

# Especial English Corner

Descubre cómo el English Corner te ayuda a prepararte para tener éxito en el examen TOEIC

Parte 1: Listening “**Photographs**”





Throughout the following Special English Corners you will find a specific series dealing with TOEIC examination and providing hints, contents and explanations aimed at helping you improve your TOEIC results.

### Listening Section:

- **Part 1: Photographs**
- Part 2: Question-Response
- Part 3: Conversations
- Part 4: Short Talks

Following the TOEIC examination organization, we will start with contents useful for **Section 1: Listening**. As there are many things to deal with here, this present edition will help you succeed in the first part of the **Listening Section: Photographs**.

Listening skills are important for face-to-face communication, meetings, videoconferencing, podcasts and telephone conversations.

You will find below several points– either grammar, vocabulary or exam tips – useful for your success in the Photographs part of the Listening section.

[Authentic examination instructions]

**(Part 1) Photographs:** For each question in this part, you will hear four statements about a picture. When you hear the statements, you must select the one statement that best describes what you see in the picture. The statements will not be printed in your test book and will be spoken only one time.



## 1. Describing Trends

You can use a variety of phrases to discuss trends and statistics and using a varied vocabulary can improve your understanding and the quality of your writing. It is also useful to be able to use either verb phrases or noun phrases and include either adjectives or adverbs to give more accurate meanings. Remember that an adjective describes a noun and an adverb describes a verb:









*There was a sharp increase in profits.*

adjective      noun

*Profits increased sharply.*

verb      adverb

Here you have a handy list for reference:

					<b>Adverbs</b>
<b>Verb phrase</b>	rise increase grow improve soar take off climb rally escalate rocket	stay the same remain at... doesn't change is unchanged stabilize flatten out hold steady	fall decrease decline worsen drop plunge plummet slump slide crash dip	recover pick up bounce back	slightly gradually steadily significantly sharply dramatically considerably constantly
<b>Noun phrase</b>	<b>Adjectives</b>				
slight gradual steady significant sharp dramatic considerable constant	rise increase growth improvement climb	stabilization stagnation	fall decrease decline drop slump crash dip	trough	

As you can see, some verbs can also be used as nouns. Some of them are also irregular verbs. In the following table you can check this:



STEM	MOVEMENT	PAST	PAST PARTICIPLE	USED AS NOUN
increase		increased	increased	Yes
decrease		decreased	decreased	Yes
fall		fell	fallen	Yes
rise*		rose	risen	Yes
raise*		raised	raised	No

\* The verbs RISE /raɪs/ and RAISE /reɪs/. These verbs have the same meaning, but they are used differently. Look at the following examples:

Prices rose sharply.

Our suppliers raised their prices sharply.

Notice how in both sentences the prices went up. But in the first sentence they went up on their own. In the second sentence someone put them up. That is to say that RISE is an intransitive verb; it has no object so the element that increases is necessarily the subject. RAISE is just the opposite. It is a transitive verb and needs a subject (who or what is responsible for the increase) and an object (what goes up).

Therefore, you can use RISE when you want to avoid saying who is responsible for the change. For instance: The government raised the taxes = Taxes rose.

## 2. Present Tenses

### Present Simple

**Facts** those are always true.

*Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius.*

Something that is **regular**, such as a routine, custom or habit.

*In Madrid, the tourists meet in Puerta del Sol to start their walking tours.*

*Every Friday we finish work at 15:00.*

**States.**

*I don't like gangster films.*

**Events in a story** (plots, historic present) or a commentary on a game.

*...after 10 minutes, the protagonist gets hurt in a car crash.*

*When the second part begins my team scores a goal.*

To **criticize behavior** with **just**.

*He **just** watches movies all Sunday.*

*You **just** don't listen.*

With **state verbs and event verbs** (action or dynamic) which describe a continuing state (not normally used in continuous form).



To make **declarations**.

*I bet you don't know the answer!*

*I hereby declare this school open.*

**Headlines** (somewhat telegram style with past references simplified to present).

*Ship sinks in midnight collision.*

**Instructions and itineraries** (more personal note than in Imperative).

*First you roll out the pastry.*

*On day one we visit Cambridge.*

## Present Continuous

An action which is **happening at the moment**, in progress.

**Right now** *she is trying to park the car.*

*The dog is sleeping in the kitchen!*

An action or state which is **temporary**.

*He is sleeping in a Hotel **until he finds a flat**.*

*I am living in Italy **at present**.*

Repeated actions.

*My car has broken down, so I'm walking to work these days.*

An action **generally in progress** but not actually happening at the moment.

*I'm learning to drive.*

To give **background information**.

**As we walk into the school**, *all the children are playing in the playground.*

**Before starting the match**, *everybody is shouting.*

With verbs describing **change and development**.

*The weather is getting better!*

*More and more people are giving up smoking.*

To **criticize behavior** with **always, constantly, continually**.

*He's **always** watching the football on TV.*

*She is **constantly** telling me what to do.*



### 3. Presentations Vocabulary



1. Screen	Pantalla
2. Whiteboard	Pizarra blanca
3. Pointing stick	Puntero
4. Monitor	Monitor / pantalla
5. DVD Player	Reproductor de DVD
6. Remote (control)	Mando a distancia
7. Flipchart	Papelógrafo
8. Marker	Rotulador
9. Tablet	Tableta
10. Laptop	Portátil
11. Keyboard	Teclado
12. Projector	Proyector



#### 4. Preposition of Time and Place

	Time	Place
Preposition AT	<p>1. We use at to talk about a specific time or age:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At six o'clock (6 a.m. / p.m.)</li><li>• At midnight (12 a.m.)</li><li>• At the age of 16</li><li>• At quarter past three</li><li>• At midday</li></ul>	<p>We use at when we talk about an address / location or a certain point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I work at the office in Joseph Victor Street, not Dillon Street.</li><li>• The bank is at the end of the street.</li><li>• I'll meet you at the restaurant.</li><li>• You can leave your luggage at reception.</li></ul>
Preposition ON	<p>2. We use on to talk about a specific day or date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On the 25th December</li><li>• On the 16th May</li><li>• On Sunday mornings</li><li>• On Monday</li></ul>	<p>We use on when we talk about an address but we give only the street name and not the building number:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I work on Park Street.</li><li>• The bank / restaurant is on Rooney Street.</li></ul>
Preposition IN	<p>3. We use in to talk about a period of time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In spring / summer / autumn / winter</li><li>• In January / February</li><li>• In the morning / the afternoon, the evening (BUT, at night)</li><li>• In 1990, 2001 etc.</li></ul>	<p>We use in when we talk about a town, a village, a city, a country or a room:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I live in Madrid.</li><li>• She works in Austria but lives in Switzerland.</li><li>• The meeting is in the main conference room.</li><li>• It's too cold to wait here outside; I'll meet you in the restaurant.</li><li>• We're meeting at the restaurant tonight.</li></ul>
Important Notes	<p>We do not use at/on/in before this / last / every / next.</p> <p>i.e. They are having a meeting this morning (NOT in this morning)</p> <p>He visits his client every Monday (NOT on every Monday)</p>	<p>We can use at or in to talk about a building:</p> <p>IN means inside only.</p> <p>AT means inside, in the grounds or just outside.</p>



## Examples:

### Tips and Tricks for this part:

1. Scan the picture first and ask yourself the following questions:
  - Who is in the picture?
  - How many people are there in the photo?
  - What objects are visible?
  - What is happening?
  - What are the objects made of?
  - Where is it?
  - What are the professions of the people?
  - What are they doing?
  - What are they wearing? Etc.
2. Avoid making hypothetical assumptions about the picture. Select the sentence that clearly describes what is happening. Be careful with distractors!
3. Listen carefully to the complete statement, some of them may only be partially true.
4. Students should answer the questions as soon as they are sure about the answer and quickly scan the next photo so they can be one question ahead.
5. Be careful with similar-sounding words and homonyms, remember they have the same spelling and pronunciation BUT different meanings.





**Picture # 1**



**Example 1.1.1. Now listen to the four statements:**

- (A) They are sitting around a table
- (B) The white woman is behind the black man
- (C) The white-haired man is between two women
- (D) The lap-top is over the table

ANSWER: A

**Example 1.1.2. Now listen to the four statements:**

- (A) The white-haired man is pointing at the woman
- (B) They are taking notes
- (C) The white woman is putting some hand-outs into the folder
- (D) The girl on the right is pointing at the black man

ANSWER: D

**Picture # 2:**



**Example 1.2.1. Now listen to the four statements:**



- (A) The projector is pointing to the right
  - (B) The militaries are next to each other
  - (C) There are name stands in front of each attendee
  - (D) The floral arrangement is next to the table
- ANSWER: B

**Example 1.2.2. Now listen to the four statements:**

- (A) The man in the center is chairing the meeting
  - (B) All the folders are open
  - (C) The chairman is speaking
  - (D) They are looking at the screen
- ANSWER: A

**Picture # 3:**



**Example 1.3.1. Now listen to the four statements:**

- (A) The man is pointing to the whiteboard
  - (B) The people on the left are taking notes
  - (C) The graph shows a decrease in sales
  - (D) The man is showing some figures
- ANSWER: B

**Example 1.3.2. Now listen to the four statements:**

- (A) The man elbows are on the table
  - (B) The presenter is standing next to the screen
  - (C) The whiteboard is opposite the screen
  - (D) They are sitting around the table
- ANSWER: B