

TOEFL Prep Lesson 4

1. Check Homework-read the paragraph and work on pronunciation of vocabulary words. Define the vocabulary. Ask for questions.

2. Write a few sentences to answer these questions. Read your answers to the group and lead a discussion. Each student at the table should choose a different question.

a-An example of a time I have persevered is---

b-Something that could happen that would be catastrophic is ---

c-I try never to unleash my feelings. It is better not to show emotion. Do you agree?

d-Is famine a major problem for our world?

e-Do you think people are evolving to more tolerance? Or do you think people were more tolerant in the past.

f-How have you adapted to living in America?

g-What is an issue about which your opinion has slowly changed over time?

h-Is it good for a country to have a diverse population or is it better if everyone shares the same culture?

3. Make corrections to the sample paragraphs.

4. Homework for next week.

Reading:

Human consumption of fossil fuels is expected to fully deplete the Earth's crude oil reserves by the year 2060. As underground reservoirs of oil continue to shrink, we have no choice but to find alternatives. One promising source, with much cleaner emissions, is called bio-diesel. Bio-diesel is often made from soybean oil, although it can be made from any vegetable oil that is not elementally different from soy. Bio-diesel can even be made from used cooking oils that homes or restaurants would otherwise dispose of. Bio-diesel can be used without constraint in any vehicle that runs on diesel-no modifications are needed. Presently, diesel engines can take up to 20 percent soy in their soy-diesel blend. As the need for bio-diesel increases and the technology improves, we may soon witness the extinction of the fossil-fueled vehicle. This is good news for the planet as bio-diesel is a more stable source of energy than petroleum, and it reduces contamination of our air and water.

1. An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the three answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. In each blank write the letter of one of your choices.

Bio-diesel is a promising alternative to fossil fuels.

- a. Humans have shown little self-restraint in their consumption of fossil fuels.
- b. Underground reservoirs of oil will soon be depleted.
- c. bio-diesel burns cleaner than fossil fuels.
- d. Bio-diesel comes from a more stable source than petroleum.
- e. Restaurants can save disposal fees on used cooking oil.

Find the word that is closest in meaning to the opposite of each word in the left-hand column. Write the letter in the blank.

- ___ 1. stable
- ___ 2. contamination
- ___ 3. extinct
- ___ 4. dispose of
- ___ 5. shrink

- a-keep
- b-expand
- c-unsteady
- d-existing
- e-purity

Match the definitions with the vocabulary word.

stable	to decrease the supply of a resource
shrink	complete disappearance, end of existence
reservoir	a substance discharged into the air
extinction	basically
emission	become reduced in size or amount
elementally	make less clean by a germ or hazardous substance
dispose of	firm and dependable
constrain	throw away
contaminate	place where a liquid is collected and stored
deplete	restrict thought or action