

Skill 2: Analyzing the Photo

Some TOEIC test questions ask for information about the photo. You will need to analyze the photo and practice describing what is happening in the photo.

Sample TOEIC Test Question



- You will hear:
- (A) *They're looking at some papers.*
 - (B) *They're standing outside.*
 - (C) *They're looking out the window.*
 - (D) *They're delivering newspapers.*

Answer

Choice (A), *They're looking at some papers*, best describes what you see in the photo. Choice (B) is incorrect because they are standing inside, not outside. Choice (C) is incorrect because they are talking, not looking out the window. Choice (D) is incorrect because one man is holding papers, but he is not delivering newspapers.

Skill Focus

When you analyze the photo, look for the overall focus. This is the main idea. Look at what seems to be happening and what people are doing. Describe the scene to yourself, but try to differentiate between key ideas and details. You may want to use *there is/there are* or the present continuous in your descriptions.

Here are some examples of main idea statements that fit the photo on page 7.

- Three people are looking at some papers.
- They are having a business meeting.
- A woman and two men are talking.
- They are discussing a document.

Now read the following detail statements. Compare them to the main idea statements.

- The woman is holding a pen.
- There are newspapers on the table.
- The men are wearing ties.
- There is a large window.

Both the main idea statements and the detail statements are true and fit the photo, but the main idea statements tell us important information about the photo.

For practice, look at other photos in the book and describe each scene to yourself. Concentrate on the main ideas.

Skill 2: Exercise

Circle the main idea in the following choices. Be prepared to explain your choices.

- (A) They're having a discussion.
(B) There are cups on the table.
(C) Their suits are very nice.
(D) They're wearing glasses.
- (A) A calendar is on the wall.
(B) It's a sunny day outside.
(C) A woman is on the phone.
(D) She has pens on her desk.
- (A) The plane is ready to leave.
(B) Pilots wear uniforms.
(C) It's ten o'clock in the morning.
(D) Flying is expensive.

TEST TIP

Main ideas are specific to the photo. They are not broad, general statements about a topic.

Examples:

Businesspeople make presentations. (broad, general statement)

The businessman is making a presentation. (main idea about a photo)