

WORKSHOP ON

**STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE
YOUR TOEFL SCORE**

Faculty of Engineering
&

Center for Foreign Language Training (CFLT)
UDINUS

TOEFL Test (PBT)

- 3 Sections:
 - Listening
 - Structure
 - Reading

Estimating Total TOEFL Score

- Your total score is equal to:

Section 1 (Conv. score) + Sect. 2 (Conv. score) + Sect. 3 (Conv. score) x 10

3

Score Conversion Table

TOEFL SCORING CHART of PBT

Number Correct	Converted Score Section 1	Converted Score section 2	Converted Score 3 Section 3
50	68		67
49	67		66
48	66		65
47	65		63
46	63		61
45	62		60
44	61		59
43	60		58
42	59		57
41	58		56
40	57	68	55
39	57	67	54
38	56	65	54
37	55	63	53
36	54	61	52
35	54	60	52
34	53	58	51
33	52	57	50
32	52	56	49
31	51	55	48
30	51	54	48
29	50	53	47
28	49	52	46
27	49	51	46
26	48	50	45
25	48	49	44
24	47	48	43
23	47	47	43
22	46	46	42

Score Conversion

You just took a TOEFL Practice Test with the following scores:

- Section 1:
Number correct = 27, converted score = 47
- Section 2:
Number correct = 29, converted score = 54
- Section 3:
Number correct = 37, converted score = 53

You can estimate your total score:

$$\frac{47 + 54 + 53}{3} = 51.3 \times 10 = \mathbf{513}$$

Questions Categories and Types in the Listening Test

The test only gives objective tasks; it only requires you to mark or circle the correct response/multiple choice

- Number of types: 3
 - **Part A** : Short Conversations (30 questions)
 - **Part B** : Longer Conversations (8-9 questions)
 - **Part C** : Talks/Lectures (11-12 questions)
- Total of questions: 50
- Duration : about 35 minutes

Strategies for Listening Part A Questions

- As you listen to each short conversation, focus on the **second line** of the conversation
- Keep in mind that the correct answer is probably a **restatement** of a **key word** or idea in the second line of the conversation
- Keep in mind that certain structure and expressions are tested regularly in Listening Part A. Listen for these structures and expressions:
 - Restatement
 - Negatives
 - Suggestions
 - Passives
 - Conclusions about who and where
 - Expressions of agreement

- Even if you do not understand the complete dialogue, you can still find the correct answer:
 - If you only understand a few words or ideas in the last line, choose the answer that contains a restatement of those words or ideas.
 - If you do not understand anything at all in the last line of the conversation, **choose the answer that sounds the most different** from what you heard.
 - Never choose an answer because it *sounds like* what you heard in the dialogue.

Skills for Listening

Part A Questions

- Focus on the second line
- Choose answer with synonyms
- Avoid similar sounds
- Draw conclusion about who, what, where
- Listen for who and what in passives
- Listen for negative expressions
- Listen for double negatives
- Listen for “almost negative” expressions
- Listen for negatives with comparative
- Listen for emphatic expression of surprise
- Listen for expression of agreement
- Listen for expression of uncertainty and suggestion
- Listen for idioms
- Listen for wishes
- Listen for untrue conditions

Some “tricks”

- So do I
 - Me, too!
 - I'll say!
 - Isn't it!
 - You can say that again!
 - Neither do I.
 - I don't either.
- Choose options that has these words: *agree, similar, share the same opinion, too, also*

Some “tricks”

- ... isn't it (tag)?
 - As far as I know.
 - As far as I can tell.
 - Why not...?
 - Let's...
- Choose options that has these words: *think*,
believe, *not sure*

Some “tricks”

- *No one is more* beautiful than she is.
 - He *couldn't* be *happier*.
- Choose options that has this word: *extremely*
(if any)

Skills & Strategies for Part B & C

- There are 2 **long conversation** in Part B, and 3 **talks** in Part C
- **Before Listening**
 - Predict/anticipate the topics
 - Predict/anticipate questions for each of the group answers
- **While Listening**
 - Listen carefully to the first line of the conversation or talk
 - Determine the topics
 - As you listen to the conversation or talk, draw conclusion about:
 - Who is talking
 - Where the conversation or talk takes places or
 - When it takes place

Test Organization – Section 2 (SWE)

- Structure and Written Expression
 - 40 Questions, 25 minutes
 - 1 – 15 : choosing the correct options
 - 16 – 40 : choosing the options which are incorrect

Question Categories

- Easy : Memory based
- Medium : Simple comprehension based
- Difficult : Complex

Strategies for Doing SWE Test

- General Strategies
 - Be familiar with the directions
 - Begin with questions **1 through 5**
 - Continue with questions **16 through 20**
 - If you have time, return to questions 11 through 15
 - Never leave any questions blank on your answer sheet

Sample Questions - Easy

- No Problem is more serious _____.
 - A. **than environmental pollution**
 - B. than environmental pollution does
 - C. as environmental pollution
 - D. as environmental pollution does

- Located in the cranial cavity in the skull,
A
the brain is the **larger** mass of nerve tissue
B C
in the human body.
D

Strategies for the Structure Questions

- First study the sentence. Your purpose is to determine what is needed to complete the sentence.
- Then study each answer based on how well it completes the sentence. Eliminate answers that do not complete the sentence correctly.
- Do not try to eliminate incorrect answers by looking only at the answers. The incorrect answers are generally incorrect only when used to complete the sentence.
- **Never leave any answers blank.**
- **Do not spend too much time** on the structure questions. Be sure to leave adequate time for the written expression questions.

Strategies for the Written Expression Questions

- First look at the underlined word or groups of words. You want to see if you spot which of the four answer choices is not correct.
- If you have been unable to find the error by looking only at the four underlined expressions, then read the complete sentence. Often an underlined expression is incorrect because of something in another part of the sentence.
- Never leave any answers blank.

Common Problems of Understanding Sentences – 1

1. Test takers do not know what to do first, when dealing with questions, to choose the best answers.

Remember, all questions are in the form of sentences; your purpose is to determine what is needed to complete the sentence correctly.

So, BE SURE!

S + V/P + (O/C)

Example

- _____ was backed up for miles on the freeway.
 - A. Yesterday
 - B. In the morning
 - C. Traffic
 - D. Cars

Common Problems of Understanding Sentences - 2

2. Test takers do not understand how to find the HEAD of the subjects.

The small stores in the middle of the silent city of this prosperous country _____ been occupied

A. has

B. have

Common Problems of Understanding Sentences - 3

3. Test takers do not know that **VERB-ING (present participle)** and **VERB 3 (past participle)** are **NOT** VERBS or PREDICATES of sentences if they come alone (not preceded by auxiliary **“to be”** or **“have”** forms).

Artifacts are ancient object _____ an archeological site during excavation.

- A. **found in**
- B. which find
- C. having found in
- D. in the find of

Common Problems of Understanding Sentences - 4

- “V-ing” and “to V₁” as gerund and infinitive
 - “V-ing” as Noun (Gerund)

Walking is a lot of fun.

I stop smoking.
 - “To V₁” as Noun, Adjective, and Adverb

To walk is a lot of fun.

The man to meet is Mr. Adam.

My coming here is to meet you.

Common Problems of Understanding Sentences - 5

- Many test takers are also confused with:
 - The use of **“that”** in adj. clause, noun clause, or as determiner.
 - We know the man that you admire.
 - That you take the test is important.
 - That school is my father’s.
 - The use of **“who”** in adj. clause, noun clause, or as question word.
 - The man who sent me this book is my uncle.
 - Who won the competition has nothing to do with me.
 - Who is the winner of this competition?
 - The use of **“when”** in adj. clause, noun clause, connector as question word.
 - It was the time when I started my study.
 - I do not know when he will arrive.
 - Jessy sent the letter when she knew about the news.
 - When who the director come?

The “tricks”

Appositive

- S, _____, V O
- S V O, _____

Answer possibilities:

1. V-ing/V₃
2. Who, which, (that) + V
3. N/NP

The “tricks”

Word order

- V + -ly (Adv.)
- V O -ly
- -ly V

The “tricks”

- These indefinite pronouns are **always singular**.

A NOSE

Anymone, anybody, anything

No one, nobody, nothing, neither

Someone, somebody, something

Everyone, everybody, everything

Each (+noun), every (+noun), either

→ remember, you have only 1 NOSE (1 = singular)

The “tricks”

- Use caution with these three conjunctions: **either ... or, neither ... nor, and not only ... but also.**
 1. Check the pair
 2. Check the verb

The “tricks”

- Make sure every sentence has one subject and one verb.

S V O/C

- If a sentence has more than one subject and verb, you will need a connector.

Connector S V, S V

S V Connector S V

Reading Comprehension

- There are 2 types of questions:
 1. Reading comprehension questions ask you to answer questions about the information given in the reading passages.
 2. Vocabulary questions ask you to identify the meanings of vocabulary words in the reading passages.

General Strategies

- Be familiar with the directions
- Do not spend too much time reading the passage!
- Do not worry if a reading passage is on a topic that you are unfamiliar with.
- Never leave any questions blank on your answer sheet.
- Use your time wisely.

Question Strategies

- Skim the reading passage to determine the main idea and the overall organizations of ideas in the passage.
- Look ahead at the questions to determine what types of questions you must answer.
- Find the sections of the passage that deals with each questions.
- For main ideas questions, look at the first line of each paragraph.
- For directly and indirectly answered detail question, choose a key word in questions and skim for that key word (or a related idea) in order in the passage.
- Read the part of the passage that contains the answer carefully.
- Choose the best answer to each questions from the four answer choices listed in your text book.

Types of Questions

1. Topic
2. Inference / Conclusion
3. Exception / Implication
4. Prediction
5. Vocabulary
6. Details
7. Reference

GOOD LUCK!

