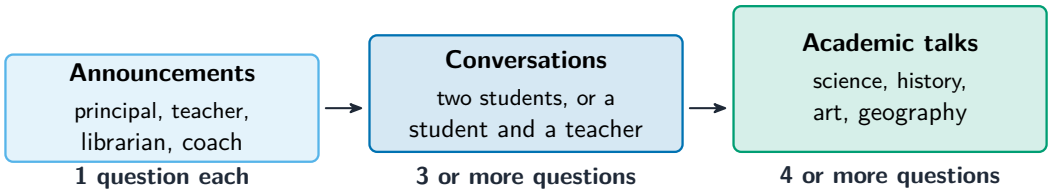
TOEFL Junior · Listening Comprehension

Original teaching notes and invented examples; not ETS test items.

News, chat, lesson



> 42 questions in 40 minutes, and every recording plays once

The new plan wins

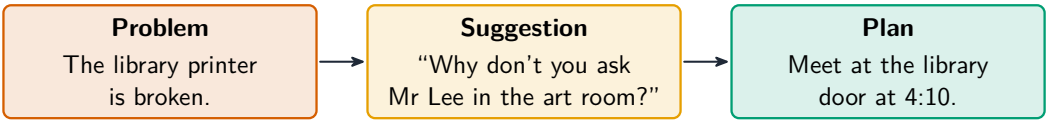
An announcement

"The science fair was going to be in the gym, but the floor is being repaired, so it will be in the cafeteria instead. Please bring your projects before eight thirty on Wednesday."

Notice

Change words (was going to, but, instead) point at the answer. The gym is the old plan.

The shape of a school conversation



Problem → suggestion → plan; why questions point at the middle, next questions at the end

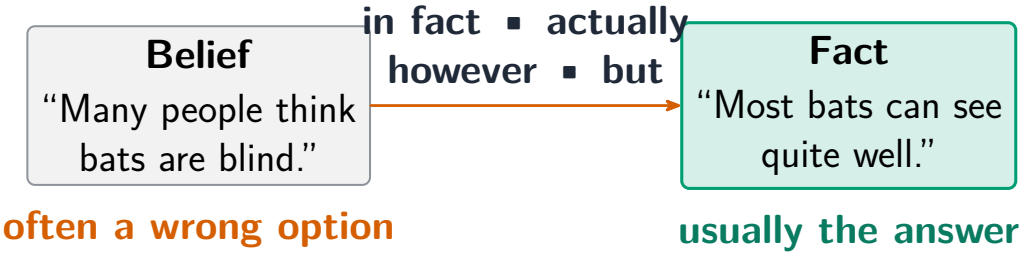
Hearing feelings

The speaker says	The feeling
“Again? That’s the third time.”	annoyed
“Perfect!”	pleased
“Great, another test,” with a sigh	not happy at all

Use the evidence

People rarely name their feelings. Tone and small words tell you.

Belief, then fact



After in fact, actually, however or but comes the idea to remember

Notes in two columns

Topic: emperor penguins survive winter (3 ways)	
main points	details
1 feathers + fat	several layers, tightly packed
2 huddle	outside → middle, all take turns
3 save energy	move little; dads 2 months, no food

Main points on the left, one detail each on the right, never full sentences

The four trap shapes

Question: Why do emperor penguins huddle?

Correct
same meaning, new words
"They take turns in the warm middle."

Echo
same words, changed meaning
"The middle penguins stay outside."

True but not asked
in the talk, answers another question
"Their feathers are tightly packed."

Too big
always, all, every: more than was said
"All penguins huddle all year."

> Match the meaning of the question, not the words of the talk

Your turn: spot the trap

Your turn

The teacher said: “Penguin fathers keep the eggs warm on their feet for about two months.” Which option is the echo trap?

A. The fathers look after the eggs.

B. The fathers keep their feet warm with eggs.

C. The eggs need warmth for about two months.

D. The fathers stay with the eggs for weeks.

Listening habits to drop

The habit

Translating word by word, waiting for a word you know.

Choosing the option with the most familiar words.

Worrying about the question you missed.

The fix

Follow the plan of the talk; topic, points, result.

Choose the option that means what you heard.

Guess, mark it, and listen to the next one.

Try it: Coach Ruiz

An announcement

"Basketball practice is usually on Tuesday, but this week the gym is being used for exams. So we'll practise outside on the field on Thursday instead. Bring water and a cap, because it'll be sunny."

Notice

Main idea, a change to practice. Where? On the field. The gym is the old plan.

Check yourself

- Each recording plays once: answer, then get ready.
- A plan changes: the new plan, after instead or but.
- Many people think…, but in fact…: the part after in fact.
- Familiar words in an option? Check the meaning: it may be an echo.