

TOEFL

托福捷徑

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序

近年來，參加托福考試的人愈來愈多，主要原因是許多學生希望到外國留學，而托福考試往往成為他們的重大障礙，考生只得幾個月的工夫來準備，在考試中未能有理想的成績，其中原因有：

(1)習慣傳統的「英」式的英文，未能融匯現代「美」式常用英語。

(2)準備考試的資料過時，缺乏完整性，掌握不到考試的趨勢。

(3)時間運用不當，不正確分配有限的考試時間，去增取更好的成績。

有見及此，本書經精心編輯，傾力搜集最新資料，歸納整理；精選托福考試中最常出現的題目和方式，針對考生的弱點，透過複習及模擬的試題，使考生從中吸收經驗，更能發揮本身的潛力。

其實，讀書應先貴精而後貴多，而且為求在短期內努力應付托福，本書正是你們所需的指引；能使你以最少的工夫，就能得到最大的效果。令讀者從書中得到莫大的裨益，正是我們出版的方針。謹此盼望各界不斷地給予批評和指正，以求盡善盡美。

編者 謹識

Introduction

You approach this examination in English as a Foreign Language with three important assistants: (1) confidence in yourself, (2) your current knowledge of English, and (3) whatever study and preparation you have already done.

1. *Self-Confidence.* To be at the stage of taking this test you must have been able to achieve a certain position or status that involved reading, writing, and speaking English. To be able to get along, particularly where the language you are using is not necessarily your own, indicates that you have ability to learn and to apply your learning to your daily life. It would be wrong to underestimate your own achievement in this area of development.

2. *Current Knowledge of English.* One of the factors that enables you to secure the feeling of confidence referred to above is your current ability to use English. It makes little difference whether you speak the language with an accent or whether you have difficulty in handling certain aspects of the written language — whatever knowledge of English you have at this moment is a positive force and a great advantage in your approach to this examination.

3. *Study and Preparation.* These two elements are important only because they act directly on your ability to handle the examination. Any class study you have been doing; any textbook preparation you have engaged in; any tutoring you have been receiving — all these should strengthen you specifically in the areas to be tested. And this is where this book comes in.

How to Prepare for the T.O.E.F.L. is designed specifically to assist you in becoming familiar with both the physical format of the examination and the content of the examination.

1. *The Format of the Examination.* One of the things that can puzzle and sometimes even frighten a person taking an examination is unfamiliarity with the physical format of the test. For this reason, this book is presented in a manner which is *identical* to that of the T.O.E.F.L. itself. You will find that the various areas of testing are printed in the exact order you will encounter on the test. This alone will help you to feel more comfortable and at ease with the test.

2. *Content.* The content, of course, closely parallels that of the T.O.E.F.L. Although it is impossible to reproduce the actual tests, this book will expose you to problems that are very similar to the actual test materials. In addition, and most importantly, this book contains much background and explanatory information so that you will be able to determine for yourself why answers are either right or wrong, and you will be able to learn for yourself the rules that govern grammar, sentence structure, vocabulary, and all the other aspects of the test.

You will find that this book, therefore, is much more than a mere drill book. Behind every drill stands the explanatory and illustrative material to make everything quite clear and understandable. The carry-over from this book into your more general life with English will be an added benefit.

Some General Hints

Since much of the material on the test involves the ability to comprehend what is written and what is said, it is important to be able to concentrate on clues and guides within whatever material is presented. Here are some hints to aid you.

For Written Materials

1. In many paragraphs the basic element being discussed is either mentioned directly or hinted at in the *first sentence*. This is frequently the *topic sentence* of the paragraph. In preparing to answer questions about any written paragraph, always make sure you read carefully and understand the first sentence.

2. In any well-written series of paragraphs there will be words or phrases indicating *transitions* between one paragraph and the next. Sometimes these transitions will indicate a *sequence of succeeding ideas*. This may be indicated by such words as:

thus, in this fashion, as we have seen, it follows that

When you see such words and phrases, you may feel confident that the ensuing paragraph further develops the thought of the previous one.

Sometimes, however, the transition may represent a turning away from or an actual contradiction of what has previously been set down. This kind of transition may be indicated by such words and phrases as:

however, despite this, on the other hand, but

In reading successive paragraphs, therefore, it is most important to grasp the direction of the transitional words and phrases.

3. In addition to the transition *between* paragraphs, there may also be transitions *within* paragraphs. These, on the whole, are shown by the same words and phrases that indicate transitions between paragraphs. The appearance of such transitional forms, wherever they occur, should act as a clue to the comprehension of whatever it is you read.

4. Important clues to the meanings of paragraphs are given by the use of names of persons, places, and things, and it is wise to pay particular attention to these in attempting to comprehend what is being said. This is also true of dates, times, or seasons that may be mentioned.

For Spoken Materials (The Listening Comprehension Sections)

In general the same rules apply here that are indicated for reading comprehension. The one major factor that is different, however, is the matter of inflection — tone of voice. On many occasions this quality can guide you to a correct understanding of what is being said. An example of the use of the tone of voice to indicate that what is meant is *directly opposite* to what is said comes from Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* when Mark Antony, in his funeral oration for Caesar, constantly refers to Brutus and the other conspirators as "honorable men." By his intonations his listener can gather that his attitude toward the murderers of his friend is one of loathing and hatred. This is something to listen for in the spoken portions of the test.

In addition to such a vocal device, clues to meaning and the importance of certain facts and details are usually given by emphasis and stress on certain words by the speaker. You must listen carefully, then, for words that are perhaps spoken more clearly or slower than others, or words and phrases that may even be spoken louder.

Vocabulary Review

The words listed in the Review of Vocabulary frequently appear on Part A of the Reading and Vocabulary Section of the TOFEL.

Remember that the definition given in this Review may not be the only definition of the word listed, but it will probably be the definition tested.

Study the words listed. Also study the words used in the definitions.

Write difficult words on individual note cards. Write the word on one side. Write the definition on the other side.

Keep some of the cards in your shirt pocket or in your purse. When you have time during the day, shuffle the cards and review them.

In this simple way, you will soon know all of the words on this list.

Abate v. to lessen; to subside. John pulled over to the side of the road to wait until the storm *abated*.

Abet v. to help; to aid. It is unlawful to aid and *abet* a criminal.

Abhor v. to hate; to detest. She *abhorred* all forms of discrimination on the basis of race or sex.

Abject adj. miserable; wretched. They were living in such *abject* poverty that they could not even afford the bare necessities.

Abruptly adv. suddenly; unexpectedly. The driver stopped the cab so *abruptly* that he was hit by the car behind him.

Absorbed adj. interested; engrossed. Bill did not hear the telephone because he was completely *absorbed* in his reading.

Accessory n. something added. Navy blue shoes and gloves would be perfect *accessories* for this white suit.

Accommodations n. a room and meals. The new tourist hotel will have *accommodations* for more than one thousand people.

Accomplice n. one who aids and abets a criminal. The police are still looking for the thief's *accomplice*.

Accost v. to meet someone and to speak first. The stranger *accosted* her as she was unlocking her door.

Accumulate v. to pile up; to collect. While the Lawrence family was on vacation, their mail *accumulated* in the box.

Accurate adj. correct. Her report is *accurate* and well written.

Acrid adj. sharp; bitter. This cigarette has an *acrid* taste; I guess I have been smoking too much today.

Adjacent adj. next to; adjoining. There is a parking lot *adjacent* to the auditorium.

Admonish v. to warn about; to advise against doing something. Her boss *admonished* her against being late for work again.

Adore v. to love greatly. Mr. Moore is quite a family man; he *adores* his wife and children.

Adroit adj. clever; skillful. Under the *adroit* direction of coach Lewis, the team finished the season with twelve wins and no losses.

Affluent adj. rich. Mr. Wilson must be very wealthy because his address is in the most *affluent* neighborhood in the city.

Aggravate v. to make worse. Smoking *aggravates* a cold.

Agile adj. lively. A dancer must do strenuous exercises in order to execute the *agile* movements of his art.

Agitate v. to disturb. Rumors of a strike *agitated* the workers.

Aglow adj. shining brightly. There was only one candle *aglow* on the baby's first birthday cake.

Ailment n. a mild illness. Mrs. Thompson is a hypochondriac; she was a new *ailment* every week.

Ajar adj. slightly open. She left the door *ajar* so that she could hear the conversation in the other room.

Akin adj. similar; related. Jealousy is often *akin* to love.

Albino n. a person or animal without normal pigmentation, characterized by pale skin, hair, and eyes. The white rat with pink eyes is an *albino*.

Alert adj. perceptive; quick. Although he was almost ninety years old, he was still active and *alert*.

Alleviate v. to lessen; to relieve. The nurse will give you something to *alleviate* the pain.

Alluring adj. tempting; enticing. She looked very *alluring* in her black evening dress.

Aloof adj. reserved; indifferent. Our neighbors are so *aloof* and unfriendly that they never speak to anyone.

Amateur adj. not professional; untrained. Only *amateur* athletes are eligible to participate in the Olympic Games.

Ambiguous adj. doubtful; uncertain. The directions were so *ambiguous* that it was impossible to complete the assignment.

Amicable adj. friendly. After months of negotiations, they arrived at an *amicable* settlement.

Amnesia n. a lapse of memory. He suffered from temporary *amnesia* as the result of a head injury.

Ample adj. adequate; enough. Richard's scholarship includes a very *ample* living allowance.

Amplify v. to make larger, more powerful. He will need a microphone to *amplify* his voice because the room is much too large for us to hear him without one.

Anguish n. great sorrow; pain. The injured soldier moaned in *anguish* until the doctor arrived.

Ankle n. the joint between the foot and the leg. He sprained his *ankle* in a skiing accident.

Anomalous adj. unusual. It is an *anomalous* situation; he is the director of the personnel office, but he does not have the authority to hire and dismiss staff.

Antique n. a very old and valuable object. These lamps, made in England during the fourteenth century, are valuable *antiques*.

Applaud v. to clap. The audience *applauded* at the end of the concert.

Appraisal n. an estimate of the value. Fifty thousand dollars would be a fair *appraisal* of their new house.

Appropriate adj. suitable. An arrangement of flowers is always an *appropriate* gift for someone in the hospital.

Arduous adj. demanding great effort; strenuous. Shoveling deep snow is far too *arduous* a task for a man of his age.

Arouse v. to spur; to incite. His refusal to walk through the metal detector before boarding the plane *aroused* the guard's suspicion.

Arraign v. to charge; to accuse. The suspects will be *arraigned* by the district court.

Arrogance n. haughtiness. The union officials resented the *arrogance* with which the company president dismissed their demands.

Aspire v. to strive toward; to seek eagerly. Three candidates *aspired* to win the election.

Assert v. to affirm an opinion. The witness *asserted* that the salesman was dishonest.

Asset n. a useful or valuable quality; finances. His insurance company estimates his *assets* at over three million dollars.

Assuage v. to ease; to lessen. Nothing could *assuage* his anger.

Astound v. to surprise greatly; to astonish. The results of his test *astounded* him; he had not expected to pass, and he received one of the highest possible scores.

Astray adv. away from the correct path or direction. Their neighbor asked them to keep their dog tied so that it would not go *astray*.

Audacious adj. bold; daring. The men who are chosen to become astronauts must be perfectly healthy, highly skilled in engineering, and *audacious* by nature.

Audible adj. able to be heard. She speaks so softly that her voice is not *audible* in the back of the room.

- Augment** v. to increase. Miss White *augments* her income by typing theses and dissertations.
- Autonomous** adj. free; independent. Just before the outbreak of the Civil War, the South declared itself to be an *autonomous* nation.
- Avarice** n. greed. She agreed to marry the aging millionaire more because of *avarice* than because of love.
- Aversion** n. intense dislike. He must have an *aversion* to work because he is always out of a job.
- Baffle** v. to confuse. Linda was *baffled* by the confusing road signs; she did not know whether to turn left or go straight.
- Bald** adj. without hair. The *bald* eagle is so named for the white feathers on top of its head which give it the appearance of being without hair.
- Ban** v. to declare that something must not be done; to prohibit. The law *bans* selling certain drugs without a prescription.
- Bar** n. a court of law. After passing his exams, he will be admitted to the *bar*.
- Barricade** n. a barrier, an obstruction. The highway patrol put up a *barricade* in front of the accident.
- Beckon** v. to signal with one's hand. She *beckoned* them to enter her office.
- Behavior** n. one's actions. He was on his best *behavior* because he wanted to impress his girl friend's family.
- Bellow** v. to shout loudly. Sergeant Black *bellowed* orders to his troops.
- Beneficiary** n. a person who receives money or property from an insurance policy or from a will. Mr. Johnson's wife was the sole *beneficiary* of his will.
- Beverage** n. a kind of drink. In some states it is illegal to sell alcoholic *beverages* on Sunday.
- Bewilder** v. to confuse. Since she did not speak a foreign language, she was *bewildered* by the menu at the international restaurant.
- Bicker** v. to quarrel. The meeting began with a review of the relevant issues, but it soon dissolved into small groups *bickering* over unimportant points of protocol.
- Bitter** adj. a sharp, acrid taste. Your coffee is *bitter* because you forgot to put sugar in it.
- Blame** n. responsibility. No-fault insurance does not require anyone to accept the *blame* for an auto accident in order to be reimbursed by the company.
- Blandishment** n. coaxing; persuasion by flattery. Despite his sister's *blandishments*, he refused to lie to their parents.
- Bleak** adj. cold and bare; cheerless. In winter, when the trees are bare and snow covers the ground, the landscape is very *bleak*.
- Blend** n. a mixture. This tea is a *blend* of lemon and herbs.

- Blithe** adj. carefree and gay; lighthearted. Connie's father calls her his *blithe* spirit because she is very lighthearted and carefree.
- Bizzard** n. a severe snowstorm. Since visibility is near zero, all planes will be grounded until the *blizzard* is over.
- Blunder** n. an error; a mistake. I think that I committed a *blunder* in asking her because she seemed very upset by my question.
- Blush** v. to flush. She always *blushes* when she is embarrassed.
- Boulder** n. a large rock. The crew was able to haul away the smaller rocks, but there are still some *boulders* at the construction site which were too heavy to move without bigger equipment.
- Boundary** n. border; limit. The *boundaries* of the Continental United States are Canada on the north, Mexico on the south, the Atlantic Ocean on the east and Pacific Ocean on the west.
- Boundless** adj. without limits. Mary Anne has *boundless* energy; she works full time as a secretary, goes to school at night, and serves as a hospital volunteer on weekends.
- Brandish** v. to shake or wave a weapon menacingly. When he *brandished* a knife, the clerk agreed to give him the money in the cash drawer.
- Brawl** n. a noisy fight; a quarrel. The *brawl* got louder and louder until the police arrived.
- Bribe** n. money or a gift used to influence someone to do something that he should not. Hoping to avoid a ticket, he offered the patrolman a *bribe*.
- Brim** n. the upper edge of anything hollow. Please do not fill my cup up to the *brim* because I always put a lot of cream in my coffee.
- Brink** n. the edge of a high place. The tourists walked over to the *brink* of the cliff to take a picture.
- Brittle** adj. easily broken. My fingernails are so *brittle* that they break off before they get long enough to polish.
- Broom** n. an object used to sweep the floor. She is looking for a *broom* to sweep the kitchen floor.
- Brutal** adj. savage; cruel. The murder was so *brutal* that the jury was not allowed to see the police photographs.
- Bully** v. to be cruel to weaker people or animals. Eddie likes to *bully* the younger boys, but he never tries to fight with anyone his own age.
- Bump** n. a light blow; a jolt. When the little boy fell down, he skinned his knees and got a *bump* on his head.
- Cabal** n. a group of people united in a scheme to promote their views by intrigue; a group of conspirators. All members of the *cabal* will be prosecuted for treason.
- Callous** adj. insensitive; unfeeling. Even the most *callous* observer would be moved by the news report about the war.
- Captive** n. a person who is not permitted to leave; someone who is confined. Several *captives* are being held pending payment of a fifty-thousand-dollar ransom.

- Carve** v. to slice meat. Their grandmother always *carves* the Thanksgiving Day turkey.
- Cast** v. to throw out or down. Early every morning the fishermen *cast their nets into* the sea.
- Castigate** v. to reprove. Shirley was *castigated* by her mother for staying out too late.
- Cataclysm** n. a great flood; a terrible event. One of the most terrible *cataclysms* in the history of the United States was the Johnstown Flood in Pennsylvania in 1889.
- Chaos** n. without organization; confusion. Tornadoes left several Mid-western towns in a state of *chaos*.
- Chasm** n. a deep crack in the earth. The *chasms* in this area were caused by glaciers as they receded during the Ice Age.
- Chaste** adj. pure. Her parents had taught her that she should behave like a *chaste* and modest young lady.
- Chilly** adj. cool. According to the Weather Bureau, it will be *chilly* tomorrow with a 50 percent chance of showers.
- Chore** n. a task; a job. Each of the children had *chores* to do before going to school; Kathy had to gather the eggs and feed the chickens.
- Chum** n. an intimate friend. Jim is eager to see his old school *chums* at the class reunion.
- Cider** n. juice from apples. *Cider* and doughnuts are usually served at Halloween parties.
- Clamorous** adj. noisy. A *clamorous* contingent of demonstrators marched up the hill to the Capitol.
- Clap** v. to applaud. The crowd *clapped* and cheered as the football team ran onto the field.
- Clemency** n. kindness; mercy. Judge McCarthy often exercises *clemency* with first-offenders.
- Cluttered** adj. confused; disorganized; littered. The secretary's desk was *cluttered* up with papers and reference materials.
- Coerce** v. to compel by pressure or threat. The hijackers tried to *coerce* the crew into cooperating with them.
- Cogent** adj. convincing. His ideas were so *cogent* that no one offered an argument against them.
- Colleague** n. a fellow worker; a co-worker, usually in a profession. Dr. Smith is a *colleague* of Dr. Harold.
- Colloquy** n. a formal conversation; a conference. Although his *colloquies* are very interesting, I prefer a more informal class.
- Commence** v. to begin. The ceremony will *commence* as soon as the minister arrives.
- Commend** v. to praise. The soldier was *commended* for bravery above and beyond the call of duty.

- Compassion** n. sympathy; pity. She felt *compassion* for the people who were living in the disaster area.
- Complexion** n. the natural color and appearance of the skin. Her *complexion* is so flawless that she seldom wears make-up.
- Compliment** n. an expression of praise or admiration. She receives many *compliments* on her taste in clothes.
- Compulsory** adj. required. Attendance in the public schools is *compulsory* until age sixteen.
- Conceal** v. to hide. He tried to *conceal* his identity by *disguising* his voice.
- Concoct** v. to devise; to invent. When Mrs. Davis was learning to cook, she *concocted* some rather strange dishes.
- Concord** n. an agreement. If a *concord* is not reached by the end of the month, the ambassador and his staff will *withdraw* from the embassy.
- Concurrence** n. an agreement, usually by equals. The President and the Congress are in *concurrence* concerning this appointment.
- Condone** v. to overlook; to excuse. Since I can no longer *condone* the activities of this organization, I am removing my name from the membership.
- Confide** v. to entrust a secret. When they were children, she always *confided* her problems to her big sister.
- Confident** adj. sure of oneself. Willie was so *confident* that he had passed the exam that he did not even bother to check the answers before handing in his answer sheet.
- Confine** v. to limit. Please *confine* your comments to the topic assigned.
- Confiscate** v. to seize by authority. Any illegal goods will be *confiscated* by customs officers.
- Congee** v. to become hard; to solidify. The Christmas candles *congealed* in the molds.
- Congenial** adj. pleasing in nature or character; agreeable. Margaret is a very *congenial* person; everyone likes her.
- Congenital** adj. existing at birth, but not hereditary. Regular pre-natal check-ups can help to *reduce congenital* birth defects.
- Congestion** n. crowding. I always take the bus to work because the *congestion* in the city makes it difficult to find a parking place.
- Conjecture** n. a supposition; a guess. That is only a *conjecture* on your part, not a certainty.
- Conscientious** adj. careful; honest. Mike is a very *conscientious* student; he studies in the library every night.
- Contaminated** adj. polluted. Hundreds of cans of tuna were recalled by the factory because some of them were found to be *contaminated*.
- Contract** v. to reduce. Metal *contracts* as it cools.
- Conventional** adj. usual; ordinary. Shaking hands is a *conventional* greeting.

Conversion n. a change. The *conversion* of the English system to the metric system will be difficult for the people in the United States.

Core n. a center. Overpopulation is at the *core* of many other problems, including food shortages and inadequate housing.

Coward n. one who lacks courage; a person who is not brave. After his friends called him a *coward*, he agreed to fight.

Crave v. to desire greatly. When she was expecting her first baby, she *craved* pickles.

Credulous adj. inclined to believe too readily; gullible. Donna is so *credulous* that she will believe anything you tell her.

Creed n. a belief; a faith. Equal rights regardless of sex, race, or *creed* are guaranteed by the Constitution.

Crude adj. not finished; rough. *Crude* oil is refined by heating it in a closed still.

Cruise v. to drive slowly. A police car *cruises* past the school every hour.

Crumb n. a small piece of bread or cake. The children like to feed *crumbs* to the birds and squirrels in the park.

Crutch n. a support used as an aid in walking, often used in pairs. Even after the cast is removed from your foot, the doctor recommends that you continue to use *crutches* for a few days.

Cryptic adj. secret; hidden. In spite of efforts by several universities, the *cryptic* symbols on the mural remained a mystery.

Culpable adj. deserving blame. Whether or not he is *culpable* will be determined by the jury.

Curt adj. rudely brief in speech or manner. He was offended by the telephone operator's *curt* reply.

Curtail v. to shorten; to suspend. Bus service will have to be *curtailed* because of the transit strike.

Dagger n. a knife. Apparently the victim has been stabbed with a *dagger* or some other sharp instrument.

Dangle v. to hang loosely; to swing. The boys sat on the edge of the pool and *dangled* their bare feet in the water.

Debtor n. one who owes. The accounting office sends a bill to all of the company's *debtors* at the end of the month.

Decade n. a period of ten years. The *decade* from 1960 through 1970 was marred by race riots and political assassinations in the United States.

Decency n. modest behavior; propriety. Mr. Harris did not have the *decency* to give us thirty days notice before resigning.

Deck n. the floor of a ship. A large ocean liner may have three or more *decks*.

Decline n. a downward slope; a declivity. In winter the neighborhood children like to go sledding down the *decline* at the end of the street.

- Decrepit** adj. weakened by illness or age; badly used. The city buses are in *decrepit* condition, but the transit company does not have funds to purchase new ones.
- Dedicate** v. to honor someone by placing his or her name at the beginning of a literary work or an artistic performance. Chris *dedicated* her thesis to her father.
- Defect** n. an imperfection. Because of a *defect* in his hearing the teacher gave him a seat in the front row.
- Deformed** adj. disfigured. In spite of several corrective operations, his foot is still badly *deformed*.
- Deliberately** adv. in a planned way. He *deliberately* left the letter on her desk so that she would find it.
- Demolish** v. to tear down completely. Although the car was *demolished* in the accident, no one was seriously injured.
- Dent** v. to depress a surface by pressure or a blow. Mrs. Ferris *dented* the fender of her car when she hit the parking meter.
- Depict** v. to describe. In her classic work, *Gone With The Wind*, Margaret Mitchell *depicts* the South during the Civil War and Reconstruction period.
- Deprecate** v. to express disapproval. I feel that I must *deprecate* the allocation of funds for such an unproductive purpose.
- Deprive** v. to take away. His father *deprived* him of his allowance as a punishment for misbehaving.
- Deride** v. to make fun of; to jeer. The other boys *derided* him because of his funny haircut.
- Designate** v. to name; to specify. Having *designated* his closest friends as members of the committee, the chairman was assured of support.
- Detect** v. to discover. When it is *detected* in its early stages, cancer can be cured.
- Deterioration** n. lower value; depreciation. A marked *deterioration* in his health forced him to retire.
- Detest** v. to hate. Mr. Jackson eats out every night because he *detests* cooking.
- Deviate** v. to depart from; to differ. Because our speaker can not stay for the entire meeting, we will *deviate* slightly from the agenda in order to begin with his address.
- Diffidence** n. lack of confidence in oneself. Although he displays *diffidence* with strangers, he is very self-confident with friends.
- Digress** v. to stray from the main subject. The lecturer *digressed* from the subject so often that it was difficult to take notes.
- Dilate** v. to become wider, larger. The shutter of a camera will *dilate* in darkness in a way similar to the pupil of one's eye.
- Diligent** adj. industrious; busy. Mr. Carson's secretary is a very *diligent* worker; she always stays at the office long after everyone else has gone home.

- Diminutive** adj. a small amount; something small. Bill is a *diminutive* form of the name William.
- Dingy** adj. dirty; shabby. Despite its *dingy* exterior, the little house was very bright and cheerful inside.
- Disband** v. to dissolve; to discontinue. After the elections, the nominating committee will be *disbanded*.
- Discard** v. to throw out. I would like to *discard* the old texts and purchase the revised editions for next semester.
- Discern** v. to recognize; to perceive. It was so dark that he could not *discern* the identity of his attacker.
- Dispatch** v. to send. We will *dispatch* a messenger immediately.
- Dissect** v. to examine; to criticize. The literary critics *dissected* every sentence in the essay.
- Disseminate** v. to spread; to distribute. The World Cup Soccer Games will be *disseminated* internationally by television satellites.
- Divert** v. to entertain; to amuse. While it was raining out, the children *diverted* themselves by playing games in their room.
- Divulge** v. to make known; to reveal. The reporter could not *divulge* the source of his information.
- Doze** v. to sleep for a short time; to take a nap. Several passengers were still *dozing* when the bus pulled into the station.
- Drench** v. to make very wet. We were *drenched* by the sudden downpour.
- Drought** n. a long period of dry weather. The water level in the reservoir was low because of the long *drought*.
- Drowsy** adj. very sleepy. Since this medicine may cause you to feel *drowsy*, do not drive or operate machinery.
- Dubious** adj. doubtful. I am very *dubious* about signing this contract because I am not sure about some of the fine print.
- Dungeon** n. a dark cell; a prison. The basement in the old house was so damp and dark that it looked like a *dungeon*.
- Durable** adj. sturdy; lasting. Even though leather gloves are much more expensive, they are more *durable* than vinyl.
- Duration** n. the length of time from beginning to end. The *duration* of the examination is three hours.
- Dusk** n. evening, just before dark. The fireworks display will begin at *dusk*.
- Earthquake** n. a shaking of the earth's surface caused by disturbances underground. The Pacific coast is the region in the United States most prone to tremors and *earthquakes*.
- Eccentric** adj. strange; odd. Everyone who wears *eccentric* clothes is not necessarily a hippy.
- Eloquence** n. persuasive, graceful language. The actor's *eloquence* moved his audience to tears.