

TOEFL 20

Speaking Section: This section measures your ability to speak English effectively in academic settings, during class as well as outside the classroom.

In this section, you will be asked to speak on a variety of topics that draw on personal experience, campus-based situations and academic content. The speaking section is about 20 minutes long and includes 6 questions.

The first two questions are **Independent Speaking Tasks** because they require you to draw entirely on your own ideas, opinions and experiences when you respond. The other four questions are called **Integrated Speaking Tasks** because they require you to integrate your English skills-listening and speaking, or listening, reading and speaking - just as you must during class and outside the classroom.

How Speaking Responses are Scored

You will receive from 1 to 4 points for your speaking response. You will be judged on topic development, language use and delivery.

*Topic Development: How fully do you answer the question? How coherently do you present your ideas?

*Delivery: How clear is your speech? Is your pronunciation and intonation natural?

*Language Use: How effectively do you use grammar and vocabulary to convey ideas? Do your words flow together fluidly?

Ways to Practice for the Speaking Section

--Practice giving opinions, describing problems and solutions and language used to compare and contrast.

--Learn to use idioms and informal speech naturally by listening to native speakers and trying to mimic their expressions.

--Practice using contractions, such as it's, there's, I'm and so on in order to sound more natural when speaking.

--Work on pronunciation, including word stress, intonation patterns and pauses.

Attending our advanced classes and volunteering to speak frequently is a very good way to practice your English. Also, use the break time to instigate conversations with native speakers.

PRACTICE:

Speaking Activity-Think for 20 seconds about what you did yesterday, then recount your experiences in one minute. Remember to use the past tense of verbs and use connecting words and phrases, such as "first", "then" and "while I was". Speaking time = 45 seconds.

READING MINI-TEST

In the twentieth century, architects in large cities designed structures in a way that reduced noise and yet made living as comfortable as possible. **A** They used such techniques as making walls hollow and filling this wall space with materials that absorb noise. Thick carpets and heavy curtains were used to cover floors and windows. Air conditioners and furnaces were designed to filter air through soundproofing materials. **B** However, after much time and effort had been spent in making buildings less noisy, it was discovered that people also reacted adversely to the lack of sound. **C** Now architects are designing structures that reduce undesirable noise but retain the kind of noise that people seem to need. **D**

1. The word "they" in the passage refers to:

- a-cities b-structures c-architects d-techniques

2. According to the passage, making walls hollow and filling this wall space with materials that absorb noise results in:

- a-filtered air
b-a lack of sound
c-an adverse reaction to noise

d-a reduction in undesirable noise

3.The following sentence can be added to the passage. Choose the letter of the square that shows where the sentence should be added.

A silent home can cause feelings of anxiety and isolation.

The gambrel roof design has an enduring appeal to many builders and homeowners. Originally a feature of Dutch colonial architectural style, the gambrel is a straight double-sloped roof joined at a central ridge. **A** The main distinguishing feature is that each roof side is broken into two planes, with the lower slope inclined at a steeper pitch than the upper. Sometimes the angle of the gambrel roof becomes shallower again at the eaves and projects over the wall of the house, giving a bell-shaped appearance in cross section. **B** The main advantage of the gambrel roof is that it creates a spacious interior on the upper floor of the house. **C** This makes it a perfect choice for a growing family. **D**

4. The phrase, "a feature", in the passage refers to

- a-the gambrel roof design
- b- the straight sloping roof
- c-the roof design in Holland
- d-the roof joined at a central ridge

5.The gambrel roof design of the Dutch colonial architectural style is appealing to homeowners because

- a-it has a bell-shaped appearance
- b-it creates a spacious upper floor
- c-the shape is traditional
- d-the angle becomes shallower at the eaves

6.The following sentence can be added to the passage. Choose the letter of the square that shows where the sentence should be added.

This spaciousness also makes the gambrel roof highly suitable for barn construction, since the upper floor can be used as a hayloft.

Diamond value is based on four characteristics: carat, color, clarity, and cut. The size of a diamond is measured by carat weight. There are 100 points in a carat and 142 carats in an ounce. Each point above 1 carat is more valuable than each one below 1 carat. In other words, a stone that weighs more than 1 carat is more valuable per point than a stone that is smaller than 1 carat.

The scale used for rating color begins with D, which means the gem is absolutely colorless and, therefore, the most valuable. E and F are almost colorless. All three are good for investment purposes. A stone rated between G and J is good for jewelry. Beyond J the stones take on a slightly yellowish color, which gets deeper as the grade declines.

The clarity of a stone is determined by its lack of carbon spots, inner flaws, and diamond's brilliance. For jewelry, a diamond rated VVS1 (very, very slight imperfections) is as close to flawless as one will find.

The final characteristic is cut. **A** When shaped - whether round, oval, emerald, marquise, pear or heart - the diamond should be faceted so that light is directed into the depths of the prism and then reflected outward again. **B** A well-cut diamond will separate the light into different colors when the light is reflected. **C** Only stones of similar shape should have their reflective qualities compared, as some shapes are more reflective than others. The round shape is the most reflective. **D**

8. Even though they affect a diamond's brilliance, slight carbon spots, inner flaws, and surface blemishes

- a-lack imperfections
- b-are rated VVS1
- c-cannot be seen with the naked eye
- d-can make a diamond more valuable

9. Where can this sentence be added:

In contrast, a nearly flawless diamond that is not professionally cut will not acquire its full reflective potential, and thus, its value may be diminished.