

TOEFL Speaking Sample Paper 01

Task 1: Independent Speaking Task

Preparation Time: 15 seconds — Response Time: 45 seconds

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

Question:

What is the most helpful feature of a smartphone for students? Choose one of the following and explain why with specific details and examples.

1. Camera
2. File Sharing
3. Internet Access

Sample Solution (Task 1)

In my opinion, **internet access** is the most helpful feature for students. Firstly, it allows for instant research during study sessions. For example, if a student is in a lecture and needs to clarify a complex concept, they can look up academic articles immediately. Secondly, it facilitates communication. Students can check their school portals for grade updates or email professors about assignments while on the move. While a camera is useful, the vast resources provided by the internet are essential for modern academic success.

Task 2: Integrated Speaking (Campus-related)

Preparation Time: 30 seconds — Response Time: 60 seconds

Step 1: Reading Passage (Read for 45 seconds)

Sculpture Courses to Be Discontinued

University administrators announced yesterday that the sculpture program, a division of the art department, will be eliminated. “The main reason is a lack of student interest,” reported one administrator. “Although the number of art students has increased, fewer and fewer art majors are taking sculpture classes.” Furthermore, the department’s only sculpture professor is retiring this year. “Given the art department’s limited budget,” the administrator explained, “it just doesn’t make sense to hire a new full-time professor to teach sculpture for only a handful of students.”

Step 2: Transcript

Narrator: Now listen to two students discussing the article.

Male student: Everything alright?

Female student: Yeah, I’m just upset about that article I showed you this morning . . .

Male student: Why, what’s the big deal?

Female student: Well, as an art major, I think it’s a big loss for the department. The university’s got it all wrong. The low enrollment isn’t because art majors don’t want to take these classes. Problem is, who has time to take them when there are so many other requirements?

Male student: I don’t understand.

Female student: See, the classes they’re eliminating are all optional. The required courses are mostly painting and drawing, and they take up all our time. What we really need are different requirements—then art majors could take a better variety of classes. If money’s the problem, they could hire a part-time professor! At least a few painting teachers are also great sculptors. I’m sure one of them could teach a class.

Question:

The woman expresses her opinion of the university’s plan. State her opinion and explain the reasons she gives for holding that opinion.

Sample Solution (Task 2)

The woman **disagrees** with the university’s plan to eliminate the sculpture program. She provides two main reasons. First, she argues that the low enrollment is not because of a lack of interest, but because students are overwhelmed by the requirements of other mandatory classes like painting and drawing. Second, she challenges the university’s budget concerns by suggesting they could hire a part-time professor instead of a full-time one. She also points out that current painting faculty who are also sculptors could teach the classes, which would save the school money while keeping the program alive.

Task 3: Integrated Speaking (Academic Reading/Lecture)

Preparation Time: 30 seconds — Response Time: 60 seconds

Step 1: Reading Passage (Read for 45 seconds)

Scarcity Marketing

Scarcity marketing is a technique where advertisers highlight the rarity of a product to drive consumer demand. People are often motivated to buy items they perceive as being "one of a kind" or "limited in stock." By creating a sense of urgency or exclusivity, companies can encourage consumers to purchase larger quantities at higher prices.

Step 2: Transcript

Narrator: Now listen to part of a lecture on this topic in a business class.

Professor: Think of a clothing brand that releases a "limited edition" jacket. They might announce that only 100 units will ever be produced. Because customers know they might never have another chance to own this item, they rush to the store and are often willing to pay a much higher price just to be one of the few who own it.

Question:

Using the example from the lecture, explain how it illustrates the concept of scarcity marketing.

Sample Solution (Task 3)

The professor illustrates the concept of scarcity marketing using the example of a clothing brand's limited-edition jacket. By announcing that only 100 units are available, the company creates **artificial scarcity**, making the product feel exclusive. This triggers a psychological response in customers where they feel a sense of urgency to buy the product before it's gone. As a result, the company can successfully charge higher prices because the perceived value of the jacket increases due to its rare status.

Task 4: Integrated Speaking (Academic Lecture)

Preparation Time: 20 seconds — Response Time: 60 seconds

Transcript

Narrator: Now listen to part of a lecture in a biology class regarding animal behavior.

Professor: Biologists often debate how to define animal "tools." There are two main definitions. The **narrow definition** requires that an animal must modify or shape the object. For instance, a chimpanzee might peel leaves off a branch and sharpen it to reach insects inside a tree. They didn't just find a tool; they created it.

On the other hand, the **broad definition** states that modification isn't necessary. An elephant picking up a simple fallen branch from the ground to scratch an itchy spot on its back is using a tool under this definition, even though the branch remained unchanged. In this view, any object used to complete a task is a tool.

Question:

Using points and examples from the talk, describe the two different definitions of tools given by the professor.

Sample Solution (Task 4)

The professor explains two distinct definitions of tools used by animals. The first is the **narrow definition**, which specifies that an object is only a tool if the animal physically alters it to perform a task, such as a chimpanzee trimming leaves off a stick to reach insects. The second is the **broad definition**, which argues that simply using an object as it was found qualifies it as a tool. The professor uses the example of an elephant using an unmodified fallen branch to scratch its back to illustrate that under this broader view, the object's function is more important than whether it was modified.