

**Tell what is happening in these sentences. Tell the relationship between the underlined words.**

1. I had hoped to make all my calls before the deadline, but during the power failure, all the lines went dead. I really enjoy the social aspect of my assignment, even though it's kind of a dead-end job.
2. At the risk of being repetitive, I'll repeat the three essential rules so you don't forget them.
3. We were hoping to find some cool knockoffs at the stall on the street, but the owner had apparently knocked off early, so the stall was closed.
4. Perk up! The job doesn't pay well, but has a lot of perks, such as meeting famous Hollywood stars.
5. The agencies involved in outreach to refugees must reach out to wealthy donors for support of their programs.

**Read this selection and answer the questions. You have 10 minutes.**

When Jessye Norman's parents were knocking on the wall of their young daughter's room as a signal for her to stop singing and to go to sleep, little did they dream that this small child who seemed to have been born singing would grow up to be an internationally **renowned** opera singer.

It is not surprising that Jessye loved to sing. Music was an **integral** part of her family's lifestyle. Although Jessye remembers her mother singing spirituals, it was her grandmother who was always singing. Every hour of her day and every mood was **highlighted** with a song that fit the occasion. As Jessye was growing up, her piano-playing mother and trumpet and trombone playing brothers accompanied her when the family was called upon to provide special music for church services, parent-teacher meetings, and ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

During her childhood, Jessye knew only three operatic songs: one that she learned from a recording and two others - opera **scores** she found at the local music store. Although singing was in her blood, it was not until she attended Howard University that Jessye Norman took her first voice lesson with Carolyn Grant, who recognized her talent and knew how to **channel** it. It was almost immediately after leaving the university in 1968, on her first visit to Europe, that Jessye won the singing prize in the International Music Competition of German Radio. The following year, she was invited to go to Berlin to perform at the Deutsche Opera. Since that time, Jessye Norman has become a world superstar whose **singular** voice reaches audiences all over the world.

1. The word "renowned" is closest in meaning to:

- a- infamous      b- celebrated      c- notorious      d- precocious

2. The word "integral" is closest in meaning to:

- a- demanding      b- persistent      c- essential      d- intuitive

3. The word "highlighted" is closest in meaning to:

- a- emphasized      b- contradicted      c- conveyed      d- belittled

4. The word “scores” is closest in meaning to:  
a- points      b- experts      c- voice lessons      d- sheet music

5. The word “channel” is closest in meaning to:  
a- station      b- irrigate      c- exploit      d- direct

6. The word “singular” is closest in meaning to:  
a- flattering      b- exceptional      c- fluctuating      d- different

**Discussion:**

1. Finish this sentence- Little did your parents dream that you would grow up to ...
2. Do you enjoy opera? What style of music do you enjoy? Was music an integral part of your family’s life?
3. Infamous means known for a bad quality or trait. Who is the most infamous criminal you have heard of?
4. A child who has unusual abilities at an early age is precocious. Have you heard of anyone who is precocious?
5. A demanding teacher insists that you meet very high standards. Do you think it’s a good thing to have demanding teachers or does it put too much pressure on kids?
6. If you are intuitive, you frequently have a “feeling” that something is true rather than relying on conscious reasoning. Are you an intuitive person? Are men generally more intuitive than women?
7. Synonyms for convey include, transport and communicate, If someone asks you to “convey my kindest regards” to someone, what are they asking you to do? Can you convey a feeling of kindness to someone without saying anything? How would you do it?
8. If you belittle someone, you make them feel unimportant. Has anyone ever belittled you? Give an example of what someone would say to belittle you.
9. The meaning of channel in the reading selection was “direct”. Talk about what these other uses of the word “channel” mean.

“You have to go through official **channels** to get resident alien status. It isn’t something you can do through back doors.”

“He sits in front of the TV all day **channel surfing**.”

“You must learn to **channel** your emotions if you want to run for office. There will be people trying to make you angry on purpose to see how you react.

10. Fluctuate means to rise and fall unevenly. Explain the meaning of these sentences:

a-Currency exchange rates **fluctuate** every day, so you should check the rates before you buy your airline tickets.

b-I always take a jacket to class because the temperature in our classroom **fluctuates** wildly.

Answers to TOEFL exercise: b, c, a, d, d, b

