

TOEFL SPEAKING TEACHERS MANUAL

LESSON 6



LESSON 6 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 your best friend and why he or she is your best friend. Include details and examples to support your decision.



SAMPLE ANSWER

My best friend is the first friend I made when I moved to my new home. He has been my friend for more than half of my life now. We grew up in the same place and like all the same things. We can still talk about movies that we saw 10 years ago. We talk about TV shows that we watched when we were kids. Not all of our likes and dislikes are the same, but because we have been friends for so long, I think we both know all of each other's likes and dislikes already. We have done so many things together. The play on the same soccer team 5 or 6 separate times and after we graduated from high school, we took a road trip and drove around America for two weeks to see different places we had never been before.

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 think that books and other methods of print are slowly being replaced by the Internet, TV, and other media. Others think that there will always be a need for printed material. What do you think and why? Give examples and details in your response.



SAMPLE ANSWER

I think that books and other methods of print are slowly being replaced by other media, but I don't think they will be replaced entirely. The Internet, TV, and other forms of media are making it much easier to store data like reports and books. It might be nice to have "ha a copies" like paper for some things, but paper is a limited resource that will eventually be exhausted. When books were first printed hundreds and hundreds of years ago, they were considered extremely valuable because they were so rare. I think this will eventually hadren again as books are slowly, very slowly replaced by digital media have entire books can be found and read on the Internet with to maker involved at all. This method is more convenient and less costly both money wise and for the environment. No trees were killed in the creation of an internet book or eBook.



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 Alumni Office has issued a notice about a new sports facility. Read the announcement about the new facility. You will have 45 seconds to read the announcement. Begin reading now.



Announcement of New Sports Facility

The Alumni Office of Central State University is pleased to announce that construction of a new sports facility will commence this summer. Due in part to a very generous grant from a 1974 alumnus, Jason Chitwood, the new facility will include an indoor basketball court, a swimming pool, an indoor track, and a climbing wall. The groundbreaking ceremony will be on April 7th with construction to begin shortly thereafter. The project is scheduled to be completed by summer of 2009.



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



English Teachers On Call

Student 1 (female): Jeez, I can see where the school's priorities lie.

Student 2(male): What do you mean?

Student 1: After a big donation from an alumnus, the first thing this school does is announce that it's upgrading its sports program. What about the library, or the old dorms, or the science building? Student 2: Well we already have all those things. What we don't have is an indoor track, or a climbing wall, or an indoor pool.



Student 1. I don't see why they couldn't use that money to build a new science building or an addition to the library. Half of the library's books are in storage. I have to have classes in the basement of the science building because we don't have many classrooms.

Student 2: A new library or science building might be nice, but after that, they won't draw in much money. A new sports facility will bring in basketball ticket money so that the school can do more things to improve in the future.

Student 1: But with a new library and science building, we can entice more students to come to our university and have more tuition money.



Narrator: Now get ready to answer the question.

QUESTION: The woman expresses her opinion about the announcement made by the Alumni Office. State her opinion and explain the reasons she gives for holding that opinion.



SAMPLE ANSWER

The woman is upset that the university is building a new sports facility. The university has just received a large donation of money from a past alumnus, and now the money is going towards sports rather than updating other facilities on campus. The woman thinks this is wrong. She thinks that the money should be used for a new library. She says half of the library's beeks are in storage. The woman also thinks that the money should be used for a new science building instead of a new sports complex. She has to have her science classes in the basement of the building because there aren't enough classrooms. She thinks it would be better to update the nonsports part of the university so that more students will want to come to the university. She thinks the money from new students' tuition will be more than the money the university mill make from building a new sports complex.



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 secondseto prepare your response and 60 seconds to speak. You have 45 seconds to read the passage.



Hacking: Crime or Service to Society? In the world of computers, the term "hacker" gets two different responses. One hacker can be productively designing games, programs, and ways to improve security of information, while the other hacker tries to break into systems in a way that causes individuals and companies to loose, distort or release information without permission.



How do we define a "hacker?" A hacker can improve programs in business so that the business or individual will be protected from unwanted tampering. This hacker explores the limits of the program. Or, is a hacker the term for activity that is unlawful? A hacker in this case is one who deliberately invades programs and causes computer problems. Some do this for fun; however, this can cause great hardship for businesses and individuals.

People who play around with computers would say hackers are exercising their skills. Others may say hackers are criminals. Which definition is it?



Narrator: Now listen to part of a talk in a computer science class.



Professor: Hacking is becoming a more prevalent problem in the field of technology. If you are hacking, you are breaking the law, as it is a felony here in the U.S. Only if a company or individual hires a hacker to test their systems, is hacking alright and ethical.



In the academic hacker culture, a computer hacker is a person who enjoys designing software and building programs with a sense for aesthetics and playful cleverness. In computer security, a hacker is someone who focuses on security mechanisms. In common use, which was popularized by the mass media, hacker refers to someone who illegally breaks into computer and network systems.



Compare a bunch of kids breaking into a computer system with another bunch of kids hotwitting a car for a joyride. The latter would probably argue, with complete sincerity, that they were doing no harm, because the owner of the car recovered his property afterward. They didn't keep or sell it. It's a bad prank to borrow someone's property in that way, but not really serious. These hypothetical car thieves versus the car owner... Don't you think the car owner would win this argument?



Narrator: Now get ready to answer the question.

QUESTION: Two opinions on computer hacking are given in the reading. Explain which of these views the professor holds and how she supports her opinion.



SAMPLE ANSWER

The definition of "hacking" can be helping a business or person improve security and information or the definition of "hacker" can be someone who illegally breaks into a computer or network. The professor views the term "hacker as an...um...individual who tampers with a program or network without permission. She views hacking as an ... um action that is against the law. She gives an example of kids who ...uh...break into a car and take it for a ride...uh...avo then return it to the owner. To the kids, that is not serious.......................but the car owner would disagree. and I think the police would agree with the car owner.

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): Matt, I need your help.
Student 2 (male): What do you need help with?
Student 1: I need to talk with my advisor about my schedule for next semester, but he hasn't been around lately. I don't know what to do.

Student 2: Well, why don't you just schedule an appointment with him?

Student 1: I tried that several times, but he always misses them. Either his assistant tells me he just had to rush out the door for a meeting, or he's out of town doing research.



Student 2: How about you schedule an appointment with one of the other advisors, or find out when the walk in appointment hours are for the office? Student 1: One of the reasons I chose my current advisor is because he's a little famous, and he's really really helpful with my classes. He's also very knowledgeable about my major concentration. Student 2: Well, it might be useless, but why don't you try sending him an e-mail explaining your situation, and note to him how many appointments he has missed with you?



English Teachers On Call

Student 1: Yeah, I could try that.

Student 2. Another idea is finding out when he teaches class, and then show up right after his class to talk to him.

Student 1: Hmmmm.

Student 2: And I know you might not want to think about it, but maybe you should just consider changing your advisor all-together to someone more reliable and less famous.



Narrator: Now get ready to answer the question.

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



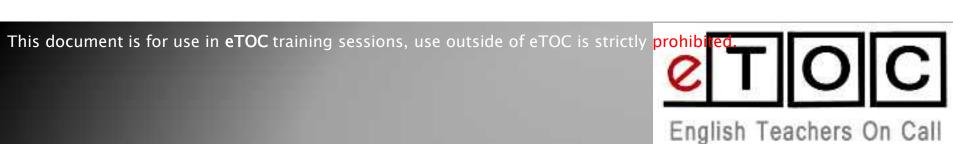
SAMPLE ANSWER

The weman's problem is that she isn't able to talk with her academic advisor. Her advisor is really good at helping her with her classes and is also very knowledgeable with the woman's major concentration. But, the woman now can't talk with her advisor. She just can't find him. Whenever the woman goes to the professor's office, she isn't there. This is because the advisor is a little famous and always has meetings and research to do. I think that I prefer the choose a different advisor solution. This student really needs the help of someone who it stisn't there. If she needs help with her classes or with her schedule for next semester, and her advisor isn't there, what should she do? The professor may be a little famous, but he is also very unreliable.

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 a talk in a biology class.



Professor: Extinction of a species is always tragic. It is our job as humans to protect animals and keep them from all dying out. When the last animal of a species dies, valuable information is lost. It is the fault of humans that so many animals have become endangered, or scarce, and then completely extinct. There are several reasons why animals become endangered and then shortly afterward extinct, and we, as humans, almost always have something to do with it.



Let's take a look at the extinct bird, the Dodo. The Dodo lived on an island off the eastern coast of Africa several hundred years ago, but it has become the most famous recently extinct species. This flightless bird, that resembled a chicken, stood at about three feet tall. It lived on its island with virtually no predators until humans started coming regularly. Humans brought with them cats, dogs, pigs, and other species that the Dodo had never seen before. It is most likely that these new animals that traveled with humans plundered the Dodo's nests and ate their eggs and young.

A slow-witted bird that does not fear animals which it hasn't seen before doesn't stand much of a chance against a human. The humans, on their new island, which was mostly forests when they got there, began chopping down the trees for various purposes. The Dodos lived in these forests, and the food of the Dodo was in these forests. If the habitat of the animal is destroyed, where will it live? What will it eat? Destruction of the natural habitat of a species is a really quick way to end its existence.



Narrator: Now get ready to answer the question.

QUESTION: The professor talks about endangered animals and animal extinction. Describe this and the relationship humans have with animal extinction. Use examples from the talk to support your answer.

English Teachers On Call

SAMPLE ANSWER

Endangered animals are animals that are hard to find...there aren't a lot of them. Extinction is when there are no more of a certain type of animal. So...first an animal is endangered, then it becomes extinct. Humans are usually to blame for the extinction of animals. In the case of the Dodo, it was the humans' fault that the bird became extinct. The Dodo lived on a small island that didn't have people on it, or, it didn't have many people on it. Then sallors started coming frequently. The men chopped down the forest where the Dodo lived. The men also bought animals that helped kill the Dodo. If people didn't go to that island, there would still be Dodos today.