

Listening tips for the TOEFL ITP

Take past TOEFL listening tests and become familiar with the format.

- Quickly read the comprehension questions before the recording begins - this helps you to listen out for key points – often there is a lot of content that you will not be tested on – keep your focus and energy for the points that count!
- https://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/TOEFL_ITP/html/Section%201,%20TOEFL%20ITP,%20Listening%20Comprehension.html

Improve your vocabulary.

- The more words you know, the easier it will be for you to understand the listening section. Learn new vocabulary and save words you have trouble with!
- <http://freerice.com/#/english-vocabulary/1483>

Listen for signal words.

- **Listen for signal words that indicate major steps**, changes or ideas such as seldom, at the moment, in 1975, so far, usually, often, up to now, at the moment. Make sure to also listen out for repetition, synonyms and pronouns.
- <http://a4esl.org/q/h/9901/gc-connectives.html>

Determine the purpose of a conversation or speech.

- What do you think the speakers are trying to do? Are they angry? Trying to resolve a conflict? Sad? Express an idea? Practice this technique every time you hear English including English movies or TV shows, even people you hear speaking English on the street! This will help you focus on the key points and improve your ability to filter out information that is not necessary for the TOEFL listening exam questions.
- <http://www.esl-lab.com/>

Recognize key points.

- Who or what is the conversation about? What is the main point of the lecture? Why are they talking about this? Remember, the TOEFL listening exam is testing your comprehension, not your ability to memorize and repeat what you have just heard!
- <http://www.esl-lab.com/phone/phonerd1.htm>

Find connections between ideas.

- How do these points connect to the key ideas of the passage? If they do NOT connect to the key ideas, they are probably not the major ideas of the passage and you should not focus on them.
- <http://www.esl-lab.com/collegemajor/collegemajorrd1.htm>

Structure and Written Expression tips for the TOEFL ITP

SKILL 1: Subjects and verbs

- _____ was ringing continuously for hours.
- (A) Loudly
- (B) In the morning
- (C) The phone
- (D) The bells

A sentence in English should have a subject and a verb. A subject is missing, so the correct answer is (C).

SKILL 2: Objects of preposition

- To Mike _____ was a big surprise.
- (A) really
- (B) the party
- (C) funny
- (D) when

A preposition is followed by a noun or pronoun that is called an object of the preposition. If a word is an object of the preposition, it is NOT the subject. Then, the correct answer is (B), which is a subject.

SKILL 3: Present participles

- The film _____ appearing at the local theater is my favorite.
- (A) now (B) is
- (C) it (D) was

A present participle is the –ing form of the verb. The present participle can be (1) part of the verb or (2) an adjective. It is 1 when accompanied by some form of the verb be and 2 when not. The correct answer is (A) since it is 2.

SKILL 4: Past participles

- The bread _____ baked this morning smelled delicious.
- (A) has (B) was
- (C) it (D) just

The correct answer is (D) since it is an adjective past participle. A past participle often ends in –ed, but there are also many irregular past participles. For many verbs, including –ed verbs, the simple past and the past participle are the same and can be easily confused.

SKILL 5: Coordinate connectors

- I forgot my coat, _____ I got very cold.
- (A) then (B) so
- (C) later (D) as a result

When you have two independent clauses in English, you must connect them with words like BUT, AND, OR, SO and a comma. Thus., the correct answer is (B).

SKILL 6: Adverb clause connectors

- _____ arrived at the library, he started to work immediately.
- (A) The student (B) When
- (C) He (D) After the student

Sentence with adverb clauses (time – when, cause – because, condition – if, contrast – although) require a comma when the sentence is begun with a connector. The correct answer is (D).

SKILL 7: Noun clause connectors

- The company was prepared for _____ happened with the economy.
- (A) it (B) the problem
- (C) what (D) when

Noun clause connectors:
what, where, whether, that...
can be used to introduce noun clause or can also be the subject of the clause, so the correct answer is (C).

SKILL 8: Adjective clause connectors

- _____ just dropped off a package for you is my sister.
- (A) The woman
- (B) The woman who
- (C) Because the woman
- (D) With the woman

An adjective clause describes a noun. Because the clause is an adjective, it is positioned directly after the noun that it describes. In this case, the correct answer is (B).

Procedures for the written expression questions

1. **First, look at the underlined words or groups of words.** You want to see if you can spot which of the four answer choices is not correct.
2. **If you have been unable to find the error by looking only at the four underlined expressions, then read the complete sentence.** Often an underlined expression is incorrect because of something in another part of the sentence.

SKILLS AND SAMPLE QUESTIONS

- Agreement after prepositional phrases
- The languages of the world presents (A) a vast array (B) of structural similarities (C) and differences (D).
 - Agreement after expressions of quantity
- Some of the agricultural practices (A) used (B) today is (C) responsible for fostering (D) desertification.
 - Agreement after certain words (everybody, for instance)
- Nobody know (A) when the process (B) of glass-making was (C) invented (D).

ANSWERS: A – C – A

SKILLS AND SAMPLE QUESTIONS

- Parallel structure with coordinate conjunctions
- Ballpoint pens are (A) less versatile but (B) more population (C) than fountain pens (D).
 - Parallel structure with paired conjunctions
- Paleographers study (A) ancient and medieval (B) handwriting in order to establish (C) not only its age and (D) also its background.
 - Past participle after have
- Fish (A) farming (B) has rose (C) in the United States in recent (D) years.

ANSWERS: C – D – C

SKILLS AND SAMPLE QUESTIONS

- Present participles or past participles after be
- Lassie, the famous collie who made (A) her first screen (B) appearance in 1943, has always be (C) played (D) by a male dog.
 - Base form verbs after modals
- A blue bigwig lizard stakes (A) out a territory (B) and will defending (C) females within it against courting (D) males.
 - Singular and plural nouns
- The leaves of the common (A) sunflower are (B) rough (C) to the touch on both side(D).

ANSWERS: C – C – D

SKILLS AND SAMPLE QUESTIONS

- Countable and uncountable nouns
- The red cardinal spends (A) many (B) of its (C) time feeding (D) on the ground.
 - Subject and object pronouns
- Animals like frogs have (A) waterproof skin that (B) prevents they (C) from drying out quickly in air, sun, or wind (D).
 - Possessives
- Some (A) scallops can open and close theirs (B) valves and swim away rapidly when they (C) are disturbed (D).

ANSWERS: B – C – B

SKILLS AND SAMPLE QUESTIONS

- Pronoun reference
- John D. Rockefeller was the founder (A) of the Standard Oil Company, and he (B) was the richest man in the world at the time (C) of her (D) retirement.
 - Adjectives and adverbs
- Sounds quieter (A) than 10 decibels are impossibly (B) for the human (C) ear to hear (D).
 - Adjectives after linking verbs
- The planet (A) Mercury has (B) a moderately (C) elliptically (D) orbit.

ANSWERS: D – B – D

Reading Comprehension tips for the TOEFL ITP

Practice Passage

The Alaska pipeline starts at the frozen edge of the Arctic Ocean. It stretches southward across the largest and northernmost state in the United States, ending at

(5) *Linea* remote ice-free seaport village nearly 800 miles from where it begins. It is massive in size and extremely complicated to operate.

The steel pipe crosses windswept plains and endless miles of delicate tundra that tops the frozen ground. It weaves through crooked canyons, climbs sheer (10) mountains, plunges over rocky crags, makes its way through thick forests, and passes over or under hundreds of rivers and streams. The pipe is 4 feet in diameter, and up to 2 million barrels (or 84 million gallons) of crude oil can be pumped through it daily.

(15) Resting on H-shaped steel racks called "bents," long sections of the pipeline follow a zigzag course high above the frozen earth. Other long sections drop out of sight beneath spongy or rocky ground and return to the surface later on. The pattern of the pipeline's up-and- (20) down route is determined by the often harsh demands of the arctic and subarctic climate, the tortuous lay of the land, and the varied compositions of soil, rock, or permafrost (permanently frozen ground). A little more than half of the pipeline is elevated above the ground.

(25) The remainder is buried anywhere from 3 to 12 feet, depending largely upon the type of terrain and the properties of the soil.

One of the largest in the world, the pipeline cost approximately \$8 billion and is by far the biggest (30) and most expensive construction project ever undertaken by private industry. In fact, no single business could raise that much money, so eight major oil companies formed a consortium in order to share the costs. Each company controlled oil rights to (35) particular shares of land in the oil fields and paid into the pipeline-construction fund according to the size of its holdings. Today, despite enormous problems of climate, supply shortages, equipment breakdowns, labor disagreements, treacherous (40) terrain, a certain amount of mismanagement, and even theft, the Alaska pipeline has been completed and is operating.



Source:

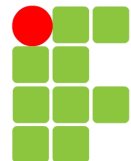
https://www.ets.org/toefl_itp/content/sample_questions/section3_reading_comprehension

QUESTION 1

- The passage primarily discusses the pipeline's
- (A) operating costs
- (B) employees
- (C) consumers
- (D) construction

QUESTION 2

- The word "it" in line 5 refers to
- (A) pipeline
- (B) ocean
- (C) state
- (D) village



QUESTION 3

- According to the passage, 84 million gallons of oil can travel through the pipeline each
- (A) day
- (B) week
- (C) month
- (D) year

QUESTION 4

- The phrase "Resting on" in line 15 is closest in meaning to
- (A) consisting of
- (B) supported by
- (C) passing under
- (D) protected with

QUESTION 5

- The author mentions all of the following as important in determining the pipeline's route EXCEPT the
- (A) climate
- (B) lay of the land itself
- (C) local vegetation
- (D) kind of soil and rock

QUESTION 6

- The word "undertaken" in line 31 is closest in meaning to
- (A) removed
- (B) selected
- (C) transported
- (D) attempted

QUESTION 7

- How many companies shared the costs of constructing the pipeline?
- (A) three
- (B) four
- (C) eight
- (D) twelve

QUESTION 8

- The word "particular" in line 35 is closest in meaning to
- (A) peculiar
- (B) specific
- (C) exceptional
- (D) equal

QUESTION 9

- Which of the following determined what percentage of the construction costs each member of the consortium would pay?
- (A) How much oil field land each company owned
- (B) How long each company had owned land in the oil fields
- (C) How many people worked for each company
- (D) How many oil wells were located on the company's land

QUESTION 10

- Where in the passage does the author provide a term for an earth covering that always remains frozen?
- (A) Line 4
- (B) Line 15
- (C) Line 23
- (D) Line 37

Answer Key for TOEFL ITP Reading Comprehension

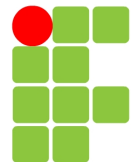
1. D
2. A
3. A
4. B
5. C
6. D
7. C
8. B
9. A
10. C



Skills for reading comprehension

1. Main idea questions
2. Stated detail questions
3. Implied detail questions
4. Vocabulary in context questions
5. 'Where' questions

Return to the questions. Can you find any question which is related to the above skills?



Suggestions to go online

- https://www.ets.org/toefl_itp/content/sample_questions
- http://www.examenglish.com/TOEFL/toefl_structure_1.htm
- http://www.testden.com/challenge/free-toefl.asp?refererid=goog11_do&gclid=CNimj7-A7LoCFfFj7AodHU8AOQ
- http://www.toefl-itp.com/TOFEL_TEST.asp?l=2&d=3