

## **TOEFL Speaking Mock Test 9**

This is meant to accompany The English Formula's "[Cambridge Prep TOEFL Speaking Test 2](#)" - 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**

A good teacher should have some special qualities. What qualities do you think are necessary for a good teacher to have and why? Include details and examples in your explanation. {15s prep, 45s answer}

### **Task 2**

Some people believe that people who play video games are learning important life skills. Others believe that video game players are wasting their time. Which view do you agree with 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 newspaper has published a letter to the editor concerning a university policy. Read the letter about the hiring of temporary instructors. You have 45 seconds to read the announcement. Begin reading now."

Letter to the Editor... Most students are unaware of the employment conditions of our instructors. In fact, an ever increasing percentage of our university teachers have adjunct contracts. This means that they are only hired for a semester at a time, are underpaid, and receive no benefits. Although universities make great savings by following a policy of using temporary instructors, students do not benefit from these savings in the form of lower tuition fees. Considering how our university is exploiting teachers, we as students should be asking in what ways our education is suffering from this situation.

[listen to audio] ... {instructor's note: begin at 5:54 mark}

Question: The man expresses his opinion on the issue of temporary instructors. State his opinion and explain the reasons he gives for that opinion. {30s prep, 60s answer}

#### Task 4

“Read the passage about imprinting in baby birds. You have 45 seconds to read the passage. Begin reading now.”

Imprinting... Animal psychologists have long known that young geese and ducks instinctively follow their mother, but only if they have the opportunity to do so at an early point in their lives. If these goslings or ducklings are separated from their mothers during this sensitive period they will not develop an attachment to her.

Konrad Lorenz, the scientist who developed our knowledge of this phenomenon, used the term imprinting to identify the process in which this bond is formed. Lorenz noted that imprinting appears immediately after hatching and that the period during which it can develop lasts for at most a couple of days. Moreover, Lorenz argued that imprinting was irreversible and that a hatchling will imprint on its mother, or, remarkably, on any suitable moving object if the mother is not available.

[listen to audio] ... {instructor’s note: begin at 9:53 mark}

Question: The professor explains the notion of imprinting in young geese and ducks. Explain how this behavior develops and how it might be important for the bird’s survival. {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 13:30 mark}

Question: The students discuss different solutions to the woman’s problem. Describe the problem. Then state which of the options you prefer and why. {20s prep, 60s answer}

### **Task 6**

“Listen to part of a lecture in an Architecture class.”

[listen to audio] ... {instructor’s note: begin at 16:37 mark}

Question: Using points and examples from the lecture, explain the kinds of loads an engineer must consider when building a structure. {20s prep, 60s answer}