

## Teacher's Copy of TOEFL Speaking Mock Test 7

This is meant to accompany TOEFL Speaking Teacher's "[Full TOEFL Speaking Practice Test](#)" - 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.

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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 in which to prepare your response, and 45 seconds to deliver it.

### **Task 1**

What do you like most about your hometown? Use specific details to support your answer. {15s prep, 45s answer}

## Key Points:

- An understanding of the question, especially the word "hometown".
  - Merriam-Webster's definition is: "the city or town where one was born or grew up; *also*, the place of one's principal residence."
- An explanation of what you like most about your hometown, and why you like it, that includes specific details, for example:
  - "The thing I like most about my hometown is the coffee shop on main street, 'Pennie's'. I like it for a couple of reasons: one, they have amazing coffee. The owner takes great care in selecting the best coffee beans from roasters around the world. Two, the staff is friendly, everyone who walks in is greeted with a big smile. Three, I used to go there every Sunday with my family (I still do whenever I'm home). I was blessed with an amazing family, and spending time with them every Sunday morning at Pennie's was really special. In conclusion, it's really hard to just pick one thing that I like most about my hometown -- I like the picturesque autumns we always seem to have, I like the local Church, and I like my dog -- but it just wouldn't be the same without Pennie's coffee."

## Task 2

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Why or why not? Support your opinion with details and examples. "The key to success in life is working hard every day." {15s prep, 45s answer}

### Key Points:

- Clearly agree or disagree.
- Explain why, like this:
  - "I completely agree with the statement: 'the key to success in life is working hard every day.' One of my heroes is Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson, and he always talks about how important it is to be the hardest worker in the room. [He also says, and this is related to working hard: 'Blood, sweat, and respect. The first two you give, and the last one you earn.' What a powerful sentiment.] His incredible career is a testament to the power of working hard every day. He named his production studio 'Seven Bucks Production' because, when he really started to turn his life around, all he had was seven bucks in his pocket. Since that time, he's built himself up into one of the greatest movie stars of our generation, People Magazine's 'Sexiest Man Alive', and (most importantly) an amazing role model. He is truly inspirational."
  - "I disagree with the statement: 'The key to success in life is working hard every day.' It's a recipe for burnout, primarily because of the 'every day' part. Now, just to be clear, there's nothing wrong with working hard. In fact, if you want to be successful, then it's indispensable. However, I don't think it's a good idea to work hard *every day*. You need time to relax. Are you really successful if you're working so much that you can't take some time off to vacation with friends? No, I don't think so.

An important part of what it truly means to be successful is having some control over when you have to work -- and if you think that working hard every single day is 'the key to success in life', then you're deluding yourself."

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**

"A sports coach is taking on a new role. Read the announcement about this change. You have 45 seconds to read the notice. Begin reading now."

New Position for Coach Jepsen... The college is pleased to announce that coach Marilee Jepsen, who currently coaches the women's softball team, will fill the role of coach of the women's volleyball team next semester. As the softball coach for the last three years, coach Jepsen has led the team to an excellent winning record and two championships. In addition to her success on the field, coach Jepsen proved herself an excellent leader who always makes time to offer students personal guidance and academic support. During her time in charge, the average GPA for student athletes on the softball team rose substantially. The college feels sure coach Jepsen will excel in her new role.

[listen to audio] ... {instructor's note: begin at 4:35 mark}

Question: The woman expresses her opinion about the situation described in the announcement. State her opinion and explain the reasons she gives for holding that opinion. {30s prep, 60s answer}

Key Points:

- State the woman's opinion. Here's a summary of her opinion:
  - She's disappointed by the college's decision to appoint Marilee Jepsen as the new head coach of the women's volleyball team. They should have kept Coach Smith.
- Explain her reasons for holding that opinion. Here are her reasons:
  - She's worried that the team won't be contending for the championship next season, even though they're a good team, because Jepsen doesn't have any experience as a volleyball coach. She will learn, but maybe not quickly enough, and she's not going to be a good coach until she knows the game better. What's more, the current coach, Smith, is being treated poorly. She was planning on staying, but has effectively been fired. The team did struggle the past couple of years, but it wasn't her fault. They were dealing with injuries.

**Task 4**

"Now read the passage about pidgin and creole languages. You have 45 seconds to read the passage. Begin reading now."

Pidgin and Creole Languages... Linguists use the term pidgin to describe languages that develop as a way for two groups without a shared language to communicate. Typically, pidgins develop to facilitate trade and are a mix of two languages. Pidgins are simpler than their origin languages

and are often unstable. Pidgins spoken by a large group for a long period of time may stabilize and become the native language of a community. Known as creoles, these languages have a more fully developed vocabulary and grammar than pidgins. Generally, the vocabulary of creoles mostly comes from the parent language of the main social group, but words may shift in meaning and pronunciation. The grammar of the creole may differ greatly from that of the original tongues.

[listen to audio] ... {instructor's note: begin at 9:23 mark}

Question: Using points and details from the talk, explain whether forro is a pidgin or a creole, and why. {30s prep, 60s answer}

Key Points:

- Is forro a pidgin or a creole?
  - Forro is a creole.
- Explain why, like this:
  - "Forro is a creole, not a pidgin. It started as a pidgin when sailors from Portugal, along with the local Africans, created it out of necessity. Over time it became standardized. Next the grammar and vocabulary developed. Then it was adopted as the native tongue for children born on the islands. Today upwards of 70,000 people speak Forro, though government data suggests that less than 40% of the population speaks it natively. Furthermore, even though most of the words derive from Portuguese, the meaning of some words has changed, and certain sounds have undergone a pronunciation shift. So it is distinct from Portuguese in some ways."

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**

“Now listen to two students discussing a problem at the dormitory where the man lives.”

[listen to audio] ... {instructor’s note: begin at 12:57 mark}

Question: The speakers discuss two possible solutions to a problem. Briefly describe the problem. Then state which of the two solutions you prefer, and why. {20s prep, 60s answer}

Key Points:

- Describe the problem, here’s a summary:
  - Some of the pipes leading to Brad’s dorm room need to be repaired, it’s going to take four to five days, and he’s not going to have any hot water until they are fixed. He works part-time in a restaurant near campus, and he must look professional, so he has to shower.
- Give reasons to support your preferred solution, for example:
  - He should shower in the university fitness center. I know that he’s worried about his work clothes wrinkling, but if he folds them carefully then this shouldn’t be a problem. Furthermore, this way he won’t have to waste time travelling to his brother’s apartment in the city. Which is important because he cannot

afford to waste any time right now as he has important papers to write.

- He should just take cold showers. Of course they're not fun, but they're not going to kill him. Countless people, all around the world, don't have access to hot water, and many don't even know what a shower is. This is an opportunity for him to appreciate what he has, and to become stronger (mentally and physically). Furthermore, some studies suggest that cold exposure may have tremendous positive psychological benefits. Man up and take a couple of cold showers.

### **Task 6**

"Now listen to part of a talk in a business studies class."

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

Question: Using points and details from the talk, explain what equity compensation is, and why companies might offer it to employees. {20s prep, 60s answer}

#### Key Points:

- What is equity compensation?
  - Employees receive part ownership of their company, typically in the form of shares or stock, as compensation -- usually in addition to a monthly salary.
  - According to Investopedia, equity compensation is, "non-cash pay that represents ownership in the firm. This type of compensation can take many forms, including options, restricted stock and performance shares."



- Why might companies offer it to employees?
  - To reduce turnover / to stop employees from leaving, which can be very expensive for a company.
    - Equity compensation plans typically reward employees who stay longer with more stock in the company.
  - To encourage employees to work hard for the long-term success of the company.
    - If the value of the company increases, then their personal wealth will increase with it because they are shareholders.