

TOEIC® SPEAKING TEST QUESTIONS 1-2: READ A TEXT ALOUD

VOCAB REVIEW

SAMPLE QUESTION

Directions: In this part of the test, you will read aloud the text on the screen. You will have 45 seconds to prepare. Then you will have 45 seconds to read the text aloud.

The photocopier is now essential in today's office. But what did we do before the photocopier? The most common method of duplicating reports, letters, and memos was by using carbon copy paper inserted between white pages. This was an efficient way of getting an exact copy of the document, but only one copy. We are now used to making more copies than we really need. As a result, unused copies are thrown in the trash. So, while photocopiers have made our lives easier, they have contributed to problems of waste disposal.

RESPONSE TIME

00:00:45

Pronunciation Tips

Slash Reading

Texts are made up of key ideas, and these key ideas are contained in units of words called 'thought groups'. These are also called 'tone units' or 'sense groups'. A thought group is a group of words that go together to form a thought or an idea. When we read long sentences aloud, we cannot read in one breath. We need to pause and take a breath. We group words together into thought groups. If we pause naturally according to thought groups, there'll be a better flow to our speech. We need to recognize the natural pauses that occur between thought groups by means of 'slash reading'.

Exercise 1

Listen carefully.

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How to identify thought groups

1. Punctuation

After punctuation marks, such as periods, commas, colons, semi-colons, etc., pause briefly.

2. Grammatical units

Sentences are made up of grammatical units. Identify those units, and you'll know where to pause.

2.1 Noun phrases E.g. an expensive book (article+adjective+noun)

2.2 Verb phrases E.g. walk slowly (verb+adverb); walked my dog (verb+object); have been walking

2.3 Prepositional phrases E.g. to the park (preposition+noun)

2.4 Adverbial phrases E.g. very recently; last year; (He went to London) to attend a meeting (purpose to-infinitive)

2.5. Clauses E.g. **when** I was a child (=Adverb Clause)

(the ring) **which** her fiancé gave her (=Adjective Clause=Relative Clause)

(it is not unreasonable to believe) **that** he may be elected President (=Noun Clause)

Exercise 2

Identify thought groups in each statement and mark them with a single slash mark (/) and mark the sentence boundaries with double slashes (//).

- (A) The sentence is a set of words standing on their own as a sense unit.
- (B) Most modern course materials include cassettes of listening texts.
- (C) I ate spice-rubbed ham, mashed potatoes, and a Christmas pudding for Christmas dinner.
- (D) The bookstore on our campus sells cards. In fact, they have the best cards around.
- (E) Each module is composed of several separate units.

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DICTION

1. A ruined the crops.
2. He faces six months in jail and a heavy
3. The local were angry at the lack of parking spaces.
4. The judge the death penalty on both men.
5. Some factories were closed to energy.
6. Millions of viewers in to Radio Australia to learn the election results.