

FUNCTIONS

SKILL 11: LISTEN FOR EXPRESSIONS OF AGREEMENT

Expressions of agreement are common in the short dialogues, so you should become familiar with them. The following example shows agreement with a *positive* statement.

Example from the Paper and Computer TOEFL® Tests



On the recording, you hear:

(man) *I think that the hypothesis is indefensible.*

(woman) *So do I.*

(narrator) *What does the woman mean?*

In your test book or on the computer screen, you read:

- (A) She is unsure about the hypothesis.
- (B) The hippopotamus is behind the fence.
- (C) She thinks that the hypothesis can be defended.
- (D) She agrees with the man.

The expression *So do I* is an expression that shows agreement with a *positive* statement, so the woman means that she *agrees* with the man. The best answer is therefore answer (D).

Other expressions are used to show agreement with negative statements.

Example from the Paper and Computer TOEFL® Tests



On the recording, you hear:

(woman) *I don't think that our history teacher is very interesting.*

(man) *Neither do I.*

(narrator) *What does the man mean?*

In your test book or on the computer screen, you read:

- (A) He disagrees with the woman.
- (B) He thinks the history teacher is interesting.
- (C) He shares the woman's opinion.
- (D) He doesn't think the woman's idea is good.

The expression *Neither do I* is an expression that shows agreement with a negative statement, so the man *shares the woman's opinion*. The best answer is therefore answer (C).

The following chart lists common expressions that show agreement. You should become familiar with these expressions:

EXPRESSIONS OF AGREEMENT	
Agreement with Positive Statements	Agreement with Negative Statements
<p><i>So do I.</i> <i>Me, too.</i> <i>I'll say!</i> <i>Isn't it!</i> <i>You can say that again!</i></p>	<p><i>Neither do I.</i> <i>I don't either.</i></p>

EXERCISE 11: In this exercise, underline the expression of agreement in each short dialogue. Then read the question and choose the best answer to that question. Remember that the best answer is one that shows agreement.

- (woman) *These paintings are really fascinating!*
 (man) *Aren't they!*
 (narrator) *What does the man mean?*

(A) These paintings aren't very interesting.
 (B) He isn't fascinated by these paintings.
 (C) He isn't sure how he feels.
 (D) He finds these paintings quite interesting.
- (woman) *I don't really care for the way the building was renovated.*
 (man) *I don't either.*
 (narrator) *What does the man mean?*

(A) He thinks the building was not renovated.
 (B) He has the same opinion of the building as the woman.
 (C) He doesn't care about the renovation of the building.
 (D) He suggests being careful in the renovated building.
- (man) *I think that both candidates for county supervisor are unqualified.*
 (woman) *Me, too.*
 (narrator) *What does the woman mean?*

(A) She agrees with the man.
 (B) She thinks he should become county supervisor.
 (C) She thinks the candidates are qualified.
 (D) She has no opinion about the candidates for county supervisor.

TOEFL EXERCISE 11: In this exercise, listen carefully to each short dialogue and question on the recording, and then choose the best answer to the question. You should pay attention to expressions of agreement.



NOW BEGIN THE RECORDING AT TOEFL EXERCISE 11.

- (A) The trip would cost too much.
 (B) She doesn't think that a trip would be a good idea.
 (C) She would like to take two trips rather than one.
 (D) She would also like to take a trip.
- (A) He would like to see the elections for town council.
 (B) He agrees that Matt should be elected.
 (C) He thinks the elections should take place next month.
 (D) He disagrees with the woman.

3. (A) She is not sure which course she should take.
 (B) She's not sure if she should take a trip to France.
 (C) She knows that she is not ready for intermediate French.
 (D) She wants to take neither beginning nor intermediate French.
4. (A) The man should repeat what he said.
 (B) The man said something foolish.
 (C) She thinks that the food is the best she has ever tasted.
 (D) She agrees that the food is pretty bad.
5. (A) This party hasn't been any fun at all.
 (B) He wonders if the woman enjoyed herself.
 (C) He wants to know what she said.
 (D) He's enjoyed himself tremendously.
6. (A) She condones what happened.
 (B) She does not like what the man said.
 (C) She agrees with the man about what happened.
 (D) She says that she did not do it.
7. (A) He thinks the parties aren't loud.
 (B) He says that the neighbors don't have many parties.
 (C) He agrees that the upstairs neighbors are noisy.
 (D) The loud parties don't bother him.
8. (A) She doesn't like this meal too much.
 (B) This food tastes wonderful to her.
 (C) She's not sure if she likes it.
 (D) She can't stand this meal.
9. (A) She agrees that getting the car was not a good idea.
 (B) She imagines that she would like to have a similar car.
 (C) She thinks that the man is mistaken about the car.
 (D) She thinks the man has no imagination.
10. (A) He would like the woman to repeat what she said.
 (B) He thinks that one semester is enough time for the course.
 (C) He also thinks that the course should be extended.
 (D) He would like to take the course two semesters from now.

SKILL 12: LISTEN FOR EXPRESSIONS OF UNCERTAINTY AND SUGGESTION

Expressions of uncertainty and suggestion are common in the short dialogues, so you should become familiar with them. The following example shows an expression of uncertainty.

Example from the Paper and Computer TOEFL® Tests



On the recording, you hear:

(man) *Do you know anything about the final exam in physics?*

(woman) *It's going to be rather difficult, isn't it?*

(narrator) *What does the woman mean?*

In your test book or on the computer screen, you read:

- (A) The exam is not going to be too difficult.
 (B) She's positive that it's going to be hard.
 (C) She thinks that it might be hard.
 (D) She has no idea about the exam.

The tag question *isn't it* changes a definite statement into a statement that shows uncertainty, so the best answer is one that expresses uncertainty. The best answer to this question is answer (C) because the words *thinks* and *might* express uncertainty.

Other expressions that are common in the short dialogues are expressions of suggestion.

Example from the Paper and Computer TOEFL® Tests



On the recording, you hear:

(man) *I'll never have time to type my paper tomorrow.*

(woman) *Why not do it now?*

(narrator) *What does the woman suggest?*

In your test book or on the computer screen, you read:

- (A) Finishing the paper today
- (B) Not working on the paper now
- (C) Never typing the paper
- (D) Taking time out from the paper now

In this example, the expression *Why not* is an expression of suggestion, so the woman suggests *doing it now*. In this suggestion, the woman is referring to the paper that the man needs to type, so the best answer is answer (A).

The following chart lists common expressions that show uncertainty and suggestion:

EXPRESSIONS OF UNCERTAINTY AND SUGGESTION	
Uncertainty	Suggestion
<i>... isn't it (tag)?</i> <i>As far as I know.</i> <i>As far as I can tell.</i>	<i>Why not ...?</i> <i>Let's ...</i>

EXERCISE 12: In this exercise, underline the expression of uncertainty or suggestion in each short dialogue. Then read the question and choose the best answer to that question. Remember that the best answer is one that shows uncertainty or suggestion.

1. (man) *Do you know what time they're leaving for the city?* (A) She's not completely sure when they are leaving.
- (woman) *They have to leave at four o'clock, don't they?* (B) They are returning from the city at about 4:00.
- (narrator) *What does the woman mean?* (C) She knows when they are leaving.
- (D) She doesn't have any idea when they are leaving.

2. (woman) *I'm so thirsty from all this walking.* (A) They should stop drinking.
- (man) *Let's stop and get a drink.* (B) They should go for a walk.
- (narrator) *What does the man suggest?* (C) They should walk thirty miles.
- (D) They should take a break and have a drink.

3. (man) *Is the exam still scheduled for 3:00 on Thursday?*
 (woman) *As far as I know.*
 (narrator) *What does the woman mean?*
- (A) The exam is far away.
 (B) She knows that the exam schedule has been changed.
 (C) She is sure that the exam is set for Thursday.
 (D) She thinks she knows when the test is.

TOEFL EXERCISE 12: In this exercise, listen carefully to each short dialogue and question on the recording, and then choose the best answer to the question. You should be particularly careful of expressions of uncertainty and suggestion.



NOW BEGIN THE RECORDING AT TOEFL EXERCISE 12.

1. (A) He's sure about which chapters they are to read.
 (B) He thinks he knows what the assignment is.
 (C) He has to tell her how far she should go.
 (D) The professor told them to read the chapters after the exam.
2. (A) The man should take the pie out.
 (B) The man should try something else.
 (C) The man shouldn't try cherry pie.
 (D) The man should feel sorry.
3. (A) He knows the movie starts at 8:00.
 (B) He is not quite sure when the movie begins.
 (C) He thinks the start of the movie has been changed.
 (D) He will start the movie himself at 8:00.
4. (A) Not doing the dishes now
 (B) Leaving the house with the dishes
 (C) Leaving later so that they can do the dishes now
 (D) Washing the dishes before they leave
5. (A) She's told Matt he'll go far.
 (B) Matt has far from enough talent.
 (C) She told Matt to roll farther.
 (D) She believes Matt has the ability for the part.
6. (A) They should go to the hospital.
 (B) Mary should visit the man.
 (C) The woman should try not to break her leg.
 (D) They should go on a trip with Mary.
7. (A) She knows where the children are.
 (B) The children have finished playing ball.
 (C) She's going to the park to find the children.
 (D) She believes that the children are in the park.
8. (A) The man should try to borrow some from a neighbor.
 (B) The man should take a check to Tom.
 (C) The man should work on his math assignment with Tom.
 (D) The man should check behind the door.
9. (A) He thinks the bill is due in the middle of the month.
 (B) The bill is approximately fifteen dollars.
 (C) He knows when they should pay the bill.
 (D) The bill is going to be fifteen days late.
10. (A) They should postpone their decision until morning.
 (B) They should go to sleep in the new house.
 (C) They should not buy such a big house.
 (D) They should decide where to go to sleep.

SKILL 13: LISTEN FOR EMPHATIC EXPRESSIONS OF SURPRISE

Emphatic expressions of surprise are common in the short dialogues, so you should become familiar with them. When surprise is expressed, it implies that the speaker did not expect something to be true.

Example from the Paper and Computer TOEFL® Tests

On the recording, you hear:

(woman) *Did you see Paul driving around in his Mustang?*

(man) *Then he DID get a new car.*

(narrator) *What had the man thought?*

In your test book or on the computer screen, you read:

(A) Paul would definitely get a Mustang.

(B) Paul did not know how to drive.

(C) Paul did not like Mustangs.

(D) Paul would not get a new car.

In this dialogue the emphatic form *he did get* is used to show the man's surprise that Paul got a new car. It means that the man expected that Paul *would not get* a new car, so the best answer is answer (D).

The following chart outlines various ways to express emphatic surprise:

EXPRESSIONS OF EMPHATIC SURPRISE			
Verb	Emphatic Form	Example	Meaning
be modal present tense	be, with emphasis modal, with emphasis do(es), with emphasis	Then he <u>is</u> here! Then you <u>can</u> go! Then you <u>do</u> play tennis!	I thought he was not here. I thought you could not go. I thought you did not play tennis.
past tense perfect tense	did, with emphasis have, with emphasis	Then she <u>did</u> read it. Then he <u>has</u> gone there.	I thought she had not read it. I thought he had not gone there.

EXERCISE 13: In this exercise, underline the expression of emphatic surprise in each short dialogue. Then read the question and choose the best answer to that question. Remember that the best answer is one that shows surprise.

- (man) *I just got 600 on the TOEFL test!*

(woman) *Then you did pass.*

(narrator) *What had the woman assumed?*

(A) The man had not passed.
(B) The man would pass easily.
(C) The man had already passed.
(D) The man got the score he was expected to get.

2. (woman) *Would you like to go skiing this weekend?*
 (man) *So you can ski!*
 (narrator) *What had the man assumed?*
- (A) The woman was a good skier.
 (B) The woman was going skiing this weekend.
 (C) The woman did not know how to ski.
 (D) The woman did not intend to go skiing.
3. (man) *I just got this letter from my sister.*
 (woman) *So the mail has come already.*
 (narrator) *What had the woman assumed?*
- (A) The man's sister never wrote to him.
 (B) The mail had not yet arrived.
 (C) The mail always came early.
 (D) The mail had already arrived.

TOEFL EXERCISE 13: In this exercise, listen carefully to each short dialogue and question on the recording, and then choose the best answer to the question. You should be particularly careful of expressions of emphatic surprise.



NOW BEGIN THE RECORDING AT TOEFL EXERCISE 13.

1. (A) Greg always comes to parties.
 (B) Greg would come to the party later.
 (C) Greg was unable to attend the party.
 (D) Greg would stay at the party for only a moment.
2. (A) The woman always rode her motorcycle to school.
 (B) The woman was not coming to school today.
 (C) The woman was an expert motorcycle rider.
 (D) The woman did not know how to ride a motorcycle.
3. (A) The man was not a very good cook.
 (B) The man never invited friends over for dinner.
 (C) The man would never invite him over for dinner.
 (D) The man was an excellent cook.
4. (A) The woman had run more than three miles.
 (B) The woman always got lots of exercise.
 (C) The woman ran for three hours in the morning.
 (D) The woman had not gotten much exercise.
5. (A) He had been somewhere else.
 (B) He had been in the library.
 (C) He had been working on his research project.
 (D) He would start working on his project in five hours.
6. (A) He had changed apartments.
 (B) He did not like his new apartment.
 (C) He was still in his old apartment.
 (D) He had moved from a house to an apartment.
7. (A) The woman did not like desserts.
 (B) The woman ate sweets regularly.
 (C) The woman would not share her chocolate cake.
 (D) The woman had eaten his piece of cake.
8. (A) The man was going to study hard.
 (B) The man already had a driver's license.
 (C) The man would not take the test.
 (D) The man had already taken the test.

9. (A) She had registered in physics.
 (B) She would go to physics class later.
 (C) She had already taken a physics class.
 (D) She had not enrolled in physics.
10. (A) The pipes were not clear.
 (B) The plumber would be late.
 (C) The plumber had already cleared the pipes.
 (D) The pipes did not need to be cleared.

TOEFL EXERCISE (Skills 11–13): In this exercise, listen carefully to each short dialogue and question on the recording, and then choose the best answer to the question.



NOW BEGIN THE RECORDING AT TOEFL EXERCISE (SKILLS 11–13).

1. (A) She plans to talk a lot this month.
 (B) She has a lot to say about the phone bill.
 (C) The bill is high because she has a lot to say.
 (D) She agrees with the man.
2. (A) Bill had never really been sick.
 (B) Bill was too sick to come to class.
 (C) Bill was sick of calculus class.
 (D) Bill had forgotten about the calculus class that morning.
3. (A) The man should go out tonight.
 (B) The man should stay home and relax.
 (C) The man should work on the paper tonight.
 (D) The man should go out Monday instead.
4. (A) The cafeteria was open in the morning.
 (B) The cafeteria did not serve breakfast.
 (C) The breakfast in the cafeteria was not very tasty.
 (D) The woman never ate breakfast in the cafeteria.
5. (A) He believes that it is acceptable to park there.
 (B) The parking lot is too far from their destination.
 (C) He knows that they won't get a ticket.
 (D) He knows where the parking lot is.
6. (A) He would be glad to say it over again.
 (B) He would like the woman to repeat what she said.
 (C) He says that he would like to take the class again.
 (D) He's happy the class is over, too.
7. (A) He finished all the problems.
 (B) He doesn't believe what the woman said.
 (C) He was able to finish some of the problems.
 (D) Both he and the woman were unsuccessful on the math problems.
8. (A) The man had mailed the package.
 (B) The man had forgotten to go to the post office.
 (C) The man had given the package to the woman to mail.
 (D) The man remembered the package after he went to the post office.
9. (A) They should take both cars.
 (B) The woman should try not to be afraid.
 (C) The woman should buy a bigger car.
 (D) They should go together in his car.
10. (A) He wants to know if the muffins taste good.
 (B) He thinks the muffins were recently prepared.
 (C) The muffins are not really fresh.
 (D) He's sure that the muffins were just made.

TOEFL REVIEW EXERCISE (Skills 1–13): In this exercise, listen carefully to each short dialogue and question on the recording, and then choose the best answer to the question.



NOW BEGIN THE RECORDING AT TOEFL REVIEW EXERCISE (SKILLS 1–13).

1. (A) Write a message to the man
(B) Make some phone calls
(C) Respond to the man's questions
(D) Get a new phone installed
2. (A) She's not sure if she's free.
(B) She's marked it on her calendar.
(C) She'll write a check for the calendar.
(D) Her calendar says she has to have a meeting at 3:00.
3. (A) He barely rode the bicycle.
(B) He didn't have enough money.
(C) The bicycle didn't need to be paid for.
(D) He paid for the bicycle.
4. (A) She fixed the television.
(B) Bob made the television work.
(C) The woman looked at Bob on television.
(D) Bob works for the woman.
5. (A) He helped her say what she couldn't say.
(B) She was unable to say anything about him.
(C) He hasn't helped her very much.
(D) What he said was very helpful.
6. (A) The man should spend more time on registration.
(B) The man should walk more quickly through registration.
(C) The man should send in his registration materials.
(D) The man should try to avoid registering next semester.
7. (A) He couldn't find Paula's phone number, so he didn't call her.
(B) He couldn't give Paula the list over the phone.
(C) When he went to call Paula, he couldn't find the list.
(D) He couldn't recollect the number that was on the list.
8. (A) She couldn't take her luggage to the store.
(B) She stored her luggage at the train station.
(C) She carried her luggage from the train station to the store.
(D) There were no lockers for her bags.
9. (A) The woman had taken a different major.
(B) The woman had chosen psychology as a major.
(C) The woman was uninformed.
(D) The woman needed to see a psychiatrist.
10. (A) She would like the man to repeat what he said.
(B) She thinks the exam could have been a little more difficult.
(C) She shares the same opinion of the exam as the man.
(D) She believes that the exam was easy.

CONTRARY MEANINGS

SKILL 14: LISTEN FOR WISHES

Conversations about wishes can appear in the short dialogues. The important idea to remember about wishes is that a wish implies that *the opposite of the wish is true*.