



# TOEFL IBT READING

2025-2026

**WITH 18 FULL-LENGTH  
REAL PRACTICE TESTS**

DR. HIKMET SAHINER

**TOEFL**  
**READING**  
**2025-2026**

**18 FULL-LENGTH AUTHENTIC PRACTICE TESTS**

**DR. HİKMET ŞAHİNER**

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**DR. HİKMET ŞAHİNER**

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# PREFACE

**TOEFL Reading 2025-2026 is designed to give test takers an edge in answering the questions on the new TOEFL Reading Section.**

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## CHAPTER 1 – VOCABULARY QUESTIONS

▀ Vocabulary questions ask you to find the meaning of a word or phrase determined by the context. There are 2 - 3 vocabulary questions for each passage. This question is worth 1 point.

**How the Question is Worded**

*The word X in the passage is closest in meaning to*

*Based on the information in the paragraph, the term X can be best described as*

**Sample Question**

A lion pride will typically have one to six mature males. Marked by their famous manes, **mature** males are easily recognizable. The males will rule over a group of females that is nearly always more numerous than the group of males. Male lions display little interest in their cubs in the first years of their lives. As the male cubs approach sexual maturity, however, the older males become more aggressive and hostile towards them. At the age of two, the male cubs are expelled from the pride by the older males so that they will not become rivals for the females.

**The word **mature** in the passage is closest in meaning to**

- (A) dominant
- (B) aggressive
- (C) fertile
- (D) adult

**Answer & Explanations**

▀ (D) Find the helpful clues from the supportive sentences near the target vocabulary. You can find an inference clue in the following sentence: “Marked by their famous manes, mature males are easily recognizable.” You can infer the meaning of the word mature is “grown-up” or “adult” because only adult male lions have manes.

## **STRATEGIES**

- 1. Remember that the vocabulary question asks for the meaning of a word as it is used in the context. Even if you know the dictionary definition of the word in the question, be sure to check the context.**
- 2. Examine its context for helpful hints. The common clues you can use in vocabulary questions are:**

### **Definition, Restatement clues**

In previous times, the primary mode of psychiatric treatment was **therapy**, in which the patient was encouraged to talk about and examine his or her emotional problems.

### **Synonym clues**

Red wolves once roamed freely throughout the southern United States. Then came settlers who cleared the land for homes and farms, greatly reducing the wolves' **habitat**.

### **Example, Restatement Clues**

The developed countries help build **infrastructure** for residents in poorer countries, by constructing schools, sewage disposal plants and roads.

### **Contrast, Antonym Clues**

Psychiatric drugs originally intended to treat serious mental disorders are being used to address more **trivial** issues.

### **Inference Clues**

The program was canceled after the reporters were found guilty of using a number of **unethical** methods to get the news.

## BASIC DRILL

1. Epic poems are long stories, told in rhymed verses, which usually tell of a war or the adventures of a great hero. They were one of the major forms of literature in the ancient world. In fact, epic poems probably predate writing, because they were originally **recited** orally, and only written down much later. The oldest known epic poem is the Sumerian Epic of Gilgamesh. As with many epics, its author is unknown because it was passed down orally for generations before it was written down. Therefore, epic poems are often best viewed as the work of a culture rather than of a single author.

The word **recited** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) composed
- (B) narrated
- (C) appreciated
- (D) taught

2. Map making, at least in the western world, did not advance much after the time of the ancient Greeks. The Europeans of the Middle Ages rejected the belief in a round Earth for religious reasons, and this doomed their maps to be hopelessly inaccurate. However, as the Middle Ages came to an end and trade and travel between different parts of the world became more frequent, there was renewed interest in map making. The methods of the ancient Greeks were studied and **refined**, and more accurate maps were made with the aid of technological innovations, such as the magnetic compass and other navigational aids. By the beginning of the 20th century, nearly the entire surface of the Earth had been accurately mapped.

The word **refined** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) enhanced
- (B) rejected
- (C) approved
- (D) accepted

3. One of the major areas of interest for anthropologists is how new ideas are introduced and adopted into a civilization. Some ideas may be invented independently by several different civilizations. For example, agriculture was developed independently in China, India, the Middle East, and South America. In each of these regions, civilizations developed agriculture on their own, without knowledge of the other civilizations or their activities. Other areas adopted agriculture through a process known as **diffusion**. As European civilizations came in contact with Middle Eastern civilizations, they saw the advantages to be gained from agriculture and adopted the technology. Agriculture spread from China to other parts of Asia in the same way.

**Based on the information in the paragraph, the term **diffusion** can best be described as**

- (A) the production of new agricultural methods
- (B) the continuous development of civilization
- (C) the process through which new technologies are spread
- (D) the process through which the advantages of a society are analyzed

4. The mechanism of trade in New England and the middle colonies differed from that of the South: their lack of staples to exchange for English finished goods was a relative disadvantage, but the abundance of their own shipping and **mercantile** enterprises worked in their favor. This was not to the liking of the British, who wished to ensure their own dominance in shipping and their importance as the sole lifeline to the colonies. After 1660, the English government raised prohibitive duties against certain major colonial exports: fish, flour, wheat, and meat, while leaving the door open to timber, furs and whale oil, products in great demand in the home country. This hit the New York and New England colonies especially hard, and in the years 1698-1717 they bought more from England than they sold there, resulting in an unfavorable trade balance.

**The word **mercantile** in the passage is closest in meaning to**

- (A) navigational
- (B) investment
- (C) trade
- (D) manufacturing

5. Since it was first diagnosed in 1981, AIDS has steadily spread into an epidemic across the United States. There are approximately 1 million Americans, or 0.06% of the total population, currently living with HIV, the viral precursor to full blown AIDS. Those infections are unevenly distributed throughout society, however. African-Americans make up nearly 50% of all cases of HIV, despite the fact that they account for only 13% of the population. The statistics for African-American women are particularly grim, with African-Americans making up 72% of all female virus carriers. Infection rates among Latin-Americans, the other major minority group in America, are similarly **lopsided**.

The word **lopsided** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) severe
- (B) uneven
- (C) discouraging
- (D) unjust

6. One of the most famous architects in history, the American Frank Lloyd Wright is remembered both for his nontraditional approach to architecture and for emphasizing the **dictum**, “Form follows function.” That motto is the basis of “functionalism,” which gave rise to many buildings, such as Wright’s own design for the Guggenheim Museum in New York City. One of the world’s most famous art museums, the Guggenheim Museum is built around a great helical gallery several stories in height. The gallery consists of a broad ramp along which works of art are displayed. Thus, the building’s form — a structure built around a broad, helical ramp — complements its function, which is to display a large number of exhibits within a limited space and in an easily accessible setting. It has become one of the landmarks of New York City.

The word **dictum** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) fact
- (B) belief
- (C) necessity
- (D) hope

## **CHAPTER 2 - SENTENCE SIMPLIFICATION QUESTIONS**

▣ Sentence simplification questions ask you to find the best restatement of key information from long and complex sentences. To answer these questions, you will need not only a firm grasp of English grammar, but also the ability to restate information without changing its meaning. There is 1 sentence simplification question for each passage. This question is worth 1 point.

### **How the Question is Worded**

*Which of the following best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence? Incorrect answer choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.*

### **Sample Question**

Hummingbirds are a unique family of bird species. Found only in the Western Hemisphere, hummingbirds are the smallest birds in the world, with some species being as small as 6 centimeters and weighing as little as 5 grams. Like most small animals, hummingbirds lead extremely active lives. **During flight, their heart rate can reach up to 500 beats per minute, and this means a hummingbird's daytime life is a nearly constant search for food, as it will eat up to 15 times in one hour and will consume its own body weight in nectar over the course of a day.**

**Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in the passage? Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.**

- (A) During flight, a hummingbird's heart can reach up to 500 beats per minute in its constant search for food.
- (B) A hummingbird's heart beats very quickly during flight, so it must constantly search for food and eat its weight in food daily.
- (C) A hummingbird's life is a constant search for food, and since it must eat 15 times an hour, it must fly very quickly.
- (D) A hummingbird's heart rate will reach over 500 beats per minute unless it is able to consume its own body weight in nectar daily.

### **Answer & Explanations**

▣ The answer is (B). (B) best summarizes the key idea of the highlighted sentence. This sentence can be broken into several meaningful parts as shown below.

A During flight, their heart rate can reach up to 500 beats per minute, and B this means a hummingbird's daytime life is a nearly constant search for food, as it will eat up to 15 times in one hour and C will consume its own body weight in nectar over the course of a day.

“A hummingbird’s heart beats very quickly during flight” restates the information A, “so it must constantly search for food” restates the information B, and “eat its weight in food daily” restates C. The information “as it will eat up to 15 times in one hour” is omitted in the paraphrased sentence, but this information is unnecessary and therefore can be omitted.

## STRATEGIES

- 1. Determine the precise meaning of the highlighted sentence. Dividing the sentence into meaningful parts helps you to grasp its correct meaning.**
- 2. See if the sentence makes a reference to an idea outside of the sentence. If so, you need to find what this reference word indicates.**
- 3. Identify key ideas and eliminate unimportant information. Information that provides examples or equivalent ideas, such as appositive phrases, is unimportant information.**
- 4. Decide which answer choice best paraphrases only the key information from the original sentence. You need to understand how key ideas relate to one another.**
- 5. Eliminate answer choices if they**
  - leave out important pieces of information**
  - contain information that is not mentioned in the original sentence**
  - confuse the relationship between the ideas**
  - generally alter the meaning of the original sentence**

**BASIC DRILL**

1. Setting tax policy is a crucial responsibility of the government, as these policies not only ensure the funding of government programs, but also have a significant impact on the economy in general. A good example of this comes from the early 80s, when America was faced with a serious recession. The government made significant cuts in the tax rates for companies, but not for regular citizens, even though regular citizens had little money at the time. **The logic behind this was that cutting individual taxes would not help, because it would only increase the amount of money consumers had to spend, without fixing the problems in supply.** By cutting taxes to companies, the government allowed those companies to use the tax money they saved to increase their supply.

**Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in the passage? Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.**

- (A) Cutting taxes would not help because it would only increase the amount of money consumers had.
- (B) The reasoning for this was that cutting taxes is meaningless because it would increase consumers' money but would not increase supply.
- (C) The logic behind this was that cutting individual taxes would not fix problems in supply.
- (D) The logic behind this was that cutting individual taxes would not increase consumer spending or fix problems in supply.

2. It has long been known that communities often choose courses of action that are either very damaging or even fatal to the community. For example, the society that lived on Easter Island continued to practice extensive logging, even though eventual deforestation of their island led to the destruction of their society. **Today, many countries around the world continue to pollute the environment, despite well documented evidence that such pollution may make life much more difficult or even impossible in the future.** Such self-destructive behavior may seem like madness, but it is explained by a branch of mathematics known as game theory. Game theory attempts to explain why individuals or groups make certain decisions. A basic assumption of game theory is that every decision maker acts in his or her own self-interest. People seek to maximize their own benefit, and the welfare of others is secondary. In such situations, individual interests often conflict with the interests of the group as a whole.

**Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in the passage? Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.**

- (A) Today, many nations continue to pollute the environment for lack of well documented evidence regarding the effects.
- (B) Many nations that pollute the environment are not well aware of their actions, yet continue to do so.
- (C) Even though they know the future consequences of their actions, many nations continue to pollute the environment.
- (D) It is well documented that many nations pollute the environment despite the fact that this will make life impossible in the future.

3. The payment of bride price (a sum of money or goods given to the family of the bride by the groom) has quite a number of effects on African society. First, the payment of bride price acts to increase the stability of African family structures. **Sons are dependent on their fathers and older relatives to help them pay the bride price of their wives, and this generally leads to greater levels of obedience and respect.** The negotiations between the two families concerning the bride price allow the parents and other family members to meet and get to know one another before the marriage. Finally, since the bride price must often be repaid in case of a divorce, the bride's family often works to make sure that any marital problems are solved quickly. Bride prices also work as a system of wealth distribution in African cultures. Wealthier families can afford to support the marriage of their sons, and thus their wealth is transferred to other families.

**Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in the passage? Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.**

- (A) Obedient and respectful sons can rely on their fathers and elders to help them pay the bride price of their wives.
- (B) Sons are dependent on their fathers and elders, and this makes them more obedient and respectful.
- (C) Young men must obey their fathers and elders because they need their help to pay the bride price of their wives.
- (D) Sons respect the fact that their fathers and elders will help them pay the bride price of their wives.

4. Psychopharmacology, the use of mood-altering drugs to treat psychiatric conditions, is a rapidly growing field of medicine. **While the use of psychiatric drugs has been in existence for over fifty years, improvements in the understanding of brain chemistry and the consequent discovery of new drug types have greatly expanded their use, and there are now drugs available for the treatment of nearly every major form of psychiatric disorder.** This has undeniably led to the improvement of countless lives, but the expanded use of drugs in treating the mentally ill may have unforeseen medical and social consequences.

**Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in the passage? Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.**

- (A) Psychiatric drugs have been around for nearly fifty years, but the improvements they can make in brain chemistry have greatly expanded their use, and there are now drugs for most mental illnesses.
- (B) Although these drugs are not new, discoveries relating to brain chemistry and the resulting development of new drugs have greatly expanded the use of psychiatric drugs to include treatment of most mental illnesses.
- (C) Although psychiatric drugs are not new, improvements in brain chemistry have only recently allowed them to be used to treat most mental illnesses.
- (D) While psychiatric drugs have existed for over fifty years, their expanded use and the invention of new drugs now allow doctors to treat nearly every form of mental illness.

5. Valley formation occurs through a number of different erosion mechanisms. Valleys can either be U-shaped or V-shaped, and a valley's basic shape depends on how it was formed. U-shaped valleys are typically much older than V-shaped valleys. U-shaped valleys form during ice ages. During these periods, glaciers will form in V-shaped valleys created in previous eras. **The intense weight of the glacier will cut into the valley, and the slow movement of the glacier means that most of its erosive force is directed to the sides of the valley rather than to the bottom.** This produces a valley that has steep sides and a wide bottom. In addition to their shape, these glacial valleys can be identified by the presence of rivers or streams that are far too narrow to explain the erosion of the valley. These streams are the remainders of the streams that cut the original V-shaped valley that existed before glacial erosion.

**Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in the passage? Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.**

- (A) Glaciers remove an intense weight from the valley because their lack of speed means that they direct most of their force to the sides.
- (B) Because of its slow movement, the erosive forces created by the intense weight of the glacier will be directed horizontally rather than vertically.
- (C) The intense weight of the glaciers means that they will only move at a slow pace and will cut the sides of the valley rather than the bottom.
- (D) A glacier will cut the sides of a valley rather than the bottom because its intense weight resists the downward force of erosion.

6. The concept that language determines, or at least influences, our thoughts is known as linguistic determinism. The theory was first presented in the West by Wilhelm von Humbolt, a famous German linguist of the 19th century. His ideas were later expanded upon by Franz Boas, who, through his study of various languages around the world, came to realize how complete and total the differences between those various languages could be. This gave rise to the belief that if languages were so radically different, then the thoughts allowed by those languages must be quite different as well. The assumption was that in order to think something, a person had to be able to say it.

The concepts of linguistic determinism were most clearly focused in the work of Edward Sapir and his protégé Benjamin Whorf. Although Sapir and Whorf never developed an explicit theory of linguistic determinism, the ideas expressed in their numerous writings have come to be known as the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis. The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis is a less rigid theory of linguistic determinism than the earlier theories of the German linguists. **Whereas earlier linguists had claimed that thoughts are impossible without language and therefore controlled by language, Sapir and Whorf claimed that thoughts were merely influenced by language.** This difference gave rise to competing theories of strong and weak linguistic determinism.

**Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in the passage? Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.**

- (A) While earlier linguists felt that it would be impossible to control our thoughts without language, Sapir and Whorf were not influenced by these ideas.
- (B) Although Sapir and Whorf claimed that language affects thinking, they felt the earlier claims about language and thinking were impossible.
- (C) Earlier linguists had claimed that thoughts and language were always connected, but Sapir and Whorf argued that this connection was not that influential.
- (D) Although earlier linguists had claimed that thoughts could only exist through language, Sapir and Whorf argued that language only helped to shape our thoughts.

## **CHAPTER 3 - FACTUAL INFORMATION & NEGATIVE FACT QUESTIONS**

▀ Both factual information and negative fact questions are based on information that is directly stated in the passage. Factual information questions ask you to choose an answer that is correct according to the passage. Negative fact questions ask you to choose an answer that is untrue according to the passage. Each passage has 3 - 6 factual information questions and 0 - 2 negative fact questions. Both question types are worth 1 point.

### **How the Question is Worded**

#### **Factual Information**

*According to the paragraph, which of the following is true of X?*

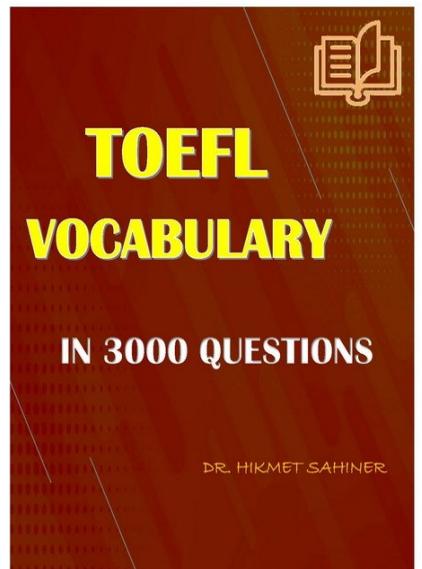
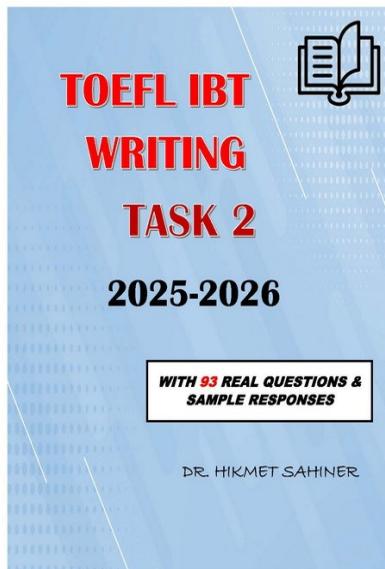
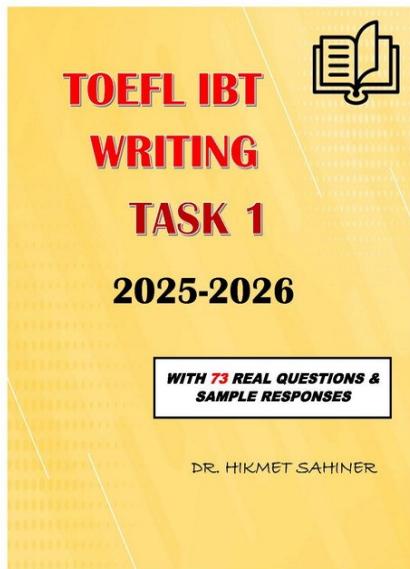
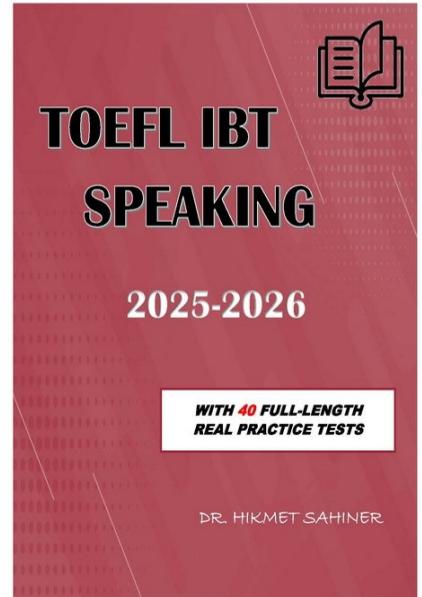
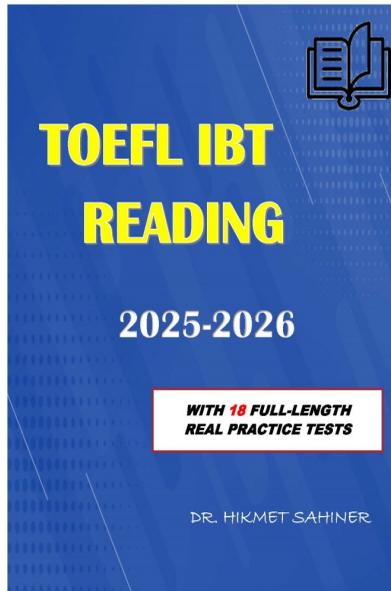
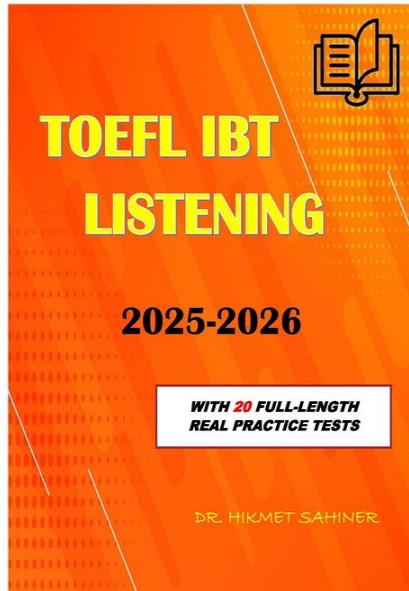
*According to the paragraph, X did Y because*

#### **Negative Fact**

*According to the passage, which of the following is NOT true of X?*

*The author's description of X mentions all of the following EXCEPT*

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