



TST PREP

TOEFL SOLUTIONS
for OPEN MINDS

Complete TOEFL Test #11

THE SPEAKING SECTION

2019 - 2020






TST Prep - Complete TOEFL Test #11


The Speaking Section



The TOEFL Speaking Section: *Directions*

 The following Speaking section of the test will last between 20-30 minutes. To complete it, you will need a recording device that you can play back to listen to your responses. You should also have a pen and a piece of paper ready to take notes.

During the test, you will answer four speaking questions. One of the questions ask about familiar topics. Three questions ask about short conversations, lectures, and reading passages.

When you see the audio icon  it means that there is an audio passage you must listen to. [Please click the icon to get redirected to the audio file.](#)


The time you will have to prepare your response and to speak is printed below each question. You should answer all of the questions as completely as possible in the time allowed.

If you would like to read and listen to a sample response of the question you are answering, you can refer to the answer key.

When you are ready, turn the page to see the directions for the first speaking task.



Speaking Task 1

 Directions: You will now be asked a question about a familiar topic. After you hear the question, you will have 15 seconds to plan your response and 45 seconds to speak.

Would you prefer to work at one job your entire life or to switch jobs every five years? Explain your response with details and examples.

Preparation Time: 15 seconds

Response Time: 45 seconds



Speaking Task 2

Directions: You will now read a short passage and then listen to a conversation on the same topic. You will then be asked a question about the passages. After you hear the question, you will have 30 seconds to prepare your response and 60 seconds to speak.

You have 45 seconds to read the passage below. You may begin reading now.

Two Separate Graduation Ceremonies

The graduation committee would like to formally announce that we have decided to conduct two separate graduation ceremonies starting this year. As many of you already know, enrollment numbers have increased dramatically over the past five years. Since each student must be given their diploma individually, a single ceremony will last too long. Moreover, there is not enough space in the auditorium to accommodate all the family members of each graduating class. We believe this new arrangement will ensure that future graduation ceremonies are organized, intimate, and brief.



Now listen to a conversation about the same topic

Now answer the question.


The woman expresses her opinion on the change to the graduation ceremony. State her opinion and explain the reasons she gives for holding that opinion.

Preparation Time: 30 seconds

Response Time: 60 seconds



Speaking Task 3

 **Directions:** You will now read a short passage and then listen to a lecture on the same topic. You will then be asked a question about the passages. After you hear the question, you will have 30 seconds to prepare your response and 60 seconds to speak.

You have 45 seconds to read the passage below. You may begin reading now.

Swarm Intelligence

Brains are an integral part of the decision-making process for all living organisms. However, social insects like ants, bees, wasps, and termites are capable of solving complex problems as a unit. These insects do not work individually, but as a collective in order to create a kind of "super brain," which is usually referred to as swarm intelligence. Swarm Intelligence is a phenomenon where hundreds, or even thousands of organisms work together for the benefit of the group. Combining their efforts, many minds work together as one, making collective decisions as a whole. Like the neurons connected and working together in a single brain, hundreds of individual brains are connected into one organized system of thought.

 **Now listen to a lecture about this topic in a biology class**

Now answer the question.


Using the examples from the lecture, explain the concept of swarm intelligence.

Preparation Time: 30 seconds

Response Time: 60 seconds



Speaking Task 4

 **Directions:** You will now listen to part of a lecture. You will then be asked a question about it. After you hear the question, you will have 20 seconds to prepare your response and 60 seconds to speak.

 **Now listen to part of a lecture in an archaeology class**

Now answer the question.

Using points and examples from the talk, describe how museums preserve artifacts.

Preparation Time: 20 seconds

Response Time: 60 seconds





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TST Prep - Complete TOEFL Test #11
Speaking Section - Answer Key




Speaking Task 1: Sample Answer

Would you prefer to work at one job your entire life or to switch jobs every five years? Explain your response with details and examples.

 To me, I definitely think that it is better to switch jobs every five years because old jobs get boring and new jobs are exciting. I remember when I worked at a school in New York, and by the end of my time there, I was ready for a change. You see, at first, everything was new and interesting but by the fifth year, I was tired of taking the same train to go to the same building every day. On top of that, starting a new job is a new opportunity. For example, after my job in New York, I moved to Japan and started teaching English to children, which was completely different. It motivated me to learn more about childhood education and expand my knowledge. So, to sum up, if I had to choose, I would definitely opt for changing my job every five years.



Speaking Task 2: Sample Answer

 The reading passage announces a change on campus. In particular, the administration has decided to split the graduation ceremony into two separate events. The woman in the conversation is against this idea. To start, she says that she wants to graduate with her friends, and if the ceremony is split, then they can't graduate together. She does admit that the graduation ceremony is too long, but it can be shortened by reducing the amount of speakers to only the most important ones. Secondly, she explains that the graduation event should be held outside rather than in the auditorium if the committee is concerned about space. Most other schools hold their graduation events outside and there is plenty of space if graduating students want to invite more guests. As you can see, the woman in the listening clearly disagrees with this plan.



Speaking Task 2: Transcript

Woman: Hi Peter, did you hear they are going to make two graduation ceremonies this year?

Man: Yeah, they say it's due to enrollment numbers. Too many students getting their diplomas at once makes the ceremony lasts for hours.

Woman: I certainly don't like that! What if some of my friends are assigned to a different ceremony than mine? We've been waiting for this day for years and now what?

Man: Well, I mean, have you ever sat through the graduation ceremony? I went last year and it lasted almost three hours. And it took almost an hour to just read the names.


Woman: That's my point. Almost two hours of the ceremony consists of speeches. That's the real boring part! Why don't they limit to the number of speakers? They could shorten the ceremony by over an hour if they just focused on the important people.

Man: Yeah, I guess you're right, but what about the auditorium? Each student is only allowed two invitations to the ceremony, but if they separate the events, then you can bring more of your family and friends. Don't you want more people to come?

Woman: So why don't they just have the ceremony outside? Most universities have their graduation ceremonies outside. They are always in June when the weather is warm and it hardly ever rains. And, of course, there's plenty of space on the great lawn in the quad. I don't know about you, but I would much rather graduate outside in the sun then in a stuffy auditorium.



Speaking Task 3: Sample Answer

 According to the reading, swarm intelligence is when a bunch of different insects of the same species are able to combine and connect their thoughts so hundreds of individuals can think and act as one. In the lecture, the professor delves deeper into this subject by providing two examples of swarm intelligence. To start, the lecturer explains that ants use this type of thinking when gathering food. One group of ants will find a way to the food source and release pheromones to mark the trail. Other ants will then follow the pheromone scent. He goes on to say that honeybees use this type of intelligence when looking for a new place to live. In fact, a queen bee might send out a pheromone that attracts thousands of other bees that come together and form a kind of temporary home where the bees can survive. So, after listening, I now have a better understanding of what swarm intelligence is.



Speaking Task 3: Transcript


“Okay, as I am sure you gathered from the reading, swarm intelligence is kind of like one big decentralized brain. All of these individual brains come together to create one collective consciousness that all of them share. These days, this type of intelligence is actually being used in the field of artificial intelligence, but it was originally found in nature and many insects use it to create organized living systems.

Take ants, for example. They will work together to find the shortest route to a food source and work together to carry it back to the nest. How do they communicate? Well, the individual ants mark the route with their scent, also known as a pheromone. This scent, left by one individual ant, will be sensed and followed by other members of the colony. And the more ants that follow the same trail, the more pheromones they leave behind. The path turns into a kind of ant superhighway. Other possible routes no longer seem available to the colony since there is no pheromone trail for others to follow.

Ants aren't the only insects that use swarm intelligence. Honeybees also utilize collective communication to organize masses of individuals. During adverse weather conditions, a thunderstorm, for example, bees may lose their nest and must find a new home. However, it takes time to find an ideal location and build their new home. So, the queen bee will find a branch on a tree and send out pheromones that the worker bees follow. Once they find the queen, the worker bees will collect and press together, forming a kind of giant pine cone that could include up to 10,000 bees, if you can believe it. There would be no way for a single bee to survive such weather if it was working by itself.”



Speaking Task 4: Sample Answer

 The professor goes into a ton of detail about the preservation of artifacts in museums, which helps slow down the deterioration process. After introducing the topic, the lecturer mentions that a stable temperature is key. Materials like paper and wood dry out easily if the temperature changes too drastically, which is why most museums keep the temperature between 68-72 degrees. He goes on to say that the moisture in the air, otherwise known as relative humidity, must be carefully controlled. For metal objects, higher humidity levels could lead to corrosion. On the other hand, low humidity can make objects like paper more fragile. Most places housing artifacts keep the relative humidity between 45-50%. So, after hearing this lecture, I now have a better understanding of how museums preserve their artifacts.



Speaking Task 4: Transcript

"Preservation of archaeological artifacts for future generations is an important task. Although the deterioration of objects and materials is inevitable, proper preservation can make the process much slower. Creating the ideal conditions in museums is extremely important because historical artifacts can be affected by various environmental factors. The most important are temperature and relative humidity.

Maintaining a stable temperature in museums and storage centers is critical. The same temperature should be maintained every day, all day and all night. Actually, a sudden change in temperature is more dangerous than having no climate control at all. Objects made from organic materials like paper, wood, or leather may wither and dry out if exposed to a sudden temperature fluctuation. Most museums maintain a temperature between 68-72 degrees Fahrenheit and take every possible step to ensure there is little to no variation. If, for example, a city loses power, many museums have backup power sources to ensure that their interior temperature remains constant.

Relative humidity, which is the amount of moisture in the air, could also have a negative effect on ancient artifacts. In metal objects, a high level of relative humidity could cause the object to corrode or develop mold. In contrast, low humidity could cause paper or leather to turn more brittle and fragile. Ideally, there should be different a different level of humidity for different collections, depending on the material of the artifacts in question. Still, most museums set their humidity level somewhere between 45-50%.

Throughout most modern museums, sensors have been installed that monitor the amount of humidity in the air. Once the level of humidity changes by over 2% the system takes action and adjusts its settings."





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