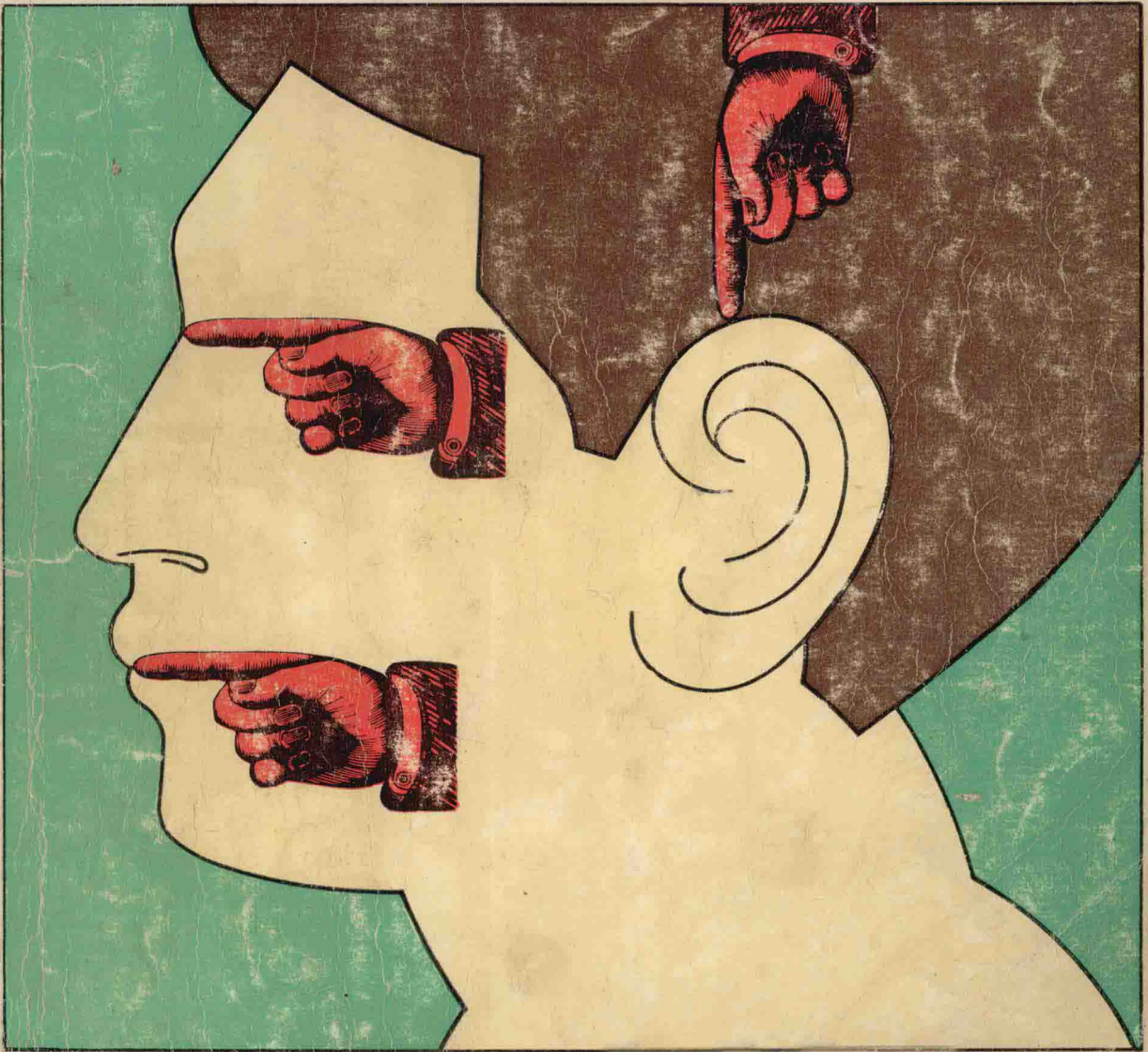


# BARRON'S HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE

# TOEFL

## Test of English as a Foreign Language



**Includes:**  
**2 practice records**  
**5 model tests**  
**with all**  
**answers explained**

A comprehensive guide for all foreign students preparing to study at American colleges and for all those enrolled in English language programs for the foreign born. Features 5 model TOEFL examinations, with complete answer keys and

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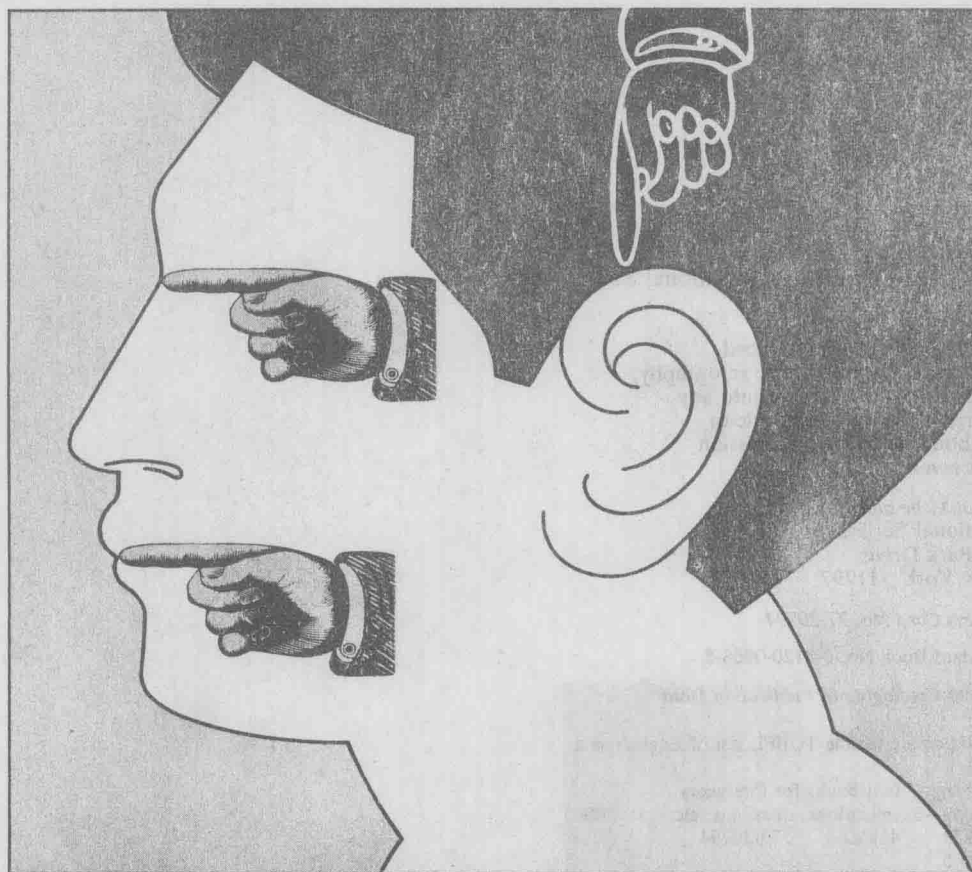
**By Pamela J. Sharpe**

**SECOND EDITION**

# BARRON'S HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE **TOEFL** Test of English as a Foreign Language

by  
**Pamela J. Sharpe**

Director, American Language Institute  
The University of Toledo  
*Second Edition*  
Revised and Updated

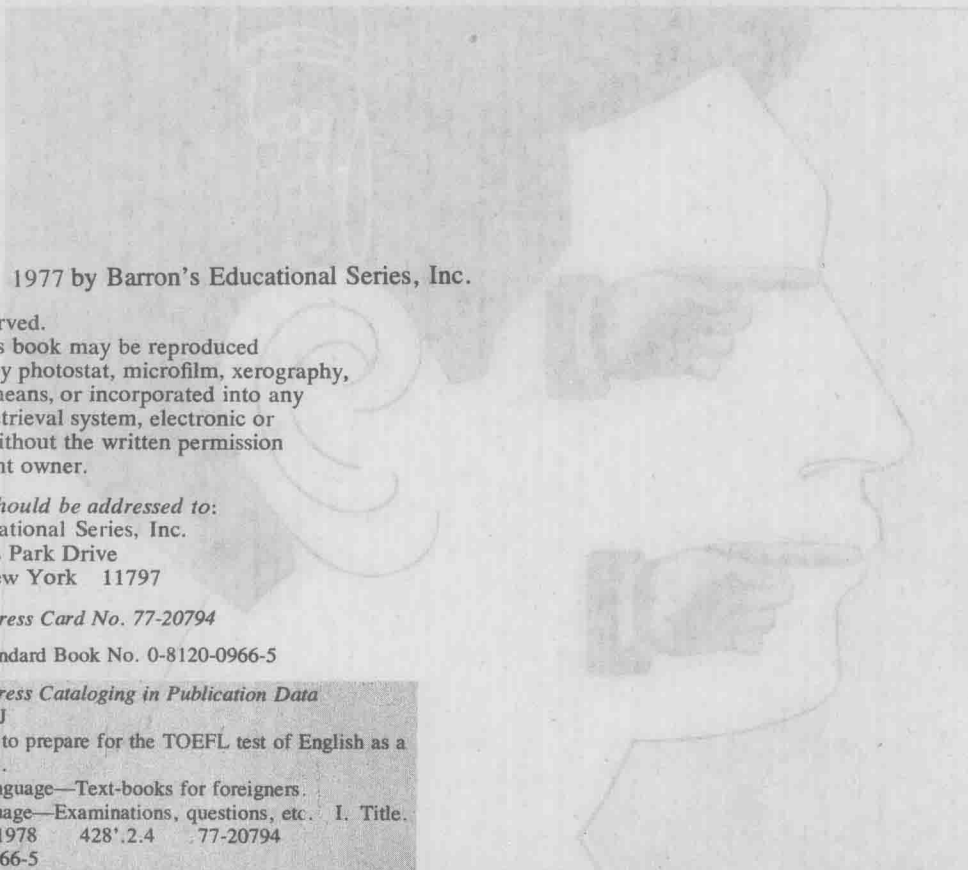


BARRON'S EDUCATIONAL SERIES, INC./ WOODBURY, NEW YORK

# TOEFL

## Test of English as a Foreign Language

by  
Pamela J. Sharpe  
Director, American Language Institute  
The University of Texas  
Second Edition  
Revised and Expanded



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# Preface

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Seventy thousand students from 120 countries take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) every year at test centers in the United States and in their home countries. Some of them do not pass the TOEFL because they do not understand English. Others do not pass it because they do not understand the examination.

This book and the accompanying records were designed to help you understand the TOEFL examination and prepare for it. It is a collection of practical suggestions and model tests.

Study this book thoughtfully, and take the TOEFL with confidence. It may well be the most important examination of your academic career. And you can pass it.

It is with affection and appreciation that I acknowledge my indebtedness to Dr. Jayne C. Harder, Director of the English Language Institute of the University of Florida, who initiated me into the science of linguistics and the art of teaching English as a foreign language. Her influence is most evident in the Review of Structure and Written Expression

which was inspired by her analysis of English and improved by her comments and criticisms.

I am also very grateful to my parents for their enthusiastic encouragement during the preparation of the manuscript, and to Ms. Carole Berglie of Barron's Educational Series, Inc., for her insights and assistance in seeing the manuscript through to publication.

With the permission of Educational Testing Service, the test instructions contained in this publication for the various sections of TOEFL have been reprinted from the *TOEFL Handbook for TOEFL Applicants, 1976-77*. The granting of this permission does not imply endorsement by ETS or the TOEFL program of the contents of this publication as a whole or of the practice questions that it contains. Since the types of questions in TOEFL and the instructions pertaining to them are subject to change, candidates who register to take TOEFL should read carefully the edition of the *TOEFL Handbook for TOEFL Applicants* that will be sent to them free of charge with their admission tickets.

**Timetable for the TOEFL\***  
Total Time: 120 minutes

|                             |                                         |              |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------|
| Section I<br>(40 Minutes)   | Listening<br>Comprehension              | 50 Questions |
| Section II<br>(25 Minutes)  | Structure and<br>Written Expression     | 40 Questions |
| Section III<br>(55 Minutes) | Reading Comprehension<br>and Vocabulary | 60 Questions |

\*Note: Actual times will vary in accordance with the time the proctor completes the preliminary work and begins the actual test. Format and timing subject to change.



# Contents

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|          |                                                                  |     |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Preface  |                                                                  | vii |
|          | Timetable for the TOEFL                                          | vii |
| One      | Questions and Answers Concerning the New TOEFL                   | 1   |
| Two      | Review of Vocabulary                                             | 10  |
| Three    | Review of Structure and Written Expression                       | 28  |
| Four     | Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Model Examinations | 91  |
|          | Model Test One                                                   | 91  |
|          | Model Test Two                                                   | 111 |
|          | Model Test Three                                                 | 131 |
|          | Model Test Four                                                  | 149 |
|          | Model Test Five                                                  | 169 |
|          | Records for Listening Comprehension, Part B between 88 - 89      |     |
| Five     | Answer Key for the TOEFL Model Examinations                      | 186 |
| Six      | Explanatory Answers for the TOEFL Model Examinations             | 191 |
| Appendix |                                                                  | 235 |
|          | Transcript for the Listening Comprehension Sections              | 235 |

One

# Questions and Answers Concerning the New TOEFL

The following questions are commonly asked by students as they prepare for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). To help you, they have been answered here.

## What Is The Purpose Of The TOEFL?

Since 1963 the TOEFL has been used by scholarship selection committees of governments, universities, and agencies such as Fulbright, the Agency for International Development, American Friends of the Middle East, Latin American Scholarship Program and others as a standard measure of the English proficiency of their candidates.

The majority of admissions committees of colleges and universities in the United States require foreign applicants to submit TOEFL scores along with transcripts and recommendations in order to be considered for admission. Some colleges and universities in Canada and other English-speaking countries also require the TOEFL for admissions purposes.

Many universities use TOEFL scores to fulfill the foreign language requirement for doctoral candidates whose first language is not English.

## What Is An International TOEFL Testing?

The TOEFL is offered five times a year in September, December, February, April and June at designated test centers in 120 countries throughout the world, including all of the states in the United States. This is called an International TOEFL Testing. A list of test centers established for the purpose of administering the International TOEFL Testing appears in the free *Bulletin of Information for Candidates* available from Educational Testing Service.

In order to receive a copy of the *Bulletin of Information for Candidates*, write:

TOEFL  
Box 899  
Princeton, New Jersey  
08450 U.S.A.

It is correct to limit your letter to two sentences. For example:

Table 1

**A Letter of Request for the  
Bulletin of Information for Candidates**

(write your address here)  
(write the date here)

TOEFL  
Box 899  
Princeton, New Jersey  
08450 U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

Please send a copy of the TOEFL *Bulletin of Information for Candidates* to the address above.

Thank you for your earliest attention.

Sincerely yours,

(write your name here)

**What Is An Institutional TOEFL Testing?**

Some language institutes affiliated with universities in the United States adjust their test dates to correspond to the university calendar. Test dates are usually in March, June, August, and December. This is called an Institutional TOEFL Testing. It is generally offered to the students who have just finished an intensive English course in the institute administering the TOEFL.

If you plan to take the TOEFL at an Institutional TOEFL Testing, confirm your eligibility with the director of the institute at least one month in advance of the test date. The examination will probably be given on the campus of the university with which the language institute is affiliated.

**What Is A TOEFL Center Testing?**

There are eleven TOEFL Test Centers in the United States and two in Canada where the examination is administered every month.

For more information about a TOEFL Center Testing, write to or call the Center most convenient to you:

Table 2

**Addresses of TOEFL Test Centers**

Educational Testing Service  
1947 Center Street  
Berkeley, California 94704

Educational Testing Service  
2200 Merton Avenue, Room 216  
Los Angeles, California 90041

Educational Testing Service  
1 Dupont Circle, Suite 310  
Washington, D.C. 20036

TOEFL Special Test Center  
University of Miami, Box 248005  
Coral Gables, Florida 33124

Educational Testing Service  
3445 Peachtree Road, N.E. Suite 1040  
Atlanta, Georgia 30326

Educational Testing Service  
960 Grove Street  
Evanston, Illinois 60201

Table 2 continued

|                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| TOEFL Special Test Center<br>Coordinator, International Student Affairs<br>Loyola University<br>6363 St. Charles Avenue<br>New Orleans, Louisiana 70118 | TOEFL Special Test Center<br>Measurement and Evaluation Center<br>The University of Texas at Austin<br>Box 7246<br>Austin, Texas 78712                |
| TOEFL Special Test Center<br>Counseling Service<br>Boston University<br>704 Commonwealth Avenue<br>Boston, Massachusetts 02215                          | CANADA<br>TOEFL Special Test Center<br>Assistant Registrar<br>Examinations and Timetabling<br>University of Alberta<br>Edmonton, AB, Canada T6G 2E1   |
| TOEFL Special Test Center<br>Counseling and Testing Center<br>University of Missouri — Kansas City<br>5319 Rockhill Road<br>Kansas City, Missouri 64110 | TOEFL Special Test Center<br>Office of Student Services<br>The University of British Columbia<br>2075 Wesbrook Place<br>Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T 1W4 |
| TOEFL Special Test Center<br>c/o Institutional Services<br>Educational Testing Service<br>Princeton, New Jersey 08540                                   |                                                                                                                                                       |

Again your letter may be short. For example:

Table 3

**A Letter of Request for Information  
about a TOEFL Center Testing**

(write your address here)  
(write the date here)

(write the address of  
the TOEFL Center here)

Dear Ms. (write the name of the assistant here):

Please forward information concerning your administration of the TOEFL, including dates, registration, fees, and score reports.

Thank you for your earliest attention.

Sincerely yours,

(write your name here)

**Is The Validity Of A Score The Same For All Testings?**

There is no difference in the validity of a score on an International TOEFL Testing, an Institutional TOEFL Testing, or a TOEFL Center Testing.

**Which Language Skills Are Tested On The TOEFL?**

The TOEFL is currently in the process of being revised. Prior to September, 1976, five language skills were tested in five separate sections:



Table 4

**Language Skills Tested  
Prior to September, 1976**

|             |                         |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| Section I   | Listening Comprehension |
| Section II  | English Structure       |
| Section III | Vocabulary              |
| Section IV  | Reading Comprehension   |
| Section V   | Writing Ability         |

There were 200 questions tested.

The same five language skills are tested in the New TOEFL. They are tested in three sections:

Table 5

**Language Skills Tested  
in the New TOEFL**

|             |                                      |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Section I   | Listening Comprehension              |
| Section II  | Structure and Written Expression     |
| Section III | Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary |

There are 150 questions tested.

## **Is The New TOEFL Used For All Testings?**

The New TOEFL is now used for all International Testings in the United States and around the world.

## **How Do I Register For An International Testing?**

An application form is included in the free *Bulletin of Information for Candidates* available from Educational Testing Service.

Return the application along with a \$17 registration fee at least five weeks before the test date.

You may not send cash to Educational Testing Service. If you are living in the United States or Canada, send a check or money order. If you are living elsewhere, send a check or a bank draft drawn on a bank in the United States.

If you are living in a country where it is difficult to comply with this regulation, mail your completed TOEFL registration form along with the TOEFL envelope to a friend or relative living in the United States, Canada, or a country where checks, money orders, or bank drafts may be drawn on banks in the United States. Your friend or relative may mail the fee and registration form directly to Educational Testing Service in the TOEFL mailing envelope.

The check, money order, or bank draft must be made out to TOEFL and your TOEFL registration number must appear on it.

## **Will Educational Testing Service Confirm My Registration?**

Educational Testing Service will mail you a *Handbook for Candidates* which includes an Admission Ticket confirming your registration.

You must fill out the Admission Ticket and take it with you to the test center on the day of the examination.

## **How Do I Register For An Institutional Testing?**

You will need to fill out the same application form that is used in an International Testing, but it will probably not be necessary for you to write to Educational Testing Service in order to secure one. The language institute that administers the Institutional Testing should have application forms available.

The institute will return your application form and the \$17 registration fee to Educational Testing Service along with the forms and fees of all of the other applicants for the Institutional Testing. You will receive your Admission Ticket from the language institute.

## **How Do I Register For A TOEFL Center Testing?**

Although registration varies slightly from one center to another, it is usually necessary to make arrangements with the administrative assistant one week before you wish to take the examination. The fee for a TOEFL Center Testing is \$25. Photo identification is required of each candidate who takes the examination at a TOEFL Center. Most candidates use their passports for photo identification.

## **May I Register On The Day Of The TOEFL Examination?**

Registration of candidates on the day of the TOEFL examination is not permitted under any circumstances at test centers in the United States. At test centers outside of the United States, candidates may register on the day of the examination only if space and materials are available and if the candidate presents positive identification along with a letter of request signed by a representative of the United States Embassy, A.I.D., or a sponsoring agency or university.

## **What Should I Take With Me To The Examination Room?**

Take three sharpened number-two pencils with erasers on them, your Admission Ticket, and identification. It would be very helpful to take a watch. Books, dictionaries, tape recorders, and notes are not permitted in the examination room.

## **Where Should I Sit?**

If you have an opportunity to choose your seat, try to locate the speakers attached to the tape recorder or record player which will be used in the Listening Comprehension Sec-

tion of the examination. Even though the tape recorder or record player is in the front of the room, the speakers may be set up in the back of the room.

Choose a seat near the speakers, but not directly in front of them. If you do not have an opportunity to choose a seat, don't worry. It is the responsibility of the examiner to assure that everyone is able to hear the tape or record. If you can't hear well, ask the examiner to adjust the volume.

### **How Long Is The Testing Session Of The New TOEFL?**

The total time for the testing session of the new TOEFL is 120 minutes. Since the instruction are not included as part of the timed sections, the actual time which you will spend in the examination room will be a little longer than 120 minutes.

### **How Much Time Do I Have To Complete Each Of The Sections?**

It is wise to work as rapidly as possible without compromising accuracy. Check the Timetable for the TOEFL on page vii and read the suggestions for working more rapidly included on the beginning pages of this edition.

### **How Do I Answer The Test Questions?**

Read the four possible answers in your test book and mark the corresponding space on the answer sheet which will be provided for you at the test center.

We have included typical answer sheets with each of the model examinations included in this book. Because it takes a little longer to finish an examination when you mark the answers on a separate sheet, always use the answer sheets when you take the timed model examinations in this book.

### **How Do I Mark The Answer Sheet?**

Before the examination begins, the examiner will explain how to mark the answer sheet. Be sure to fill in the space completely.

Figure 1: Marking the Answer Sheet

One question is shown in the test book. One answer is marked on the answer sheet.

1. The United States is a country in
  - (A) South America
  - (B) Central America
  - (C) North America
  - (D) Antarctica

1. (A) (B) (C) (D)

## May I Erase An Answer?

You may erase an answer if you do so carefully and completely. Stray pencil marks may cause inaccurate scoring by the test-scoring machine.

## If I Am Not Sure Of An Answer, Should I Guess?

If you are not sure of an answer, you should guess. The number of incorrect answers is not subtracted from your score. Your score is based upon the number of correct answers only.

Do not mark more than one answer for each question. Do not leave any questions blank on your answer sheet.

## How Should I Guess?

First, eliminate all of the possibilities which you know are not correct. Then, if you are almost sure of an answer, guess that one.

If you have no idea of the correct answer for a question, choose one letter and use it for your "guess" answer throughout the entire examination.

By using the same letter each time that you guess, you will probably answer correctly 25 percent of the time. This percentage is usually better than the percentage of correct answers obtained by random guessing.

The "guess" answer is especially useful for finishing a section quickly. If the examiner tells you to stop working on a section before you have finished it, answer all of the remaining questions with the "guess" answer.

## What Should I Do If I Discover That I Have Marked My Answer Sheet Incorrectly?

Do not panic. Notify the examiner immediately.

If you have marked one answer in the wrong space on the answer sheet, the rest of the answers will be out of sequence. Ask for time at the end of the examination to correct the sequence.

If you have marked the answers in the test book instead of on the answer sheet, ask for your test book to be attached to your answer sheet and included in the examiner's "Irregularities Report."

In order to avoid mismarking and to save space on your desk, use your test book as a marker on your answer sheet. As you advance, slide the book down underneath the number of the question which you are marking on the answer sheet.

Figure 2: Using the Test Book as a Marker



### **If I Score Very Poorly On One Part Of The Examination, Is It Still Possible To Receive A Good Total Score?**

If you have mismarked an entire part of a section, or if you feel that you have done very poorly on one part of a section, do not despair. You may receive a low score on one part of a section and still score well on the total examination if your scores on the other parts of that section and the other sections are good.

### **How Do I Interpret My Score?**

There are no passing or failing scores on the TOEFL. Each agency or university will evaluate the scores according to its own requirements. Even at the same university, the requirements may vary for different programs of study.

The admissions policies summarized below are typical of American universities, assuming of course, that the applicant's documents other than English proficiency are acceptable.

Table 6  
**Typical Admissions Policies  
of American Universities**

| <i>TOEFL Score</i> | <i>Policy</i>                                                               |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 550 or more        | admission assured                                                           |
| 500-549            | admission probable                                                          |
| 450-499            | individual cases reviewed                                                   |
| 449 or less        | admission doubtful to university;<br>admission possible to two-year college |

Refer to the *Handbook for Candidates* for a detailed chart of percentile ranks for total TOEFL scores. This will help you interpret your score relative to the scores of others taking the examination.

### **When Will I Receive My Score Report?**

If you participate in an International Testing, a Candidate Score Report will be sent to you about seven weeks after the testing. If you participate in an Institutional Testing or a TOEFL Center Testing, your Candidate Score Report will usually be sent to you within ten days.



## **How Will The Agencies Or Universities Of My Choice Be Informed Of My Score?**

Five weeks after the testing, your Official Score Report will be forwarded to the agencies and/or universities which you designated on an Information Section at the top of the TOEFL answer sheet on the day of the examination.

The Candidate Score Report or copies of it will not be accepted by agencies or universities instead of the Official Score Report sent to them directly from Educational Testing Service.

## **May I Take The TOEFL More Than One Time?**

You may take the TOEFL as many times as you wish in order to score to your satisfaction.

## **If I Have Already Taken The TOEFL, How Will The First Score Or Scores Affect My New Score?**

TOEFL scores are considered to be valid for two years. If you have taken the TOEFL more than once, but your first score report is dated more than two years ago, a note to that effect will be attached to any Official Score Report released by Educational Testing Service.

The agency or university that receives the report will probably consider only your most recent score.

If you have taken the TOEFL more than once in the past two years, your highest score will usually be considered.

## **How Difficult Is The TOEFL?**

The level of difficulty of the TOEFL is directly related to the average level of proficiency in English of the candidates who take the examination.

This means that each question will probably be answered correctly by 50 percent of the candidates.

## **Is There A Direct Correspondence Between Proficiency In English And A Good Score On The TOEFL?**

There is not always a direct correspondence between proficiency in English and a good score on the TOEFL. Many students who are proficient in English are not proficient in how to approach the examination. That is why it is important to prepare by using this book.

## Two

# Vocabulary Review

---

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

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 has 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.

## 12 • VOCABULARY REVIEW

**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.

**Blizzard** 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 the 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.