

BARRON'S

ESSENTIAL WORDS FOR THE TOEFL®

4TH EDITION

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FOR THE TOEFL**



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INTRODUCTION

SUCCESS ON THE TOEFL

What vocabulary is necessary to score high on the TOEFL?

How can I improve my vocabulary for this important test?

How can I be a better TOEFL test taker?

Essential Words for the TOEFL answers these questions and provides you with a proven plan for improving your English vocabulary while also preparing you for the TOEFL. The words and practice questions that appear throughout this book will help you to maximize your understanding of words that will likely appear in every section of the TOEFL. Important information about how to maximize your score on the TOEFL is given in addition to vocabulary building hints and exercises. By following the program and mastering the words in this book, you will be ready to earn a higher score on the TOEFL.

Essential Words for the TOEFL is a product of an extensive study of more than 2,000 TOEFL vocabulary questions from dozens of different TOEFL tests administered during recent years. A list of all TOEFL vocabulary was made and the number of times each word was tested was counted. The word each tested word was associated with was identified. Words that appeared as incorrect answers were also identified and counted. The result is this little book of words that you should know before you take the TOEFL.

MAXIMIZING YOUR VOCABULARY POTENTIAL— A DESCRIPTION OF THIS PROGRAM

This book is divided into six chapters. This introduction gives you basic information about their contents and how to use the book. Let's look at the six chapters.

Getting to Know the TOEFL

Chapter 1 describes the complete TOEFL test formats and gives you sample questions from each part. The questions are explained in detail and test-taking strategies for each section are given. The paper TOEFL and the iBT (Internet Based TOEFL) are described.

Understanding the TOEFL Reading Section

Chapter 2 gives you a complete description of the vocabulary questions that appear on Section Three of the TOEFL. This chapter contains a detailed analysis of the kinds of words that are tested on the TOEFL. It illustrates both the paper and iBT formats for vocabulary questions, and it gives you important strategies and hints to follow when taking either version of the TOEFL.

Improving Your TOEFL Vocabulary

Chapter 3 gives you a plan for studying vocabulary. You should use the plan when studying the words in this book.

Building Your TOEFL Vocabulary

Chapter 4 helps you to build your TOEFL vocabulary through the study of "roots, prefixes, and suffixes." These are the parts of words that add meaning. Roots, prefixes, and suffixes appear often in the English language.

Important Vocabulary Building Tools

Two useful tools in any vocabulary building program are the dictionary and thesaurus. Chapter 5 explains how to use both and introduces you to the kind of information that each contains.

The Essential TOEFL Vocabulary

Barron's TOEFL Vocabulary Building Program is explained in Chapter 6. The carefully selected words that appear on the list are important for all TOEFL test takers. An explanation of the Program is given, including how to study the list, how to understand the words, and how to follow the program from beginning to end. Thirty carefully developed vocabulary lessons follow the explanation. Each lesson ends with practice questions like those that appear on both the paper and iBT.

The iBT Reading Practice Test

Chapter 7 contains a complete iBT practice test for Section 3 of the TOEFL. The test contains both reading comprehension and vocabulary questions that closely follow the iBT format. This is followed by a key of correct answers, and information on how to convert your number of correct answers to a score on the TOEFL scale. Both the old scale for the paper version of the TOEFL and the scale for the iBT are included, so you will be able to convert your score to either scale. Chapter 7 is followed by an alphabetical index of the 450 essential words taught in this book. The page on which each word is introduced is indicated next to the word.

A Final Word

Among the thousands of vocabulary words TOEFL test makers can choose from, this book presents the words that are most likely to appear often. By mastering the words in this book and learning the roots, prefixes, and suffixes that make up other words related to them, you will be well prepared for the vocabulary tested on the TOEFL. Furthermore, by following these TOEFL test taking strategies, you will be on your way to a higher score on the TOEFL in general, and Section 3 of the TOEFL in particular.

Steven Matthiesen