

## FURTHER PRACTICE

For further practice with your speaking, try *Tactics for TOEIC® Speaking and Writing Tests*.

# TOEIC® Speaking

## TEST TACTIC

BE FAMILIAR WITH INTONATION PATTERNS IN LISTS

In this part of the test, the text you read aloud will include a list. Make sure you are familiar with the common intonation pattern for lists. Listen to native speaker examples and try to imitate the intonation used. The words in **bold** in the sentence below should be stressed.

*I'd like some **apples**, some **plums**, and a **melon**.*

## TEST TIP

UNDERSTAND THE USE OF PUNCTUATION MARKS

Periods and commas signal the places to pause to give your listener time to understand what you have said. After periods and commas, pause briefly.

## FURTHER STUDY

Find a short passage similar to the ones used in this part of the test. Remove the punctuation and ask your partner to attempt to read it aloud. When they have finished, let them read the passage with the punctuation. This will help you see how important punctuation is in conveying meaning.

## READ A TEXT ALOUD

### QUESTIONS 1-2

**Directions:** In this part of the test, you will read aloud the text on the screen.

You will have 45 seconds to prepare. Then you will have 45 seconds to read the text aloud.

### EXERCISE

- 1 The process of searching for your first apartment in Ridgetown requires organized planning. Before starting your search, you must think about how large a place you need, how much you can afford, and the type of location you desire. Additionally, you will have to decide whether you would prefer a house or an apartment.
- 2 The popular Oak Hills Park has shows for the whole family, with many designed especially for younger kids. For example, the *Toon Central* area includes themed rides and shows, as well as a chance for children to meet with popular cartoon characters. Furthermore, nearby *Pirate Bay* water park includes two wave pools, a lazy river, and a slew of slides.

### TEST TACTIC

#### START BY BRAINSTORMING VOCABULARY

During your 30-second preparation time, study the picture. Start by quickly picking out all the nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs you can see in the picture.

### TEST TIP

#### START PLANNING WITH WH- QUESTIONS

During the preparation time, think of introductory sentences that answer questions such as: *Where is this? Who are these people? What are they doing? Why are they here?* These answers will form the main part of your answer.

## DESCRIBE A PICTURE

### QUESTION 3

**Directions:** In this part of the test, you will describe the picture on your screen in as much detail as you can. You will have 30 seconds to prepare your response. Then you will have 45 seconds to speak about the picture.

### EXERCISE



### FURTHER STUDY

Choose a picture of people doing something you enjoy, then prepare a 45-second description of it.

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## RESPOND TO QUESTIONS

### QUESTIONS 4-6

**Directions:** In this part of the test, you will answer three questions. For each question, begin responding immediately after you hear a beep. No preparation time is provided. You will have 15 seconds to respond to Questions 4 and 5 and 30 seconds to respond to Question 6.

#### TEST TACTIC

##### KNOW HOW TO ANSWER OPINION QUESTIONS

Many of the questions in this part of the test will ask you about your favourite thing, or about things you prefer or like or think are the best. Do not give one word answers, e.g. *football*. Say why you like it, too.

#### TEST TIP

##### WATCH OUT FOR QUESTIONS WITH TWO PARTS

Question 6 always has a main question and then a follow up question. Make sure you answer both parts. (e.g. *Where would you like to live and why?*)

#### FURTHER STUDY

In the questions on this page there are two examples of different *how* questions, *How often...* and *How much time...* Think of three more different *how* questions to ask your partner.

### EXERCISE

- Imagine that a US marketing firm is doing research in your country. You have agreed to participate in a telephone interview about pets.
 

Question 4  
What is the most popular pet in your country?

Question 5  
What pets have you or your family had in the past?

Question 6  
Do you think it is good for children to have pets? Why or why not?
- Imagine that a Canadian marketing firm is doing research in your country. You have agreed to participate in a telephone interview about exercise.
 

Question 4  
What type of exercise is most common in your country?

Question 5  
How often do you exercise?

Question 6  
What is your favorite form of exercise and why?
- Imagine that a British marketing firm is doing research in your country. You have agreed to participate in a telephone interview about television.
 

Question 4  
What kind of television programs do you enjoy?

Question 5  
How much time do you spend watching television in a week?

Question 6  
What kinds of television programs are most popular with people of your age and why?

**TEST TACTIC****LEARN TO UNDERSTAND NATURAL QUESTIONS**

Questions in the test and in real life rarely appear in the simple interrogative form. It is important to learn to recognize the different forms that questions can take in natural English.

**TEST TIP****SOME QUESTIONS ASK FOR CONFIRMATION**

Often you will have to correct misinformation or make an inference. You must check the information, give the answer, and if necessary, explain why the thing is not possible.

**FURTHER STUDY**

Find a schedule for an event you have attended or might like to attend. Translate it into English (if necessary), then write three questions like the ones on the test. Test your classmates in the next lesson.

**RESPOND TO QUESTIONS USING INFORMATION PROVIDED****QUESTIONS 7-9**

**Directions:** In this part of the test, you will answer three questions based on the information provided. You will have 30 seconds to read the information before the questions begin. For each question, begin responding immediately after you hear a beep. No additional preparation time is provided. You will have 15 seconds to respond to Questions 7 and 8 and 30 seconds to respond to Question 9.

**51 EXERCISE****1 Gainsville Electronics Trade Show (GETS) Sept 8-11 Exhibitors' agenda**

Time	Item	Place
Sept. 4th 12:00-17:00	Exhibitors' registration. Booth confirmation letter required.	Exhibitor Check-in Counter: 1F of the venue (Gainsville International Conference Center)
Sept. 5th-6th 8:30-17:00	Booth set up	Allocated spaces on floors 2-3 of the venue
Sept. 7th 12:00	Exhibitor orientation	Lobby, GETS venue
9:00, Sept. 8th	The Opening Ceremony of GETS	GETS venue
Sept. 8th-11th	Exhibition	GETS venue
17:00, Sept. 11th	Booth dismantling starts	GETS venue

**2 Norchester city scenic walking tour Available daily from July-August**

8:30	Traditional light breakfast, coffee/tea at the Old Norchester Inn
9:00	Walk to the port and tour of Norchester Castle
11:00	See the Duke of Norchester's famous gardens
12:00	Lunch served in the gardens (weather permitting) or Castle Hall
13:00	Optional after lunch events: Shopping in the local market <i>or</i> Tour of the textile museum
15:30-16:00	Meet up in Liberation Square, to learn about the monuments, then farewell

### TEST TACTIC

#### RECOGNIZE THE CALLER'S PROBLEM

Make an apology and summarize the caller's problem to help them feel like their situation is being addressed appropriately.

### TEST TIP

#### USE YOUR IMAGINATION

You must use your imagination to think of possible causes and solutions to the problem. Try to remember similar situations and solutions that you, or someone you know, may have experienced.

### FURTHER STUDY

Think of a problem you have had with a product or service. Practice a 30-minute request or complaint that you would make in English and prepare to say it to your classmates next lesson. See if they can solve your problem.

## PROPOSE A SOLUTION

### QUESTION 10

**Directions:** In this part of the test, you will be presented with a problem and asked to propose a solution.

You will have 30 seconds to prepare. Then you will have 60 seconds to speak.

In your response, be sure to

- show that you recognize the problem, and
- propose a way of dealing with the problem.

### 52 EXERCISE

1



2



### TEST TACTIC

#### QUICKLY DECIDE ON YOUR ANSWER AND BRAINSTORM SUPPORTING POINTS

You only have fifteen seconds to do this, so you must think quickly. The two or three supporting points will form the body of your talk, but you must add reasons and / or examples for each.

### TEST TIP

#### CHOOSE AN OPINION AND STAY WITH IT

If you don't have a very strong opinion on the topic, it is best to choose one opinion that you think you can most easily talk about and stick to it.

### FURTHER STUDY

If you can, record yourself making one of the speeches and then write down exactly what you said. Rewrite the speech so that it is more correct, complete, or clear.

## EXPRESS AN OPINION

### QUESTION 11

**Directions:** In this part of the test, you will give your opinion about a specific topic. Be sure to say as much as you can in the time allowed. You will have 15 seconds to prepare. Then you will have 60 seconds to speak.

### EXERCISE

- 1 Some people prefer to eat at restaurants or buy food from convenience stores. Other people prefer to cook and eat food at home. Which do you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
- 2 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
The most important consideration when choosing a job is to find something you truly enjoy doing. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
- 3 Some people like to go to new places and try new things. Other people prefer places they already know and things they can do well. Which do you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice.