

## Recognizing Implied Meaning

### Section I, Listening Comprehension Skills, Part A, Language Skills

★ 文法上の文の形から考えられる意味と異なる意味を実際には表していることがあります

In all parts of the Listening Comprehension Section, you will hear statements that derive their meaning from the way they are said. Their grammatical form may be different from their meaning. These statements are used to express surprise, disappointment, sarcasm, agreement, uncertainty, dismay, and others. The grammatical form could be a question form that is meant as a statement or a statement form that is spoken as a question. Look at these examples.

☆ それぞれの文型で、本当に言いたいことは何ですか？

#### ■ Question Form/Statement Meaning

Falling Intonation	Expected Answer
How difficult this is to understand!	Yes. It's extremely difficult.

The speaker is not asking how difficult something is, but is making a statement: "This is very difficult."

Falling intonation	Expected Answer
Aren't they wonderful!	Yes. They're fabulous.

The speaker is not asking us if they are wonderful, but is making a statement telling us: "how wonderful they are."

#### ■ Statement Form/Question Intonation

Rising Intonation	Expected Answer
The class starts at 8 a.m.?	Yes, 8 a.m. every morning.

If a speaker uses question intonation with a statement, no question is being asked. Rather, the speaker is expressing shock or surprise by repeating the information. In this case, the speaker does not want to believe that the class begins at 8 a.m.

#### ■ Tag Question/Positive Answer

Rising Intonation	Expected Answer
You're my lab partner, aren't you?	Yes, I am.

A tag question usually asks for confirmation of what you already know. In this case, the expected answer is "Yes, I am your lab partner." If the tag question is negative (aren't you), a positive answer is expected, but not required. It could be negative.

### ■ Tag Question/Negative Answer

Rising intonation	Expected Answer
This isn't the last class before the test, is it?	No, it isn't.

The speaker hopes there IS another class, and expects the listener to give support by saying, "No, there is one more class before the test." If the tag question is positive (is it?), a negative answer is expected, but not required. It could be positive. This could be the last test before the exam.

### ■ Emotion: Challenge

Rising Intonation	Expected Answer
You have a problem with that?	No, absolutely not.

The speaker wants to do something one's own way and is challenging the listener. The statement form with a rising intonation is used. Unless the listener has major objections, the answer is probably "No, problem!"

Falling Intonation	Expected Answer
Who says we can't?	Do what you want.

The speaker changes the question intonation to a statement intonation to express defiance. Nobody's permission is expected or requested.

### ■ Emotion: Surprise

Undulating Intonation	Expected Answer
You could have fooled me.	(none)

This kind of statement usually appears in the last line of a dialogue. The intonation goes up and down to express surprise. This statement means: "I didn't think it was possible."

### ■ Emotion: Sarcasm

Undulating Intonation	Expected Answer
Just what I need.	(none)

This kind of statement usually appears in the last line of a dialogue. The intonation goes up and down to express sarcasm. This statement means: I don't need anymore.

Note: if the intonation rises on the word *need*, then the speaker apparently does, indeed, needs more.

■ Emotion: Sympathy

Falling Intonation	Expected Answer
What a shame!	Yes, it is.

Although this statement begins with a question word, the intonation falls rather than rises. The speaker is not asking if something is a shame, but thinks it *is* a shame and expects agreement.

Undulating Intonation	Expected Answer
How sad they must be.	Yes, devastated.

The speaker is not asking how sad people are, but feels sure they are sad. This statement expresses empathy with them.

■ Emotion: Disbelief

Stress on Subject	Expected Answer
How Bill was elected president, I'll never understand.	Me, neither.

Here the emphasis is usually on the word *I'll*. Obviously some people thought he should be elected, but not the speaker who does not understand how he could get enough votes.

Stress on Modal	Expected Answer
I can't believe this.	Me, neither.

Here the emphasis is usually on the modal, in this case, *can't*. Obviously some people do believe it, but the speaker finds it incomprehensible.

☆ アメリカ英語に特有な発音にどのようなものがありますか？



Test Tip

The Listening Comprehension Section attempts to approximate the way some Americans sometimes speak English. Words like *No* becomes *Naah*; *Yes* becomes *Yeah*; *Want to* becomes *Wanna*; *Did you* becomes *Didja*. Agreement is expressed with the sound *uh HUH* with the accent on the second syllable. Disagreement is expressed with the sound *UH uh* with the accent on the first syllable. Listen carefully to the examples on the audiotape for this study section.

## Practice 17 Track 08

☆ 会話文について、読むだけの場合と、音声を聞く場合とでどのように異なりますか？

In this exercise you will get practice with the type of conversations used in Part A. You will also get practice in learning how to recognize the meanings implied by the intonation of the speakers.

Read the short conversations and circle the true meaning of the underlined word, phrase, or sentence. You may find it more difficult to understand the meaning of the conversations when you only read them. But you can get the gist of what is said from the context and your own expectations. When you hear the conversations in the next Practice section, however, the meaning will be much clearer because you will be able to hear the intonations.

### Conversation 1

Man: The professor asked us to bring heavy gloves when we come to the lab.

Woman: She got rid of the snakes, didn't she?

Narrator: What is implied about the woman?

- (A) The professor has removed the snakes.
- (B) The professor has not removed the snakes yet.

### Conversation 2

Man: You should bring your résumé when you come for the interview.

Woman: I have my résumé, letters of recommendation, and my medical records. He'll already have my college transcripts, won't he?

Narrator: What won't she bring?

- (A) My transcripts will be there already.
- (B) My transcripts will not have arrived yet.

### Conversation 3

Woman: Did you hear? They've closed the school because the maintenance union is on strike.

Man: Get out of here!

Narrator: What does the man mean by that?

- (A) I can't believe such good news.
- (B) Go away and don't bother me.

#### Conversation 4

Man: Congratulations. You have the winning lottery number. You've won a million dollars a year for the rest of your life.

Woman: No! You're pulling my leg. Who is this, really?

Narrator: How does the woman feel?

(A) Please, stop touching my leg.

(B) You're kidding me.

#### Conversation 5

Woman: Dad, can I buy a car instead of going to college this year?

Man: Good thinking! Let me get my checkbook.

Narrator: What can be inferred about the father?

(A) Are you crazy?

(B) You're right. A car is more important than a college education.

#### Conversation 6

Man: Do you think our mothers will let us go to the rock concert alone?

Woman: Yeah, that's going to happen.

Narrator: What are they saying about their mothers?

(A) Our mothers will never let us go unescorted.

(B) Our mothers trust us and let us go wherever we want by ourselves.

#### Conversation 7

Man: My dog ran away from home yesterday and I can't sleep worrying about her.

Woman: Oh, I'm so sorry. But don't worry. She'll come back. They always do.

Narrator: Why did the woman say she was sorry?

(A) I feel sad that your dog is gone.

(B) I'm worried about your dog.

#### Conversation 8

Man: I lost my wallet with all my money.

Woman: What a shame! And an inconvenience!

Narrator: What can be inferred about the loss of the wallet?

(A) You should feel ashamed being so careless.

(B) Losing something is a terrible inconvenience.

**Conversation 9**

Woman: I got a C and I was sure I was going to get an A.

Man: I hate it when that happens.

Narrator: What does the man mean?

(A) It's unfortunate when one's expectations are not realized.

(B) I don't like the fact that you thought you deserved an A.

**Conversation 10**

Man: We've been at this bus stop for 15 minutes. I'm so sick of waiting around for her every time we go somewhere.

Woman: You think that's bad? She was two hours late for the movie. We missed the whole thing.

Narrator: What is the problem?

(A) Waiting 15 minutes is the worst thing.

(B) That was the least of her tardiness.

**Conversation 11**

Man: Do you want to study together this weekend? We can study a few hours and then take in a movie.

Woman: Sorry, I have to go with my family to a reunion at my uncle's house.

Narrator: What will the woman likely do this weekend?

(A) I can't study because I have family obligations.

(B) I wish I didn't have to go to my uncle's house.

**Conversation 12**

Woman: My parents are in town. Want to\* come to dinner with us?

Man: I wish you had asked sooner. Can I get a raincheck?

Narrator: What does the man mean?

(A) I'd like to come, but it's raining.

(B) I have other obligations so I can't come.

**Conversation 13**

Man: Wanna\* catch a movie?

Woman: What time?

Narrator: What is the woman implying?

(A) Sure, I'd love to.

(B) I don't have time now.

\*"Would you like to" in informal spoken conversation between friends can become "want to" or "wanna"

#### Conversation 14

Man: If you're free Saturday, how about a swim and a picnic?

Woman: We can hike down by the river if you want to.

Narrator: What does the woman suggest?

(A) Yes, a swim and a picnic is a great idea and we can hike too.

(B) I'd rather go hiking.

#### Conversation 15

Man: We missed you at the meeting this morning. I thought we agreed to meet at eight?

Woman: Eight a.m.? I thought you meant p.m.

Narrator: What will the woman likely do next?

(A) Is it already 8 o'clock?

(B) Did I get the time wrong?

#### Conversation 16

Man: I just got done with Mrs. Adams' exam. I can't believe I forgot to do the whole second page! It was on the back. I didn't even see it. I'm going to fail, lose my scholarship, and get kicked out of the university.

Woman: Com'on\*, Bob. It's a small part of your grade. Get a grip on yourself. You're falling apart.

Narrator: What does the woman advise Bob?

(A) Don't panic. Stay calm.

(B) Hold onto something so you don't fall over.

#### Conversation 17

Man: This Friday I finish my last exam of the semester. Let's celebrate and go out to dinner and maybe even dancing?

Woman: It's a deal! But dinner is on me.

Narrator: What does the woman mean?

(A) Great idea. I'll pick up the check though.

(B) It's too much trouble to go there. It's a big deal.

\*Informal spoken form of "come on"

**Conversation 18**

Man: Why do we have to put up with Mark? He is the most boring man I've ever met.

Woman: I'll second that.

Narrator: What does the woman think about Mark?

(A) He's the second most boring person I've met.

(B) I agree. He's the most boring person ever.

**Conversation 19**

Woman: Dad, I hate to tell you this, but I only got a C in physics.

Man: You'd better bring that up next term!

Narrator: What is the father telling his daughter to do?

(A) Don't talk to me about it now. Wait until next term.

(B) You should raise your grade next semester.

**Conversation 20**

Man: You go to school, work, and take care of your family? Well, you'd better find time to do the work in this course, too!

Woman: I guess I could stop sleeping.

Narrator: What is she implying?

(A) She doesn't have enough time to study.

(B) She's getting too much sleep.

**Conversation 21**

Man: If you're going to the bookstore, couldya\* see if they still have copies of the history textbook?

Woman: Why din'tya\*\* get it sooner?

Narrator: What will the woman probably do?

(A) Why didn't you get me one?

(B) You should have planned in advance.

\*Informal spoken form of "could you"

\*\*Informal spoken form of "didn't you"