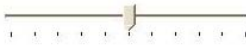


## Answer short question

This is a short-answer item type that integrates speaking and listening skills, and requires you to understand a recorded question and provide a brief and accurate response.

*You will hear a question. Please give a simple and short answer. Often just one or a few words is enough.*

Status: Beginning in 3 seconds.

Volume 

**Recorded Answer**

Current Status:  
Beginning in 8 seconds.

### Item Type Strategies

**Strategy 1**

Activate your background knowledge to answer the question. Identify the topic and think about what you already know about it.

**Strategy 2**

Try to infer the meaning of unfamiliar words from the context.

**Strategy 3**

Listen for the “direction” words which will help you interpret the question accurately.

### Explanation and Practice of Each Strategy

**Strategy 1**

This item type will test the skills and knowledge that you have acquired through education and experience. Although the questions include topics of academic interest, these are generally things that are commonly known.

To increase your general knowledge, read more books, journals and articles online, which will also help you acquire more vocabulary and develop word skills. Improving long-term memory will result in retaining more information. You should make connections between different information you learn, which will help you remember any information you need.

This strategy will not only lead to better test results, but will also help you improve your general language ability and academic study.

To practice this strategy, do the following activities:

- Come up with some academic topics, e.g., *cardiology*, *hemispheres*, *astronomy*, and think about what you know about each one and provide some definitions.
- Choose a topic and list any associated words.

### Strategy 2

Questions associated with this item type will be based on academic language, and you should try to build good academic vocabulary knowledge. This will also help you figure out the meaning of any unfamiliar words in context.

To practice this strategy, do the following activities:

- Read the following question: *If telescopes are used to locate distant objects, what instrument is employed to magnify miniscule objects?* Look at the word *telescope* and identify the context clues, e.g., explanation of function or purpose – *to locate distant objects*; category – *instrument*.
- Now look at the word *miniscule* and identify the context clues, e.g., verb clues – *magnify* (to make things look bigger).

### Strategy 3

The question will contain some “direction” words that will help you identify what type of information you are required to provide. These direction words usually carry stress and stand out.

To practice this strategy, do the following activities:

- Look at the question: *If telescopes are used to locate distant objects, what instrument is employed to magnify miniscule objects?* and identify the “direction” words (*instrument*, *magnify*). What other “instrument” is mentioned in the question? (*telescope*). Think about names of all scientific instruments you know. What magnifying instruments do you know? (*spectacles*, *binoculars*, *microscopes*)
- Read the question and provide the answer (*microscope*).

## Respond to an Answer Short Question Item

You will now respond to a test item simulating the test conditions. Remind yourself of the three strategies for this item type and apply them.

Play the audio [L5\_Answer\_short\_question\_1], and record your responses using the recording device on your mobile phone or computer.

## Assess your response

Were you able to use the strategies? Which one was the most difficult to apply? Which one do you think was the most useful?

Read the correct and incorrect answers.

## Item 1: Transcript and Answer Key

### Transcript

*What organ do cardiologists specialize in?*

### Correct answer:

(the) heart, hearts

### Incorrect answer(s):

(the) body, medicine, lungs, liver, stomach, skin, kidneys