



## How Can I Predict Answers for Tables?

**Aim:** This section will help you to answer 'Table-completion' questions better by showing you how to look for clues.

**Problems:** Many candidates don't look for clues in the question paper before they listen.

**Look at the table below:**

Questions 1 to 6 - Richard and Lindsay are at a second-hand bookstore looking for travel books to plan their round-the-world trip.

Countries covered	Title	Price
.....(1).....	Travels through the Andes	\$12.99
Belgium, Luxembourg & Holland	.....(2).....	.....(3).....
North American continent	Canada & The U.S.: A traveler's guide	.....(4).....
.....(5).....	Traveling in the Baltic states	.....(6).....

Tip: If you look at the existing information in the table, you will be able to predict possible answers quite easily.

### Questions 1 and 5

In the example above, the first two columns are related; therefore you can predict questions 1 & 5 by looking at the titles in the 'Title' column - depending on how good your geography is:

#### Question 1

Travels through the Andes - South American continent / countries (e.g.: Chile / Peru / Uruguay).

#### Question 5

Traveling through the Baltic States - Latvia / Estonia etc.

#### Question 2

With the second column you have lots of clues with the other titles, BUT... be careful! The people who write the test often make it look too easy for you to guess with some questions and this is a good example. There is the word 'travel' in all of the other titles and the listening is about people buying travel books, so you will automatically expect the word 'travel' to appear in the answer to



question 2. It might, but it probably won't - because it is too easy; the title will be something to do with traveling, but it might be worded differently. Be very careful of questions like these because you can miss an easy answer.

**Questions 3, 4 & 6**

The third column is concerned with numbers (see 'Useful hints for numbers'). The numbers are all book prices so they will probably contain 3 or 4 figures - somewhere between \$1.00 & \$99.99; it is unlikely that any books will be more expensive. There will be traps set for you by the people who write the test; usually this is done by mixing up numbers in the 'teen' range (e.g.: fourteen) and multiples of ten (e.g. forty). These numbers sound very similar with the long /l:/ and short /l/ sounds respectively. Also, the speakers on the tape might change their minds so that the first number you hear isn't the correct one (see 'Listening: How can I answer True/False questions better').

**Practice**

Have a go predicting what the answers might be in the following table:

Questions 1 to 6 - Peter & Amy are at a clothing warehouse looking for material for the university Drama Club's annual play.

Material	For	Price	Quantity
hessian	Angel Gabriel	.....GBP(1).....	10 sq.m
.....(2).....	Britney Spears	GBP13	.....(3).....
wool	shepherds	.....GBP(4).....	35 sq.m
.....(5).....	Three kings	GBP42.60	.....(6).....

Check with the suggested [Answer Key](#)

[http://www.ielstips.com/ielts\\_test\\_strategies/listening\\_test\\_strategies/how\\_can\\_i\\_predict\\_answers\\_for\\_tables?\\_answer\\_key.html](http://www.ielstips.com/ielts_test_strategies/listening_test_strategies/how_can_i_predict_answers_for_tables?_answer_key.html)

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