

You will be asked to write essays on the TOEFL. These sentences come from students TOEFL essays. They have mistakes in them. See if you can correct the mistakes. First try it alone, then work on them as a group.

1. Alpine meadows is a tranquil sight.
2. Elderly sometimes need special care.
3. A laser cane, which the blind find useful, sends out beams that detecting obstacles.
4. In 1918, Charles Strite inventing the timer that turns off the toaster when the bread is toasted.
5. The most convincing evidence that female chimpanzees in Tanzania use the asplia plant for medicinal purposes.
6. When adults come to night classes eager to learn usually do well.
7. A vending machine is a kind of robot that automatically give out candy or other items when money is inserted.
8. Apprentices sometimes fear that they must not be able to master the intricacies of their chosen craft.
9. The importance of the Chaco Canyon archaeological site is that they reveals insights into a whole civilization.
10. Arched roofs were built for a first time 2,500 years ago.
11. The Royal Mounted Police or "Mounties" now enforcing all federal laws throughout Canada.
12. They're diverse duties also include participating in peacekeeping efforts.
13. About 1000 Mounties assigned exclusively to controlling the spread of illegal drugs.
14. As long ago as the thirteenth century, Roger Bacon, a Franciscan friar, postulated that the humankind could fly.
15. In another study, an experimenter claimed to represent a local utility company interviewed homeowners.

Discussion with idioms:

1. If you "throw in the towel" you quit. You give up. Describe a time when you threw in the towel.
2. If you are "thin-skinned" you are easily upset or hurt. You are sensitive to criticism. Would you describe yourself as thin-skinned. Is your spouse more thin-skinned than you are?
3. If you "swallow your pride" you forget your pride and accept something humiliating (something that humbles you). Sometimes, I have had to swallow my pride and admit to my husband that I was wrong. Don't we all hate admitting error! Describe a time when you had to swallow your pride.
4. A "standing joke" is a subject that regularly causes amusement. For example, in my family, my son's lateness is a standing joke. We know he will always be late, so we tell him to come 15 minutes before we tell everyone else to come. That way, he will be on time.

Do you have any standing jokes in your family?

5. A “mecca” for something is a place that is frequently visited by a particular group. It comes from Mecca, the religious center of Islam. People might say, “New York city is a mecca for theatre goers.”

Austin is a live music mecca. What is your town known for or famous for? Explain why I should visit there.

6. Hey, I asked you a question. Why aren't you answering?

Sorry, I'm “a million miles away”. Thinking of my vacation, I guess.

Do you daydream often?

7. I “got off on the wrong foot” with my professor when I asked him if I had to take his course. He thought I was implying that I dreaded the course and didn't want to take it.

Talk about a time when you got off on the wrong foot with someone.

8. I'm going to quit my job so I have more time to get my photography business going. I just can't work an 8 hour day, then come home and try to “drum up” business for the photography studio. I know I'm burning my bridges”, but I really feel I can “make it” as a photographer.

What does she mean by “drum up business”?

What does she mean by “burning my bridges”?

What does she mean by “make it”?

Have you ever burned your bridges? Did you burn your bridges when you came to the U.S.?

TOEFL Answers

1**are** a tranquil sight, 2**The** elderly, 3**detect** obstacles, 4**invented** the timer 5not a complete sentence

6**they** usually do well 7**gives** out candy 8**might** not be able to 9**it** reveals 10**the** first time

11**enforce** all federal laws 12**Their** diverse duties 13**are** assigned 14humankind could fly (no **the** humankind)15experimenter **claimed**