

## HW Assignment #2, Key Points + Notes

This evening you will have your second homework assignment, it's another example of an "Independent" Task 1 Question, and it should take you less than 2 minutes to complete. If it takes you more than 2 minutes, you're doing it wrong! Remember, during the exam you will only have 15 seconds to prepare your answer, and 45 seconds to deliver it, after your Task 1 Question is presented to you.

I will post the prompt/question between 16:55 and 17:05. You are expected to deliver your response as a voice recording in this group chat. I will offer everyone personal feedback in a timely fashion.

I will be paying special attention to the following aspects of your answer:

1. **Delivery:** How clear is your speech? Good responses are those in which the speech is fluid and clear, with good pronunciation, natural pacing, and natural-sounding intonation patterns.
2. **Language Use:** How effectively do you use grammar and vocabulary to convey your ideas? How well can you control both basic and more complex language structures? Did you use appropriate vocabulary?
3. **Topic Development:** How fully did you answer the question, and how coherently did you present your ideas? Good responses generally use all or most of the time allotted, and the relationship between ideas and the progression from one idea to the next is clear and easy to follow.

Now, without further ado...

"What place or landmark in your country do you recommend other people visit? Explain why you think other people should go there. Include details and examples to support your explanation."

### Key Points:

- Can I clearly understand the 1 - 3 recommended places or landmarks?
- Is it clear why I should want to go to these places?
- Did you incorporate details and examples in your explanation?

There are many, many ways to answer this question, **the important thing is that you communicate enough information about the place or landmark to explain why someone should go there.**

A quick note on word choice... Instead of repeating a word, like "important", in your response try to think of some synonyms to use, like "meaningful". Using synonyms effectively is an easy way to boost your score.

### Personalized Feedback:

For **Echo** - Good work Echo, I really like how you started with one place, Beijing, and then described several other places within Beijing as well. Your flow was good, with limited pauses, and talking about your personal experience there was smart.

Here are some notes: 1) Instead of, "recommend other people to visit in my country", try, "I would strongly encourage people to visit Beijing when they are in China." 2) Instead of, "there are two reasons why I think so", try, "and here are a couple of reasons why" - don't limit yourself to two reasons, just in case you think of a quick third. 3) Work on your pronunciation of "ancient", it kind of sounds like you're saying "engine". 4) Instead of, "I could not stop trying those tasty food", try, "I could not get enough of the delicious food".

For **Jackey** - Good work Jackey, I loved your incorporation of the saying, "one who fails to reach the Great Wall is not a hero", that's brilliant! Try to talk about a personal experience when answering questions like this: "I remember the first time I saw the Great Wall..." - something like that. Your pacing was a little slow, it was like listening to someone drag their feet behind them as they walked down the street. You did a good job avoiding "uhm", but really try to develop a more natural pacing. I did like your use of "majestic" though, great word choice :)

Here are some notes: 1) Do not begin with, "okay...", in your 15 seconds of prep time be sure to think of an opening line, something like: "There are many famous landmarks in China, but the one you should visit is..." 2) Do not refer to the Great Wall of China as a building, you can simply refer to it as, "the Great Wall of China". 3) I appreciated your references to

the history of the Great Wall, but you relied on them too much. Just use the one or two most interesting and relevant historical points. 4) Do not end with, "okay, that's all thank you." Instead, try to work towards something like, "so, if you're ever in China, be sure to visit the Great Wall."

For **Andy** - Good work Andy, your pacing is good. But have you ever been to the Great Wall? I would have liked to hear you talk about your experience there.

Here are some notes: 1) Say, "The Great Wall of China", instead of, "the Chinese Great Wall" - also, speak clearly, I had to rewind the beginning of your speech 3x before I understood what you were saying. 2) At the 0:27 mark, instead of, "the one who hasn't been to Great Wall isn't true man", try, "one who fails to reach the Great Wall is not a hero". 3) Instead of, "when we are looking at [the] Great Wall we see the spirit and wisdom of ancient China", consider trying, "the spirit and wisdom of ancient China is written all over the Great Wall, it's truly wondrous to behold." 4) Instead of, "therefore, the Great Wall is a really great place to visit", try, "those are a couple of reasons why I think the Great Wall is a must-visit landmark in China." You will get huge bonus points for properly using, "must-visit". Also, please avoid using the word "great" to describe the "Great Wall".

For **Hanger** - Good work Hanger, your pacing was a little choppy though. I thought it was interesting that you chose to use "here" instead of "there", as if you were broadcasting live from the province, or as if you were on the phone with someone (speaking from your home in the province). It's clever, but be aware of that choice because it heavily influences your response. You could even think of it as though you were an actor in a commercial for the province, showing people all the neat attractions.

Here are some notes: 1) Instead of, "If I were the people who travels to my countries", try, "If I was visiting China". 2) Work on your pronunciation of "province", it sounds like you said "provinc-ee". 3) Instead of, "to begin with", try, "for starters", or, "the first remarkable thing about it is". 4) If you mention a Chinese food, include a brief description, assume the rater has never heard of it before. 5) Instead of, "besides, there are many mountains here", try, "what's more, the province is filled with majestic mountain ranges", or, "there are also many beautiful mountains there". 6)

Since your point about Pandas was your final point, you could say, "finally, there are many cute pandas here".

For **Zero** - Good work Zero, I'm so happy you talked about how you felt when you were standing on the Great Wall, that was very smart.

Here are my notes: 1) Instead of opening with, "I would recommend the visitors to my country to visit the Great Wall", try, "Everyone who visits China should go to the Great Wall". 2) Work on your pronunciation of "visit", it kind of sounds like you're saying "wisit". 3) Instead of saying, "if he go there, he can...", say, "if *you* go there, *you* can..." 4) I like how you talk about the first time you read about the history of the Great Wall, but instead of jumping straight into boring facts, "I found it was first built in", immediately describe your personal reaction by saying something like: "I was blown away, and I knew that I had to see the Wall for myself." Or, try something like: "I knew that I had to see it in person as soon as possible." 5) Instead of, "standing on the Great Wall to see the overview of the Beijing city is really a good kind of feeling", try something like, "I will never forget the first time I stood on the Great Wall, looking down at our majestic capital city. I felt incredibly powerful and humble at the same time, it's a feeling I hope you can experience when you visit China."

For **Bob** - Good work Bob. Have you ever been to the Great Wall? Instead of talking about its historical purpose, I would rather hear you talk about how you felt when you were standing on it, or what it was like the first time you saw it in person. Your pacing is not bad, but your intonation needs work - it was a little monotone

Here are some more notes: 1) Instead of, "The landmark I recommend other people to go in my country is", try, "If you're visiting China, the landmark you should check out is". 2) Instead of, "the name card of Chinese tourism", try, "the calling card of China's tourism industry", or, "the most popular tourist destination in China". 3) Instead of, "it is said that the astronauts in the space can see it", try, "you can even see it from outer space". 4) Instead of concluding with, "they can take pictures, and see beautiful the view of the Chinese territory", try something like, "so if you want a great view of the Chinese landscape, as well as some nice pictures to take home with you, be sure to check out the Great Wall."

For **Cecilia** - Did you edit this? Remember, when you face these Task 1 Questions on the exam, you will only have 15 seconds to prepare your response, and 45 seconds to deliver it. The point of these assignments is to prepare you for your final TOEFL exam - try your best to adhere to the 15s prep, 45s answer timeline.

Here are some notes: 1) Instead of opening with, "for me to recommend my friend to go to a landmark in my country I would choose..." Try, "whenever my friends visit China, I tell them to go see..." Or, "if my friend was visiting China, I would tell them to..." 2) Instead of saying, "there's a saying goes like", just say, "there is a saying", or, "we have a saying". 3) Instead of saying, "when I stand on the grain of the Great Wall, I realize the sediments of the history", try, "the first time I stood on the Great Wall was an incredible, moving experience, I felt the spirit of ancient China."

That being said, it's still a good answer Cecilia, keep working hard.

For **Mark** - Good work Mark, but it sounds like you're reading your answer, try to develop a more natural speaking pattern. I'm glad you talked about how you felt when you were in the park, personal experiences like that are perfect for this type of question.

Here are my notes: 1) Instead of opening with, "the place I recommend other people to visit", try, "I would highly recommend visiting", or, "one of my favorite places, in all of China, is..." 2) Instead of saying, "the Century Park of Beijing", just say, "Beijing's Century Park", or, "Century Park in Beijing". 3) Instead of, "the most amazing part is enjoyable surroundings", try, "the first thing I noticed when I went there was how beautiful everything was", or, "it has a remarkably pleasant atmosphere". 4) Instead of, "when I walked there I enjoyed smelling the fragrance of flowers and grass", try, "when I walked through the park, I couldn't help but notice the sweet aroma of the flowers", or, "another thing that stood out to me was how sweet the park smelled, undoubtedly because of the well-manicured flowers." 5) Instead of concluding with, "and that's why I recommend other people to visit the Century Park", try, "and that's why I think everyone should visit Century Park", or, "and that's why I think Beijing's Century Park should be at the top of your sightseeing list".

For **Horace** - Good work Horace, I really appreciated your inclusion of the impressive fact, "it is the biggest and highest plateau salt lake in the world", cut out "and" though - just say "biggest, highest". It sounds like a great place to visit, and it would sure be cool to meet a Tibetan antelope :) Have you ever been there though? I would have liked to hear about your experience.

Here are my notes: 1) Instead of opening with, "the place I may recommend to other people is", try, "my favorite place to visit, in all of China, is", or, "I think everyone who visits China should go to". 2) Work on your pronunciation of "jewel", it sounds like you're saying "jowel". 3) Instead of concluding with, "you will find yourself out of the world there, and so just go to the ... lake and enjoy time." Try something like, "when you're at the lake, you're surrounded by this otherworldly beauty. I think everyone should spend some time there."

For **Ada** - Great work Ada - your pacing is good, and you clearly explain why people should visit Inner Mongolia. Your word choice is awkward at times, but you can improve that.

Here are my notes: 1) Instead of opening with, "I would strongly suggest others to visit", try, "I would strongly encourage everyone to visit". 2) I don't think it's accurate to call Inner Mongolia a "city north of China". 3) It's not "camping fire", just say "campfire". 4) Now, here's an example of the awkward word choice I mentioned: "one of the most important activities is camping fire evening party, held outside". Try something like this instead, "one of the most popular (or fun) activities is a party, held around a campfire". It would be even better to recount a personal experience here, something like: "I went there with my family once, and we had this really fun party around a campfire." By the way, you don't have to specify that the party is outside, if you make it clear that it is held around a campfire, because people know that campfires are outside. 5) Instead of saying, "they will also eat whole lamb roasted", try, "they also eat a whole, roasted lamb", or, "they also eat an entire roasted lamb".

For **Nathan** - Good work Nathan, I like how you talked about the Great Wall as a symbol of the Chinese spirit, "to work hard, never give up, and to cooperate." I also appreciate that you included an account of your experience there.

Here are some notes: 1) Instead of opening with, "I would like to recommend other people to visit a place called Great Wall in China", try, "I would like to encourage everyone to visit the Great Wall of China". 2) Cut out the part from 0:24 - 0:33, starting with "as everyone knows..." Try replacing it with a more detailed, vivid description of your trip to the Great Wall. Also, just so you know, instead of saying, "it needs cooperate", say, "it requires cooperation". 3) Instead of, "I have been to Great Wall some years ago", try, "I went to the Great Wall a couple of years ago". 4) Instead of closing with, "I think other people would like to visit Great Wall", try, "I think everyone should visit the Great Wall".

For **Tesla** - Good work Tesla, it sounds like you're reading though, try to develop a more natural pacing.

Here are my notes: 1) Instead of opening with, "as for me, I would recommend people to go to", try, "I would recommend visiting", or, "one of my favorite Chinese landmarks is". 2) Instead of separately referring to the historical and cultural significance of the Yellow River, tie them into one neat statement, and then support it: "the Yellow River has been critical to China's development all throughout our history, it's cultural significance cannot be overstated..." Here's another option: "The historical and cultural significance of the Yellow River is undeniable, it has been a critical part of China's development for as long as anyone can remember..." 3) Before you say, "as we all know", think about your audience. In this case, the rater likely won't know that the Yellow River is the longest river in China. 4) I think you can come up with a better closing line than, "and the air is full of humidity."

For **Vince** - Good effort Vince, your speech is natural - though not flawless - you stumbled a couple of times. It's also a little too short, but keep working hard and it will improve. Oh, and one more thing, I really appreciate how you talked about your experience at the TV tower and what it means to you - that's perfect for this kind of question.

Here are some more notes: 1) Instead of opening with, "I suggest people come to see", try, "I think everyone should visit", or, "I would encourage everyone to check out". 2) I think it's unusual that you chose to recommend the TV tower in Shijiazhuang, when you could have selected any one of the impressive landmarks in China (i.e., the Great Wall, the

Terracotta Army, the Summer Palace). Make sure you read the question carefully. 3) Okay, correct me if I'm wrong, but I think you're trying to say something like: "Whenever I'm stressed out, I go to the top of the TV tower because there's something about looking out over the city at night that relaxes me. It's my favorite place in the city." This is a great reason to recommend visiting the TV tower, but try to be more succinct.