

Teacher's Copy of TOEFL Speaking Mock Test 1

This is meant to accompany The English Formula's "[TOEFL Speaking Mock Test 1](#)" - it is to be used for educational purposes only; not for profit. Use this handout to run students through a mock examination in your TOEFL exam prep course. Break students into pairs, and have them take turns completing each task. So, student A will complete Task 1 while student B (student A's partner) acts as monitor. Then, student B will complete Task 2 while student A acts as monitor, and so on.

If you want every student to practice each task, then, after student B completes Task 6, inform your class that you will be running through the mock examination a second time. However, this time you will swap positions, so whoever completed Task 1 will complete Task 2 instead.

A note for teachers -- pay special attention to the following aspects of your student's responses:

- **Delivery:** How clear your speech is. Good responses are those in which the speech is fluid and clear, with good pronunciation, natural pacing, and natural-sounding intonation patterns.
 - **Language Use:** How effectively you use grammar and vocabulary to convey your ideas. Raters will be listening for how well you can control both basic and more complex language structures and use appropriate vocabulary.
 - **Topic Development:** How fully you answer the question and how coherently 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."
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Instructions:

Tasks 1 and 2 are independent speaking tasks. You have 15 seconds to prepare your response, and 45 seconds to deliver it.

Task 1

Talk about a person in your life who has inspired you. Describe the person, and explain why you found them inspirational. {15s prep, 45s answer}

Key Points:

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the question, especially the word "inspire", the root of "inspirational".
 - Google's definition of inspire is, "fill (someone) with the urge or ability to do or feel something, especially to do something creative."
- Give a clear explanation of *why* you found / find this person inspirational, for example:
 - Admirable character traits: honesty, courage, kindness, patience, generosity, strength, perseverance, intelligence, etc.
 - Special memories: 1) "I remember this one time when..." 2) "They were there for me when..."
- Give a description of how you felt / feel about this person, and why you felt / feel that way -- for example:
 - "I am inspired to become a better soccer player by watching Cristiano Ronaldo, because he does amazing things on the field, makes his teammates better, and never gives up."

Task 2

Some people like to do only what they already do well. Other people prefer to try new things and take risks. Which do you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice. {15s prep, 45s answer}

Key Points:

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the question.
- Make a decision, make it clear that you either, a) prefer to only do what you already do well, or b) prefer to try new things and take risks.
- Give reasons to support your choice, for example:
 - “I prefer to only do what I already do well because then I will be more successful early in life, and I will continue to get better and better, at whatever it is that I’m already good at, until I’m one of the best in the world.”
 - “I prefer to try new things and take risks because I think it’s important to push yourself outside of your comfort zone in order to grow as a person. It also makes life more exciting. If you don’t take risks and experience new things, then your life will be boring.”
- Give examples, ideally personal ones, like this:
 - “I have always been good at soccer, but when I was in school one of my teachers asked me to join the track and field team. I said ‘no’ because I knew that I wouldn’t have as much time to practice soccer. It was a good decision. I spent that time practicing, and was named MVP of our league the next season.”
 - “I used to be afraid of flying, and of travelling far from home, but then my best friend asked me to go to Italy with her. I said ‘yes’, and it was one of the best decisions I ever made. We had so much fun, I learned Italian, and I got to experience a new, fascinating culture.”

Instructions (continued):

Tasks 3 and 4 are integrated speaking tasks. You have 45 seconds to read a short text, you will then hear a short conversation, or part of a lecture, on the same topic. **You may take notes** during both the reading and listening sections. Next you will see a question concerning the information you read and heard. Finally, you will have 30 seconds to prepare your response, and 60 seconds to respond.

Task 3

“The local university newspaper is hiring students for its staff. Read the announcement from The Torch. You will have 45 seconds to read the announcement. Begin reading now.”

The Torch... The university newspaper, The Torch, is now taking applications from students who are interested in joining the staff. There are several different positions available, and experience in journalism is not required. This is the chance to get the experience that you need to get a jump-start on your future while also serving and supporting your classmates and student body. We have positions available for students interested in writing, photography, advertising, and art design. Please bring your resume to apply in person at The Torch’s office, Rm 407 in the Patrick Building next to the cafeteria.

[listen to audio] ... {instructor’s note: begin at 5:43 mark}

Question: The man expresses his opinion of the announcement regarding working on the student newspaper. State his opinion and explain the reasons he gives for holding that opinion. {30s prep, 60s answer}

Key Points:

- State the man's opinion. Here's a summary of his opinion:
 - The woman, Stella, should either drop her extra (non-major) classes - or cut back on the time she spends studying for those classes - so that she can work as a journalist for the university newspaper, "The Torch".
- Explain his reasons for holding that opinion. Here are his reasons:
 - It is more important for the woman, Stella, to gain practical experience in her field (by working as a journalist for the university newspaper) than it is for her to earn excellent grades in classes unrelated to her major.

Task 4

Wolves in Yellowstone Park... Thanks to a controversial but very successful reintroduction program, wolves are now in Yellowstone again after an absence of almost 70 years. These wolves had been hunted to near extinction on the North American continent. Several dozen wolves were captured in Canada and turned loose in Yellowstone in March 1995. Those animals have done remarkable well, reproducing at a rapid rate. Packs are now located in various parts of the park. Wolves prey on a variety of species, notably elk in the Yellowstone area, but will also pursue moose, deer, sheep and other animals. However, cattle ranchers in the nearby area complained that the wolves were killing their livestock.

[listen to audio] ... {instructor's note: begin at 9:29 mark}

Question: The professor talks about the results of wolves being brought back to Yellowstone National Park. Explain what those results are and what people living near the park thought. {30s prep, 60s answer}

Key Points:

- Explain what the professor said about the results of wolves being brought back to Yellowstone National Park. Here is a summary of the results:
 - The reintroduction of wolves has had a dramatic effect on Yellowstone National Park. First of all, they've been hunting and eating elk, and their leftovers provide food for other animals, such as ravens, eagles, and bears. They also scare elk away from the streams, which allows the plants that live there (like willows) to grow taller. This creates habitats for birds and food for beavers. Overall, the presence of wolves is very healthy for the park, and scientists believe that Yellowstone is beginning to look more like it did before people began interfering with the animals there.
- Explain what people living near the park thought about the reintroduction of wolves. This is what they thought:
 - Some of the people living near Yellowstone National Park were concerned about the reintroduction of wolves because of their predatory nature. Especially the cattle ranchers, who were afraid that the wolves would eat their livestock.

Instructions (continued):

Tasks 5 and 6 require you to listen to a short passage. **You may take notes** as you listen. After listening to the conversation or lecture you will

see a question. You have 20 seconds to prepare your response, and 60 seconds to deliver it.

Task 5

“Now listen to a conversation between two students.”

[listen to audio] ... {instructor’s note: begin at 12:45 mark}

Question: The students are discussing the man’s problem. Describe his problem, and then decide what you think is best for him. Give reasons to support your decision. {20s prep, 60s answer}

Key Points:

- Describe the man’s problem. Here is a summary of his problem:
 - His grades are not as good as he wants them to be, even though he’s studying hard, and they *might* not be good enough for him to continue receiving financial aid. He also doesn’t want to take easier classes because he wants to challenge himself, and he doesn’t want to take a semester off because he thinks it’s “drastic”.
- Decide what you think is best for him, and give reasons to support your decision, for example:
 - “I think it would be best for him to take a semester off, even though he doesn’t want to. He is clearly concerned about his financial situation, and it would give him some time to work and save money. What’s more, he would have more time to think about exactly what classes he wants to take. I think he needs this time because he wants to take hard classes, but he needs to

get good grades, and his financial aid only covers four years of school.”

- “I think it would be best for him to take easier classes. I know that he wants to challenge himself, but right now it’s more important that he gets good grades so that he will continue receiving financial aid. He can always find ways to challenge himself outside of the classroom. This will also save him from taking a semester off.”

Task 6

“Listen to part of a talk in an American Government class.”

[listen to audio] ... {instructor’s note: begin at 15:57 mark}

Question: The professor has just discussed the Miranda Rights. What are Miranda Rights, and what was the significance of the case Miranda v. Arizona? {20s prep, 60s answer}

Key Points:

- Explain what Miranda Rights are.
 - The Miranda Rights are as follows: You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be appointed for you.
- Explain the significance of the Miranda v. Arizona case, for example:
 - The Miranda v. Arizona case is significant because it affirmed (for U.S. citizens) the Constitutional guaranteed under the Fifth Amendment of the Bill of Rights - the right to remain silent.

Because of this case, every suspect must be read their Miranda Rights before evidence may be obtained from them.