

TOEFL Speaking Mock Test 8

This is meant to accompany The English Formula's "[Cambridge Prep TOEFL Speaking 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.

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

Describe a skill you have that will be important for your success in the modern world, and explain why this skill is so important. Include details and examples to support your explanation. {15s prep, 45s answer}

Task 2

Some people work for a business, and some people work in their own business. Which would you prefer to do and why? Include details and examples in your explanation. {15s prep, 45s answer}

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 University of the Rockies Financial Aid Office has posted information about work-study grants. You have 45 seconds to read the announcement. Begin reading now."

Financial Aid Office Announcement... The Work-Study Program gives undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to earn money on campus to pay for their education-related expenses. The pay is based on minimum wage, but can be higher based on the job requirements. Students can earn up to \$3,000 per year depending on financial need. To be eligible for consideration in the program, a student must be registered as a full-time student and must be able to demonstrate financial need. To obtain more information or to apply for one of the listed jobs, contact the Financial Aid Office in Buxley Hall.

[listen to audio] ... {instructor's note: begin at 5:44 mark}

Question: The woman expresses her desire for a work-study job. State the requirements necessary for taking part in the program and explain the advantages discussed. {30s prep, 60s answer}

Task 4

“Read the passage about symbiotic relationships. You have 45 seconds to read the passage. Begin reading now.”

Symbiotic Relationships... Symbiosis refers to an intimate relationship between two organisms. This term does not indicate whether the relationship is beneficial or harmful to the organisms involved. Mutual symbiosis, or mutualism, occurs when both species gain some benefit from the relationship, whereas parasitism consists of a relationship in which one of the organisms benefits, while the other one is harmed. A third symbiotic relationship is that of commensalism. In commensalism, the relationship is beneficial to one of the organisms while the other neither benefits nor is harmed. A commensal organism can be either obligate or facultative. The obligate commensal cannot survive without its symbiotic partner. The facultative commensal can be found either living with its symbiotic partner or on its own.

[listen to audio] ... {instructor’s note: begin at 9:38 mark}

Question: The professor gives two examples of symbiotic relationships that change. Explain both examples in terms of what the original symbiotic relationship was and what symbiotic relationship it became. {30s prep, 60s answer}

Instructions (continued):

Tasks 5 and 6 involve a short listening 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

“Listen to a conversation between two students.”

[listen to audio] ... {instructor’s note: begin at 13:47 mark}

Question: The students discuss the man’s options. Describe his problem. Then state which of the options you prefer and explain why. {20s prep, 60s answer}

Task 6

“Listen to part of a lecture in a Cultural Studies class.”

[listen to audio] ... {instructor’s note: begin at 17:27 mark}

Question: Using points and examples from the lecture, explain how the media has contributed to misconceptions about the real world. {20s prep, 60s answer}