

TOEIC® SPEAKING TEST QUESTION 11: EXPRESS AN OPINION

VOCAB REVIEW

SAMPLE QUESTION

Directions: In this part of the test, you will give your opinion about a specific topic. Be sure to say as much as you can in the time allowed. You will have 45 seconds to prepare. Then you will have 60 seconds to speak.

Do you think it is more important that children be given time to play and enjoy themselves or more important that children study, learn skills and acquire knowledge? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

RESPONSE TIME

00:00:45

RESPONSE TIME

00:00:60

GRAMMAR SPOT

There are special types of sentences which are said to be in **Subjunctive Mood**. These sentences violate the usual rules relating to subject-predicate agreement in number and in tense.

1. The present subjunctive is identical to the **base form** of the verb in all persons. We use this

(A) in a noun clause formed as the object of a verb indicating a desire, advice, intention, command, request, recommendation, etc.;

The doctor recommended that my father remain in hospital for a week.

*They advised that he **not return** to work until fully fit.*

(B) in the construction 'it is important (desirable/ vital/ essential/ imperative, etc.) that;

*It is important (desirable/ imperative/ vital) that he **take** this medication night and morning without fail.*

2. The past subjunctive is identical to the past indicative in English with all verbs except BE: the past subjunctive of BE is always 'were'.

We use the past subjunctive to express impossible wishes.

*I wish I **had** more courage. I wish I **were** a bird.*

Exercise 1

During the 45 seconds allowed to prepare, it is important to quickly identify exactly what the question asks of you. Read the following topic again. Identify the key words and make a basic summary of the question. Do you think it is more important that children be given time to play and enjoy themselves or more important that children study, learn skills and acquire knowledge?

Exercise 2

Once you have analyzed the question, it is important to form an opinion. Show what it is that you are agreeing with or preferring. Choose the side you want to defend.

Exercise 3

Brainstorm several reasons for your opinion.

DICTIONARY

1. She was for speeding.
2. It is unfair to a whole class for the actions of one student.
3. Tons of gold were at the mine.
4. Countries need powerful to develop alternatives to fossil fuels.
5. Oil is to remove naturally occurring impurities.
6. His company continued to
7. Some countries lack a suitable economic