

**A**

**Strategy:** Choose the correct part of the speech: adjectives and adverbs

Choosing the correct part of speech is a commonly tested feature of the TOEIC test, and being able to identify appropriate use of adjectives and adverbs will help improve your score. This unit focuses on raising your awareness of how these words are used.

**Test tip**

Learn suffixes to identify adjectives and adverbs  
Questions that require an adjective or adverb are common in the TOEIC test. Learning common suffixes will help you to choose the right one.

**Grammar note**

Adjectives can often be found after the verb *to be* or other verbs.  
Examples  
*The food is terrible.*  
*It tastes delicious.*

**Test tip**

Comparative and superlative questions are often tested in the TOEIC test  
Knowing how these are formed can help you choose the right answer.

**1 Language building: Adjective and adverb endings**

The sentences below use some of the most common adjective and adverb endings found in the TOEIC test. Choose the correct adjective or adverb to complete each sentence.

- Your new chair looks very ..... . (comfortable/ comfortably)
- We have ..... problems in our Tokyo office. (serious/ seriously)
- John's marks were poor because he never listened ..... in class. (attentive/ attentively)
- Our sales have been ..... good in the last three months. (consistent/ consistently)
- Mary looked ..... in her new dress. (beautiful/ beautifully)
- I ..... asked you yesterday not to forget to bring the file. (specific/ specifically)

*Follow up:* With a partner think of two or three other words for each of the adjective and adverb endings below.

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| -able (-ible) |  |
| -ous          |  |
| -ive          |  |
| -ent (-ant)   |  |
| -ful          |  |
| -ic           |  |
| -ly           |  |

Now choose two of the words from the chart above and make sentences (either true or false) about someone or something in the room. Read your sentence to your partner and see if they agree or not.

Example

- A:** *Min Joon always studies English very carefully.*  
**B:** *I don't really.*

## 2 Test tactic: Be aware of correct comparative and superlative forms

A Look at the examples of comparative and superlative forms common in the TOEIC test.

- ... **as** hard **as** steel.
- ... **more** difficult **than** skiing.
- ... faster **than** a bullet.
- ... **the** fastest ship.
- ... **his/their/my** greatest problem.
- ... **the most** important thing.

Use the examples above to help you choose the best word to complete the sentences.

1. The ..... (good/better/best) thing about this car is the price.
2. This system has the ..... (advanced/more advanced/most advanced) technology on the market.
3. He may not be as ..... (big/bigger/biggest) as the other man, but he is much ..... (strong/stronger/the strongest).
4. They are our ..... (important/more important/most important) customers by far.
5. A cheetah is much ..... (fast/faster/fastest) than a buffalo.
6. I really thought the steak was ..... (delicious/most delicious/more delicious) than the chicken.

*Follow up:* Compare your answers with a partner. If you have any different answers, tell your partner why you chose your answer.

B With your partner, make comparative and superlative sentences about the animals below.

Example

*An elephant isn't as big as a whale.*

*A bear is much stronger than a mouse.*

elephant      bear      mouse      whale      gorilla

## Tactics checklist

- Identity adjectives and adverbs using their suffixes.
- Choose the right comparative or superlative.

### 3 Tactic practice

Use the tactics you have practiced to answer the following questions.

Questions 1-4 refer to the following article.

High among the many triumphs of man's courage and spirit is Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing's ..... climb to the summit of Mount Everest in 1953.

1. (A) amazement  
(B) amazing  
(C) amazingly  
(D) say

Their struggle against the harshness of Mother Nature and the limits of human endurance is one of the ..... events of the twentieth century.

2. (A) excitement  
(B) interest  
(C) more thrillingly  
(D) most inspiring

Although several attempts to climb Everest had been made in the previous 30 years, none had been successful, and many climbers had died. At dawn on the morning of 29 May, Hillary and Tenzing emerged from their tents to begin ..... moving up the south

3. (A) cautiously  
(B) careful  
(C) slow  
(D) difficulty

ridge towards the summit, which they reached after a grueling climb at 11:30. They lingered ..... on the summit and then, about fifteen minutes later, began the tiring

4. (A) momentary  
(B) short  
(C) briefly  
(D) soon

climb down the mountain, and into the history books.



Now apply the *Test tactics* at the actual test speed with questions 1–12.



You have six minutes to complete 12 items. To use your time wisely, use the 2-pass method you learnt in Unit 5.1. Spend no more than 30 seconds on each item. If you don't know the answer, guess and move on.

Questions 1–4 refer to the following article.

### Attention film fans

National Pictures is proud to announce the release of some of the most famous films of the 30's, 40's and 50's. Now, for the first time in decades, you can see such ..... gems as, Corsini's

1. (A) famously
- (B) attracted
- (C) of
- (D) classic

*Roma Viva Roma*, the original 1937 *The Odd Angry Man*, and long-thought destroyed, *Drums Along The Khyber*. These and the other films in our collection are ..... of the most respected and

2. (A) some
- (B) many
- (C) any
- (D) something

talked about films of the early days of talking pictures. The original prints have been re-mastered, ..... restored to modern digital standards by our

3. (A) careful
- (B) repaired
- (C) lovingly
- (D) complete

experienced film technicians, and burned onto DVD for a lifetime of enjoyment. To see the full ..... of restored films, and order your own set, log on to

4. (A) costs
- (B) sample
- (C) movie
- (D) catalog

[www.nationalclassics.com](http://www.nationalclassics.com) today.

Questions 5–8 refer to the following email.

**From:** Kurt Redmond, Site Supervisor  
**To:** Peter Burnaby, Personnel Manager  
**Subject:** Report on new employee, Jackson Silvers

Peter, you asked me for a progress report on Jackson Silvers, No. 3490. I am afraid that he isn't ..... out well. He seems eager, but in the two weeks he has been assigned

5. (A) doing  
(B) working  
(C) going  
(D) trying

to this job he has been late twice.

Even more worrying, and something I have spoken to him about on several ..... are

6. (A) problems  
(B) things  
(C) times  
(D) occasions

his safety habits. I have had to caution him a number of times about our ..... enforced

7. (A) strictly  
(B) careful  
(C) always  
(D) complete

policy on safety glasses and hard hats, but even today had to warn him again about working without his glasses on. As you know, there is just no place on a ..... site like this

8. (A) dangerous  
(B) this  
(C) constructing  
(D) such

for someone who can't follow safety rules. As I said, he has a good attitude, but I am afraid I will have to recommend him for retraining or assignment to a different section.

Questions 9–12 refer to the following letter.

Dear Joe,

Thanks very much for the present you sent out for Dad's birthday.

We ..... the party at

9. (A) have had  
(B) have  
(C) are having  
(D) had

the community center and it was much bigger than the one we gave him last year. He was really pleased with the watch. I bet it was really .....! It was too bad that you couldn't make it.

10. (A) expensive  
(B) amazed  
(C) timely  
(D) present

Janet and I spent weeks ..... planning every detail and it came off very well,

11. (A) preparation  
(B) meticulously  
(C) precise  
(D) extensive

if I do say so myself.

Do you think you will be able to make it home some time ..... the summer?

12. (A) at  
(B) for  
(C) during  
(D) middle

Tom and I have just put in a pool and we plan to have a lot of garden parties. Take care and write back soon.

Lots of love

Grace

## Adjectives and adverbs

A Look at the gapped sentences and decide whether they require an adjective or adverb. Then select the best word of the correct type from the list on the right.

1. John ..... got the highest scores on his English assignments because he always put so much effort into them.
2. Marathon runners need ..... endurance to do well in competitions.
3. The ..... and graceful movements of the dancer impressed the judges.
4. Mary ..... displayed the trophy she had won for the speech contest.
5. Mr. Ellis quit his job as a traveling salesman because the long hours and ..... travel were affecting his health.
6. All new sales staff are ..... told not to wear flashy jewelry or heavy perfume.

- a specifically
- b precise
- c consistently
- d proudly
- e grueling
- f amazing

B Choose four adjectives or adverbs from the list in activity A and write new sentences using them. Then test your classmates to see if they can choose the right words.

## Comparative and Superlative

A Change the words to the correct form (if necessary) in order to complete the sentences.

1. Diamonds are much ..... than rubies. (expensive)
2. When they were filming the original *King Kong*, the Empire State Building was the ..... building in the world. (tall)
3. The pro wrestler looked as ..... as a house. (big)
4. The summit of Mt Everest is the ..... place on earth. (high)
5. Antarctica is ..... for the harshness of its climate than the beauty of its landscapes. (famous)
6. Many people believe that a pound of lead is ..... than a pound of feathers. (heavy)

B Write four more sentences about yourself, your family, or your country. Compare your sentences with your classmates.

Go to word list and quiz page 170.