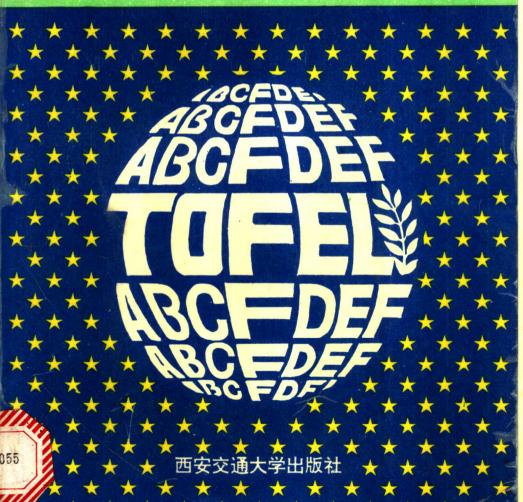# How to prepare for vocabulary for

TOEFL

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内容提要

　　《如何准备托福词汇测验》是一部专门进行英语词汇训练及自测的教材，目的在于帮助读者通过托福考试。本书在对大量全真托福试题和数十部国外托福参考书的电脑统计的基础上，选编了50套词汇模拟考题并附有标准答案。书后的附录精选了1 000个常考词例，供读者复习及考前强化用。

　　该书选材广泛、题型真实、词量充实、针对性强，符合我国读者的特点和需要，它不仅适用于出国预备人员应试托福，而且对广大英语爱好者扩大词汇量，参加其他各类英语考试也颇有裨益。

序　言

《如何准备托福词汇测验》是一部专门进行英语词汇训练的教材，它根据语言词汇学原理和数理统计学方法，对托福词汇的覆盖面和重复率做了测定，对1986年以来的全真托福和CLIFF'S TOEFL，NTC'S PRACTICE TEST KIT FOR THE TOEFL，PRENTICE HALL'S TOEFL，ARGO'S TOEFL，BARRON'S TOEFL 等数十部国外参考书的词汇测试做了解剖和分析，编选了50套考题，模拟托福词汇考试的题型，保持了托福词汇考题的难度，反映了托福词汇考试的真实情况。50套题后又附有标准答案，因而也是读者考前进行自我测验的一部好材料。它的附录部分精选了1 000个常考词例（包括单词、词组、缩写、单位、名称等），配以音标、词性、释义、同义词、例句及译文，供读者复习参考。本书选材广泛、难易适中、题型真实、题量充足、词例规范、使用方便、针对性强、符合我国读者的特点和需要。它不仅对准备留学的科技工作者及其他各类出国人员有直接帮助，而且也适合于大专院校英语专业、非英语专业的大学生、研究生和具有中等以上水平的英语爱好者，既有助于通过托福考试，也有助于提高英语水平和参加其他考试。

在本书编写过程中，西安交通大学外国语系葛元璋教授在百忙中抽空为本书作了审校，并提出了许多宝贵意见。专门用途英语（科技）专业的郭宏、顾靖、刘睿、杨晓春、高艳丽、陈恩泉、元景、彭粤、包爱丽、余茂松等同志分别在素材整理、电脑输入、词例分析、卡片制作、频率统计、文稿誊抄、清样校对等方面做了大量工作，在此我们表示衷心的感谢。

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编者

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1 HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR TOEFL VOCABULARY

Section 3 of the TOEFL is called Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension. It contains 60 questions and is divided into two parts. The 30 questions in the first part test vocabulary, and the 30 questions in the second part test reading comprehension. You will have 45 minutes to complete all 60 questions. It is necessary to complete the vocabulary questions as quickly as possible, since the 30 reading comprehension questions are much longer and take more time to answer. Many examinees do not finish section 3 because of the reading comprehension questions.

Each vocabulary question consists of one sentence followed by four choices: (A), (B), (C), and (D). The sentences are written in academic, formal English. Subjects used in the sentences are those a typical first-year college student in North America may study: natural sciences (biology, chemistry), social sciences (psychology, economics, geography), business, and the liberal arts (history, art, music). Some of the sentences refer to American cities, states, and rivers. Some other sentences refer to American history and include important individuals and dates. Some sentences are very short (six or seven words), while others are quite long (26 or 27 words).

In each sentence, a word or phrase is underlined. You must choose from the four choices the one that is the closest synonym (has most nearly the same meaning) to the underlined word or phrase. When the choice replaces the underlined word or phrase in the sentence, the sentence should still have its original meaning.

For example:
The examination will begin exactly at 8 : 30.

(A) exceedingly[过度地]　　(C) equitably[公平地]

(B) consequently[因此;所以] (D) precisely[精确地]

The correct answer is (D). Precisely is a good synonym for exactly . When precisely is placed in the sentence, the sentence keeps its original meaning.

Now let's introduce some ways to enhance your TOEFL VOCABULARY stores:

One way to improve your vocabulary is to read. You should read the kind of material that a college student would read:newspapers、magazines、books、and encyclopedia articles about a variety of subjects. (Scientific subjects as well as American history and geography may be most helpful.)This is the kind of material TOEFL tests.

Another good way to learn vocabulary is to make lists of new words that you learn. However,do not write out the definition of the word、and do not write the equivalent of the word in your native language. Instead、write the word in one column of your list and then write a synonym in another column. As you study the word、cover the synonym and try to remember it.

Another way to learn more TOEFL vocabulary is to use a set of small cards. Write the new word on one side of the card and its synonym on the other side. You should review your words and synonyms at least once a week.

In order to improve your TOEFL vocabulary, you will need two books: a good thesaurus (a dictionary of synonyms)and a monolingual English dictionary(a dictionary written only in English for native speakers of English). When you find a word you don't know, first use the thesaurus. It will give you synonyms for the word. If the word is not in a good thesaurus,it will not be tested on the TOEFL,since the TOEFL uses synonyms to test vocabulary. If you find synonyms but you don't know the meaning of the word, look up the word in the English dictionary. The dictionary will give you the meaning of the word,as well as other words that are related to it. Being able to use an English language dictionary is impor-

tant if you wish to learn TOEFL vocabulary.

Another good technique is to learn prefixes. The words TOE-FL tests often contain prefixes. To answer the question correctly, you must recognize the meaning of the prefix. A prefix can make a difference in the meaning of a word. For example, "content" means "happy", but "miscontent" means "unhappy". Make a list of prefixes as you find them. Then look them up in the dictionary. Here are a few common prefixes and words that contain them, (from *A Selected Vocabulary from the Latest TOEFL*)

Prefix	Meaning	Example
a-	"without"	asexual 无性(别)的
bi-	"two"	bilingual 用两种语言的
circum-	"around"	circumlunar 绕月的
dis-	"negetive"	disclose 揭开
en-	"to make"	enslave 奴役
in-	"not"	informal 非正式的
mis-	"bad"	misfortune 不幸
non-	"not"	nondescript 难以形容的
ob-	"inverse"	obsolete 陈腐的
per-	"through"	perforate 打眼于
re-	"again"	rewrite 重写
super-	"great"	superprofit 超额利润
trans-	"beyond"	transoceanic 横渡大洋的
ultra-	"very"	ultra-leftist 极"左"分子

Of course, these are not all the prefixes in English. Most prefixes can have more than one meaning and many have more than one form. For instance, the prefix ab- is simply another form of the prefix a-. As you learn a prefix, learn different words that contain

the prefix and its different forms. This way, you will learn its different meanings and its different forms.

It is also helpful to learn English suffixes. They can give part of the meaning of the word. Suffixes usually show grammatical meaning and part of speech. However, they are not tested on this part of the TOEFL.

2 WHAT VOCABULARY TO STUDY

There is a thousand-word vocabulary review in the appendix of this book. Here you are given guidelines about the kind of vocabulary that may appear in this section. This information is based on an analysis of words tested on past TOEFL exams. It will help you improve your own selection of words to study for the vocabulary part of the TOEFL. It will also prevent you from studying words that will not appear on the TOEFL.

1. <u>Learn the words the TOEFL has already tested.</u> The underlined words tested in this part of the TOEFL are not tested again. However, they may be used again in the choices as synonyms for other words that are tested. Since these are good words to know for all kinds of reading, make a list of these vocabulary words and learn them. You can make this list from words that have been tested on any previous TOEFLS you have, or from the words in the TOEFL test kits available from ETS. You can also include in your list the underlined words included in the practice tests of this book. In addition, write down the words used in the choices in all of the practice tests. These words are on the test because they are possible synonyms for other words. And words that can be synonyms for other words are the words you need to know to score high on the TOEFL.

2. <u>Learn words that are in general use</u>, current, and likely to appear in the kinds of material a college or university student in North America would read in newspapers, magazines, encyclopedias, or books. These words are used in many contexts and types of reading material. Students who read widely will meet these words

again and again.

3. Learn adjectives and verbs. Most English words are nouns. Yet, adjectives and verbs are tested as often as nouns on the TOE-FL. Adjectives can easily be made into adverbs (usually by adding the suffix-ly), and adverbs are also tested on the TOEFL.

4. Learn words of Latin origin. About half of the words that appear in this part of the test are of Latin origin. Therefore, if you do not speak or read a language that comes from Latin, learn as many Latin words as you can. Focus on the meaning of the root of the word and notice how the root is used in other related words. During the test, focus on the root of the word also. If you do speak or read a language of Latin origin, examine the root of the word for clues to its meaning when taking the test. Do the same for the choices.

3 WHAT VOCABULARY NOT TO STUDY

In order to know what vocabulary not to study, you will need a monolingual English dictionary. Each dictionary has a "Guide" in the front, before the definitions of words beginning with the letter A. Notice that the guide lists the labels that are used in the dictionary. The authors of the dictionary use these labels to identify words, or specific meanings of words, that are unusual or special in some way. These unusual or special words are not a part of the general vocabulary; therefore, they are not tested on the TOEFL. The labels that identify unusual or special words are: Nonstandard, Informal, Slang, Vulgar, Archaic, Rare, Poetic, Regional (plus labels indicating a specific region of the United States), British, and foreign language labels such as French. If you have a dictionary printed in Great Britain, it will include the label American. Again, any word that carries such labels will not be tested on the TOEFL.

The dictionary also contains subject lables. These are lables that identify technical words or words that have specific meanings within a subject or occupation. Such words are not found in a variety of settings, but only in specific and/or technical contexts. Some examples and the field each represents are: mitochondrion[线拉体] (biology), lumen[流明——光通量单位](physics), duodenum[十二指肠](anatomy), enzyme[酶](chemistry), and eocene[始新世岩石](geology). Whenever you see such subject labels in the dictionary, you do not have to learn these words for the TOEFL.

The dictionary also contains idioms. An idiom is a common expression in which a group of words has a different meaning from what its individual words mean. Idioms are used commonly in ev-

eryday speech and make the language colorful. Idioms are usually identified in a dictionary by very heavy or dark print and then defined. Although they often appear in part A and B of section I of the TOEFL, they are never tested in the vocabulary section.

The dictionary also contains phrases. Phrases are groups of words conveying one meaning, such as in general, on the whole, and little by little. Phrases are also identified in the dictionary by very heavy or dark print, followed by a definition. They are usually listed under the main word in the phrase. For example, "on the whole" is included in the definition of "whole". Phrases rarely appear on this part of TOEFL. The vast majority of vocabulary questions are single vocabulary words. However, two-word and three-word verbs (phrasal verbs such as blow up, pay homage to, carry out, and hand in) do occasionally appear on the vocabulary part of the test. (See Appendixes in this book.)

Names of types of animals, birds, clouds, fish, food, minerals, plants, rocks, etc, require a definition rather than a synonym, and thus could not be tested here. Some examples and their definitions are: owl (a kind of bird), porcupine (a kind of animal), starfish (a kind of fish), potatoes (a kind of food), tulip (a kind of plant), and granite (a kind of rock). In a dictionary, such words contain a subject label.

Don't forget! The TOEFL does not test every word in the English language. The words likely to appear on TOEFL are words that can be found in a variety of contexts in university-level reading and can easily be given a synonym. These words can be nouns, verbs, adjectives, and, less frequently, adverbs.

4 TAKING THE TEST

The 30 vocabulary questions in this section of the test are designed to test your knowledge of vocabulary, not your reading comprehension. Therefore, it is usually not necessary to read the sentence that each word appears in. Instead, you should look only at the underlined word and choose its synonym from among the four choices.

This strategy is the most successful one because it will save you much time and help you avoid confusion. Time is very important in Section 3 of the TOEFL. Many students find that the reading selections take a long time to read. Therefore you must save time on the vocabulary questions. The sentences in the vocabulary questions will often contain unfamiliar vocabulary and most likely an unfamiliar context that may take you a long time to understand. But, more importantly, the sentences are not written to help you understand the meaning of the word. If you don't know the meaning of the word, all four choices can fit into the sentence equally well.

Note: If two (or more) of the choices can be synonyms for the underlined word, you must read the sentence to determine which meaning is correct. However, this occurs very rarely on the test.

Here are some examples to help you look at the underlined word only. Try to choose the correct answer for each.

1. * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * intelligent.
   - (A) hopeful   (C) smart
   - (B) trustworthy   (D) careful

2. * * * * * * * * demonstrated * * * * * * * *.
   - (A) associated   (C) excluded
   - (B) proved   (D) profited

3. Education ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★.

    (A)   Work   (C)   Assignment

    (B)   Service   (D)   Schooling

In each case, if you know the meaning of the word, you can find the answer without reading the sentence. The answers are:

1. (C), 2. (B), and 3. (D)

The following two examples will show you that if you don't know the underlined word, any of the four choices will be possible in the sentence.

1. *The Scarlet Letter* is Nathaniel Hawthorne's ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ novel.

    (A)   longest   (C)   most popular

    (B)   best   (D)   most quoted

2. The two towers of the World Trade Center are ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ New York landmark.

    (A)   a notable   (C)   a well-known

    (B)   a much-photographed (D)   an enormous

,   The above examples show you the importance of studying the underlined word first. They also show that reading the sentence is not necessary in order to find the correct option. Reading each sentence may only waste your time. You should read the sentence only if you feel it will help you when you are undecided between two or more choices, or if you have no idea about the correct choice. Then, the sentence may remind you of the meaning if you have ever learned the word before.

5 STRATEGY REVIEW AND PRACTICE

Remember, there are three basic strategies you should use in the vocabulary part of Section 3:

1. Work as fast as you can so you will have enough time for the Reading Comprehension questions that follow.

2. Read the underlined word first and try to find the correct answer. Do Not read the sentence unless you don't know the meaning of the underlined word.

3. Examine the root of the word for clues to its meaning, if you speak or read a language derived from Latin.

Below are 30 sample vocabulary questions. You should practice the above strategies with these questions. Answer them as quickly as you can and do not read the sentences unless you absolutely must. You should complete the exercise within 15 minutes.

1. We <u>inferred</u> from his remarks that he was happy about the project.
   (A) assumed
   (B) answered
   (C) heard
   (D) misunderstood

2. George was fined $ 50 by the <u>magistrate</u> and given a strong warning.
   (A) lawyer
   (B) policeman
   (C) judge
   (D) emperor

3. Without Cathy's constant <u>composure</u>, we never would have come through as we did.
   (A) gifts
   (B) presence of mind
   (C) ideas
   (D) nervousness