

TOEFL Speaking Practice Test 17

Question 1

Talk about an enjoyable or memorable experience that you had when you were alone. Explain what made this event so memorable.

Preparation Time: 15 seconds

Response Time: 45 seconds

After 15 seconds, please speak into the microphone. You should speak for 45 seconds. Afterwards you can compare your recording to a sample answer.

Transcript:

A few years ago, I went on a really long bike ride on my own. One of my tutors at college had told me about a rare falcon which had given birth to some chicks. It had a nest on the side of a cliff, and birdwatchers were really gathering there to see it. I decided to see it too, even though I wasn't really interested in birds. I wanted to go on a bike ride, and this gave me something to aim for. I took a route via several beautiful beaches. The scenery was really pretty. I remember that it was very hot and I got sunburn across one side of my body. I don't remember much about the falcon. I couldn't see it very well because I didn't have any binoculars. What I remember most is how much I travelled. It was about thirty miles to the cliff each way, but because of my roundabout route, I probably cycled over eighty miles there and back. That's the most I've ever done in a day.

Question 2

Briefly summarize the man's two options for the holidays. Then state which solution you would recommend. Explain the reasons for your recommendation.

Preparation Time: 20 seconds

Response Time: 60 seconds

After 20 seconds, please speak into the microphone. You should speak for 60 seconds. Afterwards you can compare your recording to a sample answer.

Transcript:

(Female student) Did you hear about the work experience scheme that the college is offering for the vacation?

(Male student) I heard something about it, yes.

(Female student) You get to work in a law office and see how all the things we've been learning in our lectures are relevant and can be put into practice.

(Male student) It sounds useful.

(Female student) I'm sure it is. We need practical skills to really understand this job. We'll be able to use what we've learned in our assignments next term, and it'll make us more employable in the long term too. Plus, we get paid, which is a real bonus!

(Male student) Yes, it's a shame I won't be able to go.

(Female student) Won't you? Why not?

(Male student) I want to retake one of my exams again – the exam on family law.

(Female student) Did you fail it? I didn't realize.

(Male student) No, I didn't fail it. But I didn't do very well. I was sick a lot last term and I missed a lot of lectures. I know I can do better, and my tutor says I can retake it if I complete a two-week revision course during the holidays.

(Female student) So it isn't necessary.

(Male student) No, but our final grade depends on our exam results for all the units we've studied. Every grade counts, and I want to do as well as I can. Besides, the revision course doesn't cost anything. It's free, and since there won't be many students there, I'll be able to talk in depth to the tutors about any aspects of family law that I find confusing.

(Female student) Well, to my mind, getting some work experience at a real law firm is far more interesting and useful, especially since you don't *need* to take the exam again.

(Male student) I suppose you could be right. Well, I can still drop out. I'll think about it.

[See text of sample answer](#)

Preparation Time: 20 seconds

Response Time: 60 seconds

After 20 seconds, please speak into the microphone. You should speak for 60 seconds. Afterwards you can compare your recording to a sample answer.

Question 3

Read the question. Take notes on the main points of your response. Then, respond to the question.

What do you think your life will look like after retirement? Use reasons and details to support your response.

Preparation time: 15 seconds

Response time: 45 seconds

Transcript:

I don't see myself as a person who will ever fully retire. I like to keep busy, and I have trouble relaxing. If I want to spend a few hours reading or listening to music I usually schedule it into my date book. I find that if I don't force myself to relax from time to time I always find some sort of project or work to do. Though I may not want to hold a paying job in the medical field when I am older, I will probably volunteer in a third world country rather than retire. I'm lucky that I've found work that I am interested in. If I grow tired of my job I may feel differently when the time comes.

Question 4

Narrator: Read the question. Take notes on the main points of your response. Then, respond to the question.

Would you prefer to study in a classroom or take an online course? Use reasons and details to support your response.

Preparation time: 15 seconds

Response time: 45 seconds

Transcript:

If I had the choice between an online course and a course at a college or university, I would choose the classroom setting. I believe it takes a lot of discipline to study at home, and I am a person who is easily distracted. While my roommate has no problem turning off her phone while she is studying, I'm the type of person who worries that I will miss an important call. Even when I'm studying for exams or writing essays, I have to do my work in the library where I can't be interrupted. In addition I learn better when I hear somebody presenting the information than I do just by reading it. While the convenience of an online course is attractive to me, I know my grade would suffer.