

# **Topics and Tactics for the TOEFL® Test**

戦略的トーフル®テスト対策演習

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**NAN'UN-DO**

***Topics and Tactics for the TOEFL® Test***

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## はじめに

使える英語力をはかるテストとしてのTOEFLの歴史は、1964年に遡る。主に北米での大学教育を受けるに足りるだけの英語力があるかどうかを見るために作られたテストであるが、国際的な高評価とともに少なからず批判を受けてきたのも事実である。しかし、その都度改善を繰り返し、様々なバージョンのペーパーテストの後、コンピュータ版（CBT）を経て、今ではインターネット版（iBT）にまで進化した。ここにおいて、CBTまでのテストに見られた文法セクションが廃止され、ついにスピーキングが導入されるに至った。また、ライティングとスピーキングにおいては、読んだり聞いたりした内容に関して書く、話す、といった複数技能を同時に使って答える問題形式（integrated taskと呼ばれる）も取り入れられており、これでもできるだけ真に「使える」英語力をはかろうとするTOEFL製作者たちの努力の結晶と言えよう。いずれにせよ、40年以上国際的な英語試験として通用してきたテストであり、その信頼性は非常に高い。日本ではTOEICが流行っているが、留学および海外インターンのパスポートにもなり得るTOEFLで高得点を取得することは、それだけ将来多くのドアが開くことを意味する。ここにこそTOEFL受験の大きな魅力があると言えるだろう。

さて本書は、TOEFL iBTのリーディング・セクションの効果的な練習材料である。マルチプル・チョイスはもちろん、iBTより始まった新しい形式の設問（情報を類別する、サマリーを完成する等）をも備えている。比較・対照、因果関係など、北米大学での勉強の際に必ず読むことになる文章のパターンを研究し、様々な分野からのオリジナル・パッセージに盛り込んだ。iBTでは、本文中の難しい単語はクリックしてその定義を参照できるようになっているが、本書でもGlossaryを用意したので、十分に活用して試験の練習に励んでほしい。また、以前とは違い、試験中にノートを取るのも自由なので、必要に応じてメモをとりながら練習されても構わない。

本書ではさらに、日本人には弱いとされるリスニング力強化を目指すべく、各レッスンの冒頭にリスニング問題も配した。これらに挑戦した後は、それぞれCDプレーヤー、MP3プレーヤーなどを使って付属のCDをかけ流しにし、TOEFL英語のスピードと単語レベルに慣れるといった工夫をされると良いだろう。たった15の短いパッセージなのだから、音読・シャドウイングなども取り入れ、暗記してしまうくらいCDを活用できれば理想的だ。では、皆さんの健闘をお祈りする。

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# LESSON

# 1

## CRITICAL THINKING AND READING



### Introductory Lecture

Student

Teacher



As you listen to the short lecture, complete these sentences.

- The lecturer says that we live in the Age of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Information
  - Critical Thinking
  - the Mass Media
  - the World Wide Web
- The lecturer mentions all of these as modern sources of information EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.
  - television and radio
  - schools and universities
  - newspapers
  - magazines
- The lecturer says that politicians promise us \_\_\_\_\_.
  - better goods and services
  - better lives
  - more jobs
  - more reliable information
- The verb plug as used in the lecture is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - stop
  - sell
  - demand
  - advertise
- A biopic is a movie about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Hollywood stars
  - an event in history
  - a famous person
  - the difference between fact and fiction
- Some blogs recommend themselves as an alternative to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - mainstream journalism
  - the Internet
  - personal opinion
  - real facts

## **B:** Reading Assignment

Read this essay carefully.

Teacher  
1-3

1 To sort through all the information the mass media bombard us with these days, we need to be able to think more critically. Critical thinking may be defined simply as our ability to think for ourselves. To do this, we must develop reliable skills and standards that can help us analyze and evaluate not only information, but also our own motives and thought patterns. We must then habitually apply these skills and standards in such a way that allows us to continue to grow and improve intellectually.

2 This isn't always easy to do. We are all products of our upbringing and cultural environment. These often instill in us a narrow or slanted way of seeing the world, giving us a set of assumptions, beliefs and prejudices that we are loath to part with—that we believe *are* us. As a result, when we are presented with new facts or ideas, we do whatever we can to protect our hard-won knowledge, preserve our precious beliefs, stand by our old opinions. In other words, we think uncritically.

3 Non-critical thinkers take a simplistic, black-white, yes-no view of the world. They close their minds to the world's possibilities and complexities. They miss subtle connections and relations and fail to discern deeper meanings. They insist that *their* facts are the only relevant ones, believe that *their* interests and perspectives are the only valid ones.

4 Critical thinkers, on the other hand, are characterized by open-mindedness, intellectual honesty, self-awareness, and rationality. They have a sense of curiosity about the world and remain open to new and different interpretations of it. When necessary, they can admit that their information or understanding may be faulty or lacking. They realize that their motives may be driven by self-delusion and self-interest, and try to see through their personal prejudices and biases. They rely on reason rather than emotion, and strive to find the best explanation for

something rather than merely try to prove that they are right.

[5] Critical thinkers also realize that critical thinking doesn't come overnight. They know that it is a skill that is acquired gradually through trial and error, that it is a habit of mind that builds on itself over the course of a lifetime.

[6] Critical thinking and reading go hand in hand. Critical reading is a technique for uncovering information and ideas within a text. Critical readers are active readers who have developed certain skills that allow them to engage directly with a piece of writing. 1. They pre-read or skim a text to see what its main topics are, what its overall purpose or strategy is, what key words and phrases are italicized, boldfaced, or otherwise highlighted. 2. Then, as they proceed slowly and carefully through a text, critical readers underline key details and ideas and circle important or unfamiliar words. 3. As they go along, critical readers ask questions and make observations that occur to them about the author's choice of words, citing of details, and use of supporting evidence for his/her arguments. 4.

[7] Finally, having read through a text using these techniques, the critical reader is then ready to go back through it and apply his/her critical thinking skills to what he/she has read—ready to analyze and evaluate the author's information and ideas objectively and honestly.





## **Comprehension 1: Facts and Ideas**

Complete these sentences with the correct choices.

1. In paragraph 1, the author says that critical thinking can help us to
  - (A) develop reliable skills
  - (B) criticize the mass media
  - (C) grow intellectually
  - (D) overcome bad habits
  
2. In paragraph 2, the author says that uncritical thinking can lead us to
  - (A) look down on other people
  - (B) despise our own upbringing and culture
  - (C) give up our beliefs
  - (D) see the world in a narrow, prejudiced way
  
3. In paragraph 5, the author argues that critical thinkers realize that
  - (A) thinking is an emotional habit of mind
  - (B) their information and opinions are always wrong
  - (C) they cannot expect to pick up critical thinking skills quickly and easily
  - (D) understanding is caused by self-delusion and hard-won knowledge
  
4. In paragraph 6, the author contends that skimming helps a reader discover all of these in a text EXCEPT
  - (A) its main topics
  - (B) what supporting evidence the author uses for his/her arguments
  - (C) its key words and phrases
  - (D) how the text is organized or structured



## **Comprehension 2: Words and Meaning in Context**

Complete the sentences or answer the questions with the correct choices.

1. The underlined verb evaluate in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to
  - (A) decide
  - (B) judge
  - (C) appreciate
  - (D) determine
2. The underlined verb discern in paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to
  - (A) make judgments about
  - (B) recognize
  - (C) agree with
  - (D) approve of
3. The underlined adjective faulty in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to
  - (A) incorrect
  - (B) guilty
  - (C) missing
  - (D) precise
4. Which sentence below best expresses the essential information in the underlined sentence in paragraph 4?
  - (A) Critical thinkers are more rational than non-critical thinkers.
  - (B) The best explanation is not always the most rational explanation.
  - (C) Critical thinkers don't let feelings like pride and shame get in the way of finding rational explanations for things.
  - (D) It is not always necessary to be right.
5. The underlined word itself in paragraph 5 refers to
  - (A) habit of mind
  - (B) trial and error
  - (C) critical thinking
  - (D) skill



### **Comprehension 3: Structure and Strategy**

Follow the instructions below.

1. Look at the four numbers that indicate where the following sentence could be added to paragraph 6.

**They annotate the text, too, using the margins to record their doubts about and reactions to what they are reading, noting down how the text resembles or differs from their own beliefs and values.**

Where would the sentence best fit?

(1)      (2)      (3)      (4)

2. Look at the four sentences below and decide which one best summarizes what the author of the essay wants to say. Incorrect answers either leave out or misrepresent essential information.
  - (A) Most people have a very hard time becoming critical thinkers and readers because it takes too long and is quite difficult to do.
  - (B) To become a critical thinker and reader, a person must overcome certain habits of thought, learn to recognize his/her prejudices, and see the world with a more open mind.
  - (C) Critical readers are active readers who skim the text they are about to read, make notes in the margins as they go along, and then re-read the text until they truly understand it.
  - (D) Non-critical thinkers are all influenced by their culture and upbringing, and always try to protect their beliefs and opinions.