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English Teachers On Call

**TOEFL**  
**SPEAKING**  
**TEACHERS**  
**MANUAL**  
**LESSON 2**

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# LESSON 2

## 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 a situation which enabled you to realize you had a certain strength or weakness that you didn't know about before and how you dealt with this new finding.

## **SAMPLE ANSWER**

When I was in middle school, my class took a week-long camping trip to a beach island. There were no paved roads on this island and the parts that were not beach were mostly marsh and forest. As we were hiking, I realized that I left some of my things where we ate lunch, which was a mile or two behind us already. I told the teacher about my things and she told me to go get them. I had to walk through a mile of strange marshes and beach by myself to get my things back, but I realized how strong I was afterward. As a young child, I realized how I could persist through hardship and how strong I could be if I really had to.

## 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 people say that when a child moves to a new country, he should only be taught in the native language of his new country. Others think that it is better to teach in a bilingual method to help the children adjust. Which method do you think is better? Use details and examples to support your opinion.

## SAMPLE ANSWER

I think it is better to teach a young child only in the native language of his new country. But, the older a child is when he first arrives in his new country, the harder it is going to be for him to learn the new language. Because it is safe to assume that a child who has recently arrived in a new country with his parents will speak his first language at home, that child should speak and be surrounded with his new language as much as possible everywhere else so that he will quickly and more efficiently pick it up and be able to function with it. When a child who moves to a new country is a little older, I think a bilingual teaching method would be better to help them adjust to their new language. Maybe a child past third grade should have bilingual education to adjust, and a child in a lower grade could be put straight into their native language class.

## 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 local university newspaper is hiring students for its staff. Read the announcement from *The Torch*. You will have 45 seconds to read the announcement. Begin reading now.

## The Torch

The university newspaper, *The Torch*, is now taking applications from students who are interested in joining the staff. There are several different positions available and experience in journalism is not required. This is the chance to get the experience that you need to get a jump-start on your future while also serving and supporting your classmates and student body. We have positions available for students interested in writing, photography, advertising, and art design. Please bring resume and apply in person at *The Torch's* office, Rm 407 in the Patrick Building next to the cafeteria.

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

**Student 1 (male):** Stella, aren't you studying to be a journalist?

**Student 2 (female):** Yes, I am. I'm also studying very hard and taking lots of journalism classes that will prepare me as well as lots of other English classes. I don't really have time for a job now.

**Student 1:** But, all those extra classes you're taking aren't really Journalism classes, are they? Why are you taking them?

**Student 2:** Well, those classes also look good on a resume.

**Student 1:** Don't you think that a job as a journalist for a university paper might look good too? Maybe even better because it is practical experience?

**Student 2:** Maybe you're right. But I'm already so busy!

**Student 1:** You could always cut back on your study time for your extra classes. Experience in your field might be worth more than a few excellent grades in classes that are not required for your major. If you really think you can't fit in a job, maybe you could drop some of your non-major classes altogether so you'd have time for work.

**Student 2:** Those are some things to think about. I hope there are still positions available!

**Narrator:** Now get ready to answer the question.

**Question:** The man expresses his opinion of the announcement regarding working on the student newspaper. State his opinion and explain the reasons he gives for holding that opinion.

## 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.

## The Hierarchy of Needs

Abraham Maslow developed the theory of the human being's "Hierarchy of Needs." He created a pyramid of basic human needs. At the lowest level are basic survival needs such as food and shelter. If a person satisfies that level, then the individual can climb to the next level of safety, love/belonging, esteem and the highest level of self-actualization. An individual will feel anxious if they do not meet the needs of a lower level, and cannot climb to the next level.

According to Maslow, we strive to reach the top of the pyramid, self-actualization, in living our lives. Maslow states that no one has really reached self-actualization. When the body has reached its maximum potential, there is no reason to continue living.



**Narrator:** Now  
listen to part of a  
talk in a  
psychology class.

**Professor:** As a humanistic psychologist, Maslow developed the theory that as humans meet basic needs, they seek to satisfy successively higher needs that occupy a set hierarchy. Maslow took this idea that some needs take precedence over others, and created his now famous “hierarchy of needs.” Beyond the details of air, water, food, and sex, he laid out five broader layers—the physiological needs, the needs for safety and security, the needs for love and belonging, the needs for esteem, and the need to actualize the self, in that order.

Others, such as Freud and Hull, have developed motivational theories; however, people find Maslow's theory more appealing. Maslow's theory is a common sense approach to human behavior. His research shows there is a motivator for each need, and it is these motivators that push one through the hierarchy of needs pyramid. For example, the hierarchy can be applied in the advertising of a product by creating an ad that compels consumers to buy their products. Maslow's hierarchy can be applied to many professions in business, education, retail sales, advertising, and entertainment.

**Narrator:** Now get ready to answer the question.

**Question:** Combine points from the reading and the talk to explain the general appeal of Maslow's theory.

## **SAMPLE ANSWER**

Maslow studied humanistic psychology and developed a theory, the hierarchy of needs as applied to human life. He created a pyramid of those needs beginning with basic needs for survival, such as food and water. As humans meet basic needs, they seek to satisfy higher needs in the hierarchy...umm...Maslow proposed that all people seek to satisfy five basic needs: physiological needs, safety needs, social needs, esteem needs and self-actualization needs...huh...Self-actualization is the highest level of Maslow's theory. This theory can be applied in many fields, like education and advertising.

## 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):** Hey, Ryan, are you going to be Dennis's roommate again next semester?

**Student 2(male):** Actually, Tara, I'm not so sure. I might not be back at school next semester. I'm having some money issues and might take a semester or two off and move back home.

**Student 1:** But, what happened to your scholarship? I thought it covered your tuition and housing?

**Student 2:** Well, it does, but I let my grades slip and now they are just below what I need to keep my scholarship. I don't think I studied hard enough this semester.

**Student 1:** Wow. I'm sorry. School just won't be the same without you. Isn't there something you can do? Maybe you could apply for a loan?



**Student 2:** I thought about that. I could take out a student loan to pay for tuition and all, but that is so much money that I have to repay. I'm not sure if I want to have that responsibility. Some people are still paying off student loans even 20 years after they graduate!

**Student 1:** Well, I suppose you could get a few jobs over the summer and save up some money. Right?

**Student 2:** I guess so, but it still might not be enough. I might have to work for a full year to save up enough to pay for tuition and housing at the university. I don't know what to do, but I know I want to finish my degree.

**Narrator:** Now get ready to answer the question.

**Question:** The students are discussing the man's problem. What do you think the man should do? Give reasons to support your choice.

## **SAMPLE ANSWER**

I think that the man should take out a loan to pay for his school. Most people who go to school that don't have some sort of scholarship have to take out loans to pay for their college. He should not take the time off of school to work and earn money in hopes that he would earn enough to be able to pay for classes. If he worked for a year and still didn't have enough money for school, what would he do? He would be immensely disappointed and he would still have to work another semester to pay for his tuition. If he can take out a loan, he can work after he graduates to pay off the loan. Most people do this, and this is the better option. His goal is to finish his degree. So, his first priority is to go to school. If it really would take him 20 years to pay off his loan, does he think he can earn all that money in only a year's worth of work, or even in only one semester? He should go to school now, and then he has the rest of his life to pay off his loan. He shouldn't spend so much of his life working to pay for school, and then his last few years working. Also, after he gets his degree, he can get a higher paying job, so it would take him less time to pay off his loans.

## 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  
talk in a political  
science class.

**Professor:** Political cartoons are a blend of pictorial, editorial, and social commentary. The medium of political cartoons combines the politics and artistry of journals and provides people with opportunities to creatively express their social concerns and political viewpoints. Although political cartoons often utilize strategic writing, their commentary extends beyond the written word alone. Most political cartoons aim to inform readers of current politics and influence them as well. Political cartoonists have been trying to affect public opinion since the mid-19th century, and the earlier cartoons serve as a glimpse into the controversy of past political situations. Because they rely on symbolism, caricature, and stylized imagery, political cartoons help people to think about politics in ways different from traditional news reporting.

While it is impossible to know how or in what ways political cartoons will affect the public, successful political cartoons share four common characteristics: eye-catching artistry, genuine sentiment, uncomplicated imagery, and an importance that will last over time. While political cartoons display messages of “truth,” critics argue that they do not change minds but reflect a level of social opinion and cultural values through familiar symbols. Whether fighting the status quo, raising social concern, or promoting broad political change, it is clear that political cartoons have changed the face of modern journalism and U.S. history.

**Narrator:** Now get ready to answer the question.

**Question:** Using details from the talk, describe the function of political cartoons and the components of their success.



## **SAMPLE ANSWER**

The function of political cartoons is...well...political cartoons try to affect public opinion. But critics say those cartoons only reflect social opinion and don't really affect what people think. Another function of political cartoons is to inform readers of current politics, but people probably read the news to understand, rather than interpret the symbols of a cartoon. From looking at older political cartoons, we can learn more about social opinions of past political problems in a culture. Some components of the success of a political cartoon include sentiment or feelings, art, uncomplicated images or symbols, and importance. I suppose if a political cartoon doesn't address an important issue, no one will pay attention to it.