well). I've had this cold for two weeks... plus I still haven't recovered from all the trouble I went through when my car was (2) totaled (destroyed in an accident). What about you?

**B Thomas:** I'm going to (1) knock off for the day (leave work), I've been here since 8 o'clock this morning. Coming?

**Wendy:** I can't leave now. I've (2) fallen behind (run behind schedule) with this project and really need to finish it.

**Thomas:** Oh no, I was hoping we could (3) catch the game (see the match) at the local pub together. It's the finals!

**C Theresa:** I (1) can't wait for (look forward to) Mandy and John's wedding party! It's going to be great!

**Andrew:** Uh, don't get too excited. There may not be a wedding... John's (2) having second thoughts (not sure he wants to do something after all) and may call off the whole thing.

**Theresa:** What?? You've gotta be kidding me!! What's his excuse this time?

**Andrew:** I (3) haven't got a clue (don't know), he wouldn't tell me.

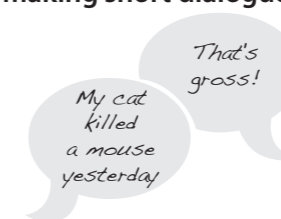
**Theresa:** I really wish I could (4) give him a piece of my mind (tell him what I think), he makes me so mad! Poor Mandy.

**Andrew:** Don't worry. She'll (5) get over (overcome a worry) it.

2 Match the following common responses indicating attitude or emotion with the phrases that have a similar meaning.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 You can say that again.                         | d | a Of course. / Absolutely!                    |
| 2 Mind your own business!                         | i | b There's no way that will happen.            |
| 3 What do you think? / You'd better believe it.   | a | c You were no help at all.                    |
| 4 That's gross.                                   | m | d I agree with you.                           |
| 5 Not if I can help it.                           | f | e How could you do / say something like that? |
| 6 That'll be the day.                             | b | f I will try to avoid or prevent it.          |
| 7 It can't be helped.                             | l | g I'm relieved.                               |
| 8 Thanks for nothing.                             | c | h I'm not surprised.                          |
| 9 What nerve!                                     | e | i Don't be so curious.                        |
| 10 That's a load off my mind.                     | g | j I don't know.                               |
| 11 So, what's new? / No kidding.                  | h | k I can't believe it. / I don't believe it.   |
| 12 I'm really stumped!                            | j | l It can't be avoided.                        |
| 13 You must be joking! / You've gotta be kidding! | k | m That's disgusting.                          |

3 Work with a partner. Take turns making short dialogues and providing short responses from the list above.

**B BUILD UP YOUR LISTENING SKILLS**

**STRATEGY** The main point of the interaction between the two speakers is often a) whether they agree or disagree or b) whether the statement made by the first speaker is true or not. In many cases, the first speaker makes a statement or an assumption that the second speaker either disagrees with or rejects. The right answer is sometimes the opposite of what the first speaker said. Often, finding the right answer requires you to infer whether the speakers agree or not.

1 Listen to the following phrases showing agreement or disagreement/disbelief. Write A (agreement) or D (disagreement/disbelief) next to each one. Pay attention to the speaker's tone of voice.

- |   |   |                                     |   |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 You can say that again!               | A | 10 Get outta here!                  | D |
| 2 Not if I can help it.                 | D | 11 That's a joke.                   | D |
| 3 Over my dead body.                    | D | 12 You've gotta be kidding!         | D |
| 4 I see your point. / You have a point. | A | 13 Mm... I have my doubts...        | D |
| 5 Since when?                           | D | 14 I agree with you in principle... | D |
| 6 There's no doubt about it.            | A | 15 You bet!                         | A |
| 7 I couldn't agree more.                | A | 16 That may be so, but...           | D |
| 8 I couldn't agree less.                | D | 17 That'll be the day.              | D |
| 9 You can't be serious!                 | D | 18 No kidding!                      | A |

**2** Listen to the following conversations and choose the word that best sums up the second speaker's emotional reaction or attitude to the first speaker's question or statement.

- |                                   |                             |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 <b>a</b> lack of surprise       | <b>b</b> genuine surprise   | <b>c</b> disbelief    |
| 2 <b>a</b> uncertainty            | <b>b</b> curiosity          | <b>c</b> indifference |
| 3 <b>a</b> disbelief              | <b>b</b> relief             | <b>c</b> surprise     |
| 4 <b>a</b> request for assistance | <b>b</b> self-assertiveness | <b>c</b> curiosity    |
| 5 <b>a</b> uncertainty            | <b>b</b> disbelief          | <b>c</b> relief       |
| 6 <b>a</b> disbelief              | <b>b</b> disagreement       | <b>c</b> agreement    |
| 7 <b>a</b> offer of assistance    | <b>b</b> opposition         | <b>c</b> relief       |
| 8 <b>a</b> agreement              | <b>b</b> uncertainty        | <b>c</b> disbelief    |
| 9 <b>a</b> relief                 | <b>b</b> curiosity          | <b>c</b> excitement   |
| 10 <b>a</b> disbelief             | <b>b</b> lack of surprise   | <b>c</b> uncertainty  |


**3** Now listen to the conversations again. From the three answer choices, select the answer which means about the same thing as what you hear, or is true based upon what you hear.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <b>a</b> Fred has never broken up with his girlfriend before.<br><b>b</b> Fred often breaks up with his girlfriend.<br><b>c</b> He is surprised Fred broke up with his girlfriend. | 6 <b>a</b> She feels cold too.<br><b>b</b> She does not believe it's cold.<br><b>c</b> He is joking with her.   |
| 2 <b>a</b> Neither of them knows the answer.<br><b>b</b> He knows the answer.<br><b>c</b> She is unwilling to help him.  | 7 <b>a</b> He wants to help his son move.<br><b>b</b> He does not want to help his son move.<br><b>c</b> He doesn't want his son to move.                               |
| 3 <b>a</b> He is sure Jeff will be on time.<br><b>b</b> He's pleased to hear the news.<br><b>c</b> He doesn't think Jeff will be on time.  | 8 <b>a</b> She did not hear him well.<br><b>b</b> She found the lecture boring.<br><b>c</b> She would like to hear the lecture again.                                   |
| 4 <b>a</b> She wants to know his opinion.<br><b>b</b> She is not joking.<br><b>c</b> She is having second thoughts.  | 9 <b>a</b> He has other things to do tomorrow.<br><b>b</b> He is eager to go to the party.<br><b>c</b> He has not decided what to do tomorrow.                          |
| 5 <b>a</b> He expected the news.<br><b>b</b> He thinks she is not serious.<br><b>c</b> He likes her sense of humor.  | 10 <b>a</b> She thinks he is making fun of her.<br><b>b</b> She hopes the boss will take her seriously.<br><b>c</b> She does not think her boss will grant her request. |

**STRATEGY** Finding the correct answer is an active process, not a passive one. Your task starts before you hear the conversation—as soon as you see the three answer choices in your test booklet. You should read as many sets of answer choices as time allows and try to identify the common element that runs through each of them. Doing this will increase your chances of finding the correct answer because you will be prepared for what you are going to hear and will not be surprised by the conversation.

**4** Read the following sets of answer choices. Decide what the conversation will be about. Compare your answers with those of other students.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1 <b>a</b> She's too busy to study.<br>Topic: <b>Suggested answer: It's about a girl who is not doing well at school.</b>  | <b>b</b> She's not interested in school.                      | <b>c</b> She'd like to improve.                   |
| 2 <b>a</b> They've lost Jane's email.<br>Topic: <b>Suggested answer: It's about a woman who has not been in touch for a while. Her friends may be worried about her.</b> | <b>b</b> They'll call Jane because they're worried about her. | <b>c</b> Jane hasn't gotten back to them yet.     |
| 3 <b>a</b> Ed doesn't go out when it rains.<br>Topic: <b>Suggested answer: It's about a man who has not accepted an invitation.</b>                                      | <b>b</b> Ed wanted to go to the theater but couldn't.         | <b>c</b> Ed might not have told them the truth.   |
| 4 <b>a</b> She's not going to work tomorrow.<br>Topic: <b>Suggested answer: It's about a woman who probably has a project to finish.</b>                                 | <b>b</b> She doesn't have to finish the report today.         | <b>c</b> She will finish the report today.        |
| 5 <b>a</b> She wants to buy a new car.<br>Topic: <b>Suggested answer: It's about a woman who is having car problems.</b>   | <b>b</b> She wants to take the car back.                      | <b>c</b> Her car is being repaired.               |
| 6 <b>a</b> She was injured while driving.<br>Topic: <b>Suggested answer: It's about a woman who probably had a car accident.</b>   | <b>b</b> Her car is completely wrecked.                       | <b>c</b> She decided to buy a new car.            |
| 7 <b>a</b> She had a word with her husband.<br>Topic: <b>Suggested answer: It's about a woman's talk with her husband about an issue.</b>                                | <b>b</b> She's worried her husband will be upset.             | <b>c</b> She's relieved her husband is not angry. |
| 8 <b>a</b> They weren't frightened by the movie.<br>Topic: <b>Suggested answer: It's about people's opinion of a movie they saw.</b>                                     | <b>b</b> She found the movie scary.                           | <b>c</b> She thinks the movie was funny.          |
| 9 <b>a</b> His kids spoiled his vacation.<br>Topic: <b>Suggested answer: It's about a family's vacation.</b>   | <b>b</b> He knew his kids would be well behaved.              | <b>c</b> They all had an enjoyable vacation.      |
| 10 <b>a</b> They'll probably spend their vacation together.<br>Topic: <b>Suggested answer: It's about somebody's vacation plans.</b>                                     | <b>b</b> She doesn't think Gary will want to go to Ibiza.     | <b>c</b> She'd like to go to Ibiza.               |

5  Listen to the following conversations. From the three answer choices given, choose the answer which means about the same thing as what you hear, or that is true based upon what you hear.

- 1 ☒ a She's too busy to study.  
☐ b She's not interested in school.  
☐ c She'd like to improve.
- 2 ☐ a They've lost Jane's email.  
☐ b They'll call Jane because they're worried about her.  
☒ c Jane hasn't gotten back to them yet.
- 3 ☐ a Ed doesn't go out when it rains.  
☐ b Ed wanted to go to the theater but couldn't.  
☒ c Ed might not have told the truth.
- 4 ☐ a She's not going to work tomorrow.  
☒ b She doesn't have to finish the report today.  
☐ c She will finish the report today.
- 5 ☐ a She wants to buy a new car.  
☐ b She wants to drive him into town.  
☒ c Her car is being repaired.
- 6 ☐ a She was injured while driving.  
☒ b Her car is completely wrecked.  
☐ c She will buy a new car.
- 7 ☒ a She had a word with her husband.  
☐ b She's worried her husband will stay upset.  
☐ c She's relieved her husband is not angry.
- 8 ☐ a They weren't frightened by the movie.  
☒ b She found the movie scary.  
☐ c She thinks the movie was funny.
- 9 ☐ a His kids spoiled his vacation.  
☐ b He knew his kids would be well behaved.  
☒ c He had an enjoyable vacation.
- 10 ☐ a They'll probably spend their vacation together.  
☒ b She doesn't think Gary will want to go to Ibiza.  
☐ c She'd like to go to Ibiza.

## EXAM PRACTICE

### Part 1

In this part, you will hear short conversations. From the three answer choices, select the answer which means about the same thing as what you hear, or is true based upon what you hear. For example, listen to the conversation:

Example (listen):

- ☐ a She didn't want him to join them.
- ☐ b He forgot to call her about dinner.
- ☐ c He didn't see her message.

The correct answer is c.

For problems 1 through 15, mark your answers on the separate answer sheet. No problems can be repeated. Please listen carefully. Do you have any questions?

- 1 ☐ a She doesn't like going out with the kids.  
☐ b She is unwilling to help him.  
☒ c She has an important commitment.
- 2 ☐ a She doesn't know the word either.  
☐ b He didn't understand what the dictionary says.  
☒ c She thinks he should find out for himself.
- 3 ☐ a She really likes Bill's new apartment.  
☐ b She hasn't seen Bill's new apartment.  
☒ c She is not impressed by Bill's new apartment.
- 4 ☐ a He will not take his children with him.  
☒ b He might not accept the offer.  
☐ c He doesn't like the idea of transferring.
- 5 ☐ a She doesn't think the movie is worth seeing.  
☐ b She has already seen the movie.  
☒ c She may go and see the movie.
- 6 ☐ a The game has just begun.  
☒ b He wants to watch the rest of the game.  
☐ c She wants to order in.
- 7 ☐ a He is not happy with his doctor.  
☒ b He may visit the doctor again.  
☐ c He has stopped taking pills.
- 8 ☐ a He appreciates her interest in his life.  
☐ b He may go see a family therapist.  
☒ c He thinks she shouldn't interfere in his life.
- 9 ☒ a She's surprised by Peter's behavior.  
☐ b She would like to know when Peter was made the offer.  
☐ c She would like him to leave.
- 10 ☐ a He bought his jacket in another town.  
☐ b She knows a place with lower prices.  
☒ c The jacket was a real bargain.
- 11 ☐ a They are not taking their kids with them.  
☒ b She is relieved they have found accommodations.  
☐ c The hotel does not have daycare facilities.
- 12 ☐ a She saw Mary recently.  
☐ b Mary isn't upset about not getting the promotion.  
☒ c She doesn't think Mary's problem is that serious.
- 13 ☐ a He didn't like the show.  
☒ b She is disgusted by the show.  
☐ c They both saw the show.
- 14 ☐ a William is in a meeting.  
☒ b William has gone home.  
☐ c William did not come to work today.
- 15 ☐ a He disagrees with the doctor.  
☐ b The doctor told her to eat less.  
☒ c She was worried about her weight.