

TOEFL Prep Lesson 3

Pronunciation:

| | | | | | |
|------------|--------------|---------|----------|--------|-------|
| anticipate | catastrophic | collide | eruption | famine | flood |
| impact | persevere | plunge | unleash | | |

Vocabulary:

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

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| ___1. persevere | a-to pass by without hitting |
| ___2. anticipate | b-to give up |
| ___3. famine | c-to not see something coming |
| ___4. collide | d-harmless |
| ___5. catastrophic | 3-excess of food. |

Circle the word that best completes each sentence.

1. Residents of Hawaii must accept the possibility of a volcanic (eruption/perseverance).
2. Years after the accident, she was finally able to (anticipate/unleash) her feelings of anger.
3. Houses along the river often face (famine/flooding) during the rainy season.
4. Many people think it is cruel to (collide/plunge) live lobsters into boiling water.
5. A well-written essay should make some kind of (catastrophe/impact) on its readers.

Read the passage:

Nature challenges humans in many ways, through disease, weather, and famine. For those living along the coast, one unusual phenomenon capable of catastrophic destruction is the tsunami. A tsunami is a series of waves generated in a body of water by an impulsive disturbance. Earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, explosions, and even the impact of meteorites can generate tsunamis. Starting at sea, a tsunami slowly approaches land, growing in height and losing energy through bottom friction and turbulence. Still, just like any other waves, tsunamis unleash tremendous energy as they plunge onto the shore. They have great erosion potential, stripping beaches of sand, undermining trees, and flooding hundreds of meters inland. They can easily crush cars, homes, vegetation, and anything they collide with. To minimize the devastation of a tsunami, scientists are constantly trying to anticipate them more accurately and more quickly. Because many factors come together to produce a life-threatening tsunami, foreseeing them is not easy. Despite this, researchers in meteorology persevere in studying and predicting tsunami behavior.

1. Which sentence best expresses the essential information of this passage?
a-Tsunamis could become a new source of usable energy in the next hundred years.
b-Tsunamis do more damage to the land than flooding.
c-Tsunamis can have an especially catastrophic impact on coastal communities.
d-Scientists can predict and track tsunamis with a fair degree of accuracy, reducing their potential impact.
2. In the first sentence, why does the author mention weather?
a-because tsunamis are caused by bad weather
b-because tsunamis are more destructive than weather phenomena
c-as an example of a destructive natural force
d-as an introduction to the topic of coastal storms

Writing: How to write an agree or disagree essay

In the first sentence, state your opinion. EX: Personally I think that we need zoos.

Then in three separate paragraphs state your reasons and give examples. Read this sample essay.

Personally, I agree. I think we need zoos.

For example, when I was twelve, my teacher took us to the zoo in Berlin. I had never seen wild animals before. I had just read about them in books and seen them on TV. But seeing them in real life was a mazing, especially the lions. On TV, they looked so small, but seeing them live they were really big. By going to the zoo, I definitely saw things in a whole new light.

Now I have a family and we always go to the zoo every summer. My wife makes a picnic and we spend all day there. My kids love taking pictures and learning all about the animals, especially the gorillas. Being outside is good for my children. Best of all, they can leave the internet and the TV at home.

Also, zoos look after endangered animals like pandas. I saw two in the Washington DC zoo last year and they had a baby. If there were no zoos, the pandas would disappear because we are taking the land away. However, in a zoo the pandas are safe. It is not perfect, but without zoos there might not be any pandas left.

For those reasons, I think we need zoos.

If we have time, I will read some of your essays to the class. If we run out of time, go home and revise your essay if need be, and I will read them next week.

As you listen to the essays, evaluate them on this basis.

- 1-Did they state their opinion at the beginning?
- 2-Did they give strong reasons to support their opinion?
- 3-Did they provide examples?