Inside the *TOEFL*® Test - Listening Gist-Content & Gist-Purpose Questions

People in this video

Michael
Female Student
Male Coach

Intro

[music playing]

Michael: Hi, I'm Michael from ETS. Today on Inside the TOEFL Test, we're going inside the *TOEFL iBT*® Listening section. Specifically, the gist-content and gist-purpose questions.

On-screen:
Inside the TOEFL® Test – Listening
Gist-Content
Gist Purpose

Michael: The gist of something is the main point or key idea. In the *TOEFL iBT*® test, Gist-content questions ask you to identify the main topic or idea of the listening conversation or lecture.
Gist-purpose questions ask you to identify what the main purpose of the conversation or lecture is.
You can recognize gist-content and gist-purpose questions because they use phrases like “mainly about”, "mainly discussing", "why does the student” or “what is the main purpose."

On-screen: Question Structure
Gist - Main point or key idea

Gist-Content- Main idea
Gist- purpose- Why is this happening?

Recognizing the Question Type
Gist-Content Gist-Purpose

- Mainly about
- Mainly discussing
- Why does the student...?
- What is the main purpose…?

Michael: Here are two things to keep in mind when answering gist-content and gist-purpose questions:
In the Listening section, there will always be either a gist-content question or a gist-purpose question, but never both. This question will always be the first question after listening to the passage. Also, sometimes the lectures and conversations can have 2 main ideas. In this case, the gist-content or gist-purpose question may ask you to choose 2 of the 4 answer options, instead of just one.

On-screen:
Gist-Content or Gist- purpose
Always the first question

Sometimes two main ideas
[displays blurred out question and answer option with instructions "Click on 2 answers."]
[shows image of cursor selecting 2 answers]

Michael: Let's look at some sample gist-content and gist-purpose questions. First we'll listen to part of a conversation between a coach and a student catching up on what happened while the student was away.

On-screen: Sample Questions

[image of female student and male coach in an office is displayed]

MALE COACH: Hi, Elizabeth.
FEMALE STUDENT: Hey, Coach. I just thought I'd stop by to see what I missed while I was gone.
MALE COACH: Well, we've been working real hard on our plan for the next game . . . I've asked Susan to go over it with you before practice this afternoon, so you'll know what we're doing.
FEMALE STUDENT: Okay.
MALE COACH: By the way, how did your brother's wedding go?
FEMALE STUDENT: Oh, it was beautiful. And the whole family was there. I saw aunts and uncles and cousins I hadn't seen in years.
MALE COACH: So it was worth the trip.
FEMALE STUDENT: Oh definitely. I'm sorry I had to miss practice, though. I feel bad about that.