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TOEFL SPEAKING

TEACHERS MANUAL

LESSON 10

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LESSON 10

PART 1

Directions: For this task, you will be asked to speak about a topic that is familiar to you. You will hear a question. You will then have 15 seconds to prepare your response and 45 seconds to speak.

QUESTION:

Talk about an instructor who has made an impact on your life and why. Use details and examples to support your response.

SAMPLE ANSWER

The instructor who has made the most impact on my life is an instructor who I only had for a one month class. It was not the time in class, or what I learned in class that made the most impact on me. It was the time spent outside of class that made the impact. When I first met this instructor, I found out he could speak two of the foreign languages that I was currently studying. He had already mastered these, and this gave me great hope for myself and someone to practice with outside of class. He has traveled and lived in several different countries that I want to live in; so, he has taught me many things that are really important to me and that will really help me in the future.

PART 2

Directions: In this question, you will be asked to give your opinion about a familiar topic. After you hear the question, you will have 15 seconds to prepare your response and 45 seconds to speak.

QUESTION:

Some college students like to take courses in a variety of subjects in order to have a broader education. Others only take courses in a central subject so they have a stronger understanding of their specific subject. Which method do you think is better and why? Use details and examples in your explanation.

SAMPLE ANSWER

I think this depends on the goals of the student, and more importantly, if the student is studying to get their bachelor's degree or master's degree. If the student is an undergrad, I think it would be best to take courses in a variety of subjects because an undergrad degree is like a preparation degree. It really isn't very specific because normally graduates don't get jobs related directly to their major. But, a master's degree student has an idea of exactly what job they want and will tailor their studies to get that job. If the student has a goal to be biology teacher, information on history is going to be entirely irrelevant. So, they should only take masters level biology classes. I think a broader education is a better idea for an undergrad to focus on, but taking classes in a specific subject is better for post-grad students.

PART 3

Directions: In this question, you will read a short announcement and then listen to a dialogue on the same topic. You will then answer a question about them. After you hear the question, you will have 30 seconds to prepare your response and 60 seconds to speak.

Narrator: The Student Recreation Center has posted a notice about a new Tai Chi class. Read the announcement about the new class. You will have 45 seconds to read the announcement. Begin reading now.

New Tai Chi Classes! Free!!!

The Student Rec Center has decided to offer free Beginner Tai Chi lessons to all students and staff for the upcoming finals period. For the two weeks before finals starting April 16th and the week of finals, free Tai Chi classes will be available for students at the Rec Center. If you are feeling stressed out for finals, stop by and learn some exercises to help calm you down and relieve stress. Classes are on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:00AM and 5:00PM, and Thursdays at 3:00PM.

Narrator: Listen to
two students as they
discuss the
announcement.

Student 1(male): Why would anybody bother going to those silly classes?

Student 2(female): Silly? Tai Chi isn't silly. It's been around for centuries and promotes good health.

Student 1: Well, if someone was that worried about finals, wouldn't their time be spent a little better by studying?

Student 2: Tai Chi will help you rest and could actually help you study better. You know, if you study for long periods of time, you probably won't remember as much as if you study some, then rest, then study some more.

Student 1: I think it's just a waste of time. If I am cramming for a test, the last thing I need is to take a Tai Chi break.

Student 2: Do you think you study better under a lot of stress, or when you are more relaxed? I don't know about you, but I think I'm going to take advantage of these free classes.

Student 1: Hmm, well, I really do feel tired and stressed out after a late night of cramming for a test. Maybe I'll stop by after my first exam to help me prepare for my next night of studying.

Narrator: Now get ready to answer the question.

QUESTION: The woman tries to convince the man to do something. State her opinion and explain the reasons she gives for holding that opinion and for trying to persuade the man.

SAMPLE ANSWER

The woman thinks that it is great that the university is offering free Tai Chi classes for the few weeks before finals. She thinks that Tai Chi is great for relaxing and your health, and that Tai Chi has a long, long history. The woman also thinks that these classes could help students study better. She says that if you study for long periods of time, maybe your brain gets tired. So, Tai Chi is like a rest for your brain that will allow you to relax so you can go and study again. Tai Chi will let you study better in that you do more quality studying and won't forget as much stuff later. The woman thinks that taking the Tai Chi classes is also a good idea because it relaxes you, and when you are stressed out, you can't study as good. If you take a Tai Chi class first, then go study, you will be more relaxed and will therefore be able to study better and remember more of what you studied.

PART 4

Directions: In this question, you will read a short passage and then listen to a talk on the same academic topic. You will then answer a question about them. After you hear the question, you will have 30 seconds to prepare your response and 60 seconds to speak. You have 45 seconds to read the passage.

Animal Domestication

Humans have been domesticating, or taming, animals for thousands of years. The cow, pig, horse and other animals that once lived in the wild are now used by humans. These large domesticated mammals are used for a variety of jobs in fields such as agriculture and transportation. Attempts have been made to domesticate many different types of animals, but not all attempts were successful.

Animals that were not able to be successfully domesticated generally share certain characteristics. An animal that is non-territorial, or an animal that doesn't think it has its own area, has a much better chance of being domesticated. Animals that live in herds and have a specific leader are also easier to domesticate because the master, or human, can function as this leader.

Narrator: Listen to
part of a lecture from
an ecology class.

Professor: In this chapter we are discussing the aptness of certain types of animals for domestication and the characteristics that make them this way. Animals that live in herds, such as the horse, yes...the horse is a perfect example, are much easier to domesticate than animals that don't live in herds. These herds generally consist of an alpha male horse, who is the boss, several female horses, and a few foals. The females and young foals follow the alpha male around and listen to him. When the herd moves to a different location, all of the horses of the herd follow the male. This willingness to follow others makes horses perfect in pulling objects or when several are harnessed together: all following the first. Horses also have overlapping territories, and they don't fight with the other herds.

But with a large mammal like the bear, well, how often do you see a large group of bears all sitting around with each other? You don't, because they are not animals that live in herds, and they don't follow any other bear in particular. If bears can't get along with each other, how can they get along with a human who is telling them what they can or cannot do? Bears are also highly territorial and mark their territory in the wild. If you are walking through the woods and see some large scratch marks above eye-level, that means you are walking around some marked territory. It'd probably be best to leave, unless you want to fight with the bear over his territory.

Narrator: Now get ready to answer the question.

QUESTION: The professor describes the behavior of horses and bears. Explain how their behavior is related to their aptness for domestication.

SAMPLE ANSWER

Well...animals that live in herds, like horses, are going to be easier to domesticate than animals that live alone. Uh...animals that live in herds that have leaders are easy to domesticate. The horse has a leader of its herd. All the other horses follow that one leader horse. Being willing to follow a leader is good because the human can substitute for that leader. A bear is not easy to tame, or domesticate. It isn't a social animal that lives in herds, and bears mark their territory. If one bear finds another bear in its territory, they might fight. It is hard to tame animals that have their own territory.

PART 5

Directions: For this task, you will listen to a dialogue. You will hear a question about it. You will then have 20 seconds to prepare your response and 60 seconds to speak.

Narrator: Listen to a
conversation
between two
students.

Student 1(female): Brad, I need some advice.

Student 2(male): How can I help, June?

Student 1: Hmm. Here's the deal. I can finish all my major classes and graduate next semester, but I want to take a French class before I graduate. If I try to fit that French class in next semester, I would be taking more classes than I've ever had in one semester. I don't know if I could manage all that studying. I don't want to get bad grades my last semester.

Student 2: Well, you could just graduate one semester later, couldn't you? Is it that big of a deal?

Student 1: I had really hoped to graduate in four years. All my plans up until now have been on schedule, but now I want to take that extra class.

Student 2: If you do decide to graduate one semester later, you could actually manage to take French 101 next semester and then French 102 the following semester when you graduate. And you'd actually be taking less classes each of those two semesters.

Student 1: Yeah, but I'd still be graduating a semester late. I don't know if my parents would approve of that. It would also cost a little more to take one extra semester.

Student 2: A semester's tuition isn't cheap.

Student 1: I know, but whatever I do, I've already decided to take French.

Narrator: Now get ready to answer the question.

QUESTION: The students discuss two possible solutions to the woman's problems. Describe the problem. Then state which solution you prefer and explain why.

SAMPLE ANSWER

The woman, June, wants to take a French class before she graduates, but she is going to graduate next semester, and she is already taking a lot of classes that semester. She doesn't know what to do. The man says she can graduate one semester later and maybe take two French classes. But if she does this, she will have to pay for an extra semester's tuition. But if she does this, she will also take less classes each of those two semesters, and I think she will probably get better grades if she can have more time to study. I wouldn't take too many classes in one semester, even if I really wanted to take a certain class. The woman would have to pay a little more, but I think it would be worth it, and she would be happier taking her French class when she has less work to do each semester.

PART 6

Directions: For this task, you will hear a short academic talk. You will hear a question about it. You will then have 20 seconds to prepare your response and 60 seconds to speak.

Narrator: Now listen to part of a lecture in a United States history class.

Professor: Because America is such a large country, it took a while before everyone in all areas could really share a common culture. When America was first being settled, people traveled thousands of miles to settle new areas. There was little communication between everyone in their remote areas. Americans in their different places spoke different English, had different customs, wore different clothes, and lived different and separate lives. There were two important inventions that helped link Americans to each other and thus helped us all to have more of a common culture.

Thanks to the automobile being produced in mass in the 1920's, people were able to travel more easily to visit other towns and cities. Now, people who lived in small cities and towns, with the help of their automobile, were able to quickly travel to big cities and other locations. By being exposed to other Americans so frequently, goods were exchanged easier, as well as culture, speech, and other behaviors. People could also take vacations to distant places that they had not been before and take with them their culture, as well as bring back that of Americans living in distant areas.

Another important invention that helped keep our language more homogeneous through time was the radio. As the purchasing of cars increased, so did that of radios. People listened to nationally syndicated radio programs all over America. There were radio dramas, radio musicals, and public addresses by presidents. By all listening to the same programs, speech and culture were shared by people all over the nation.

Narrator: Now get ready to answer the question.

QUESTION: Explain how the automobile and radio helped contribute to a common culture in America. Use examples and details from the lecture in your answer.

SAMPLE ANSWER

The automobile and radio helped contribute to a common culture in America. Um...the automobile helped people travel more easily. People could travel to different places and learn different cultures, speech, and other things. People from small towns could travel to the big nearby cities easier and could bring back with them new lingo or what was popular to buy from the city. Uh...the radio also helped the common culture. The national radio shows and programs could be listened to by people from all areas of America. People in the big cities, small towns, people on the east coast, people on the west coast, they could all listen to the same things. They could all hear the same English being spoken on the radio, and then they could speak that English with each other and all understand because they all listened to the same shows.