

# TOEFL Speaking Sample Paper 09

## 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:**

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Online learning is more effective than traditional classroom learning." Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

### Sample Solution (Task 1)

I **disagree** with the statement that online learning is more effective than traditional classrooms. Firstly, traditional classrooms offer **immediate interaction** and feedback. In a physical room, I can raise my hand and get an answer instantly, whereas online, I might wait 24 hours for an email response. Secondly, the **social environment** of a campus prevents distractions. When I study at home, I am tempted by my phone or the TV, but in a classroom, the presence of the professor and other students keeps me focused. For example, during my difficult organic chemistry course, the group discussions in class were vital to my understanding of the material.

## Task 2: Integrated Speaking (Campus-related)

*Preparation Time: 30 seconds — Response Time: 60 seconds*

### Step 1: Reading Passage (Read for 45 seconds)

#### **Announcement: New Chemistry Department Scholarships**

The Chemistry Department is planning to award scholarships to students who have maintained an average grade of 90% or above. The university has found a serious need for well-educated chemists and hopes these funds will encourage students to study harder. Following a recent audit, the department discovered a surplus of funds. Administrators believe that using this money for scholarships is the best way to get students more interested in the sciences.

### Step 2: Transcript

*Narrator: Now listen to two students discussing the announcement.*

**Female student:** I think this is a really bad move by the Chemistry Department.

**Male student:** Why? Who doesn't like extra scholarship money?

**Female student:** It's about how they're spending it! Have you seen our labs? The **equipment is outdated**—most of it is older than I am! If they have extra money, they should spend it on updating the technology. Most companies use modern gear, so we'll be at a **disadvantage** when we try to find jobs because we've only used old, obsolete tools.

**Male student:** I hadn't thought about that. You're right, we need to know how to use current tech.

**Female student:** Exactly. And another thing—they should reward **current students** who are already working hard, not just the ones with a 90 average. I have friends who work incredibly hard and get 85s; they deserve a "bonus" or some help too. Trying to "lure in" new students with high grades feels unfair to those already putting in the effort.

#### **Question:**

The woman expresses her opinion about the scholarship announcement. State her opinion and explain the reasons she gives for holding that opinion.

#### **Sample Solution (Task 2)**

The woman **disapproves** of the new scholarship plan for the Chemistry Department. Her first reason is that the department's **equipment is outdated**. She believes the surplus funds should be used to modernize the labs instead of for scholarships. She argues that using obsolete equipment puts students at a disadvantage in the job market since employers expect experience with modern technology. Her second reason is that the scholarship is **too restrictive**. She thinks the department should reward a broader range of current students who work hard, even if they don't have a 90% average, rather than just using the money to attract high-achieving new students.

## Task 3: Integrated Speaking (Academic Reading/Lecture)

*Preparation Time: 30 seconds — Response Time: 60 seconds*

### Step 1: Reading Passage (Read for 45 seconds)

#### Revealing Coloration

Revealing coloration is a defensive strategy used by animals to evade predators. This strategy involves the use of hidden areas of bright, vivid color on an animal's body. Under normal circumstances, the animal is camouflaged to match its surroundings. However, when threatened, the animal suddenly reveals these bright colors to startle, confuse, or distract the predator, creating a window of time for the prey to escape.

### Step 2: Transcript

*Narrator: Now listen to a part of a lecture in a biology class.*

**Professor:** Let's look at two examples. First, the **peanut bug**. Its front wings are dull and look just like the bark of a tree, which is perfect for hiding. But its back wings have these huge, **brightly colored spots** that look like eyes. When a bird or something attacks, the bug suddenly opens its wings. The predator is so startled by those "eyes" and the sudden flash of color that it pauses. That split second is all the peanut bug needs to fly away.

Second is the **morpho butterfly**. When it's resting, you only see the brown, dull underside of its wings. But when it flies, the top of its wings are incredibly **shiny and blue**. To a bird, the butterfly looks like **flashes of light** reflecting off a mirror. These flashes are so bright and frequent that the bird can't track where the butterfly is going, allowing the morpho to escape.

#### Question:

Using the examples of the peanut bug and the morpho butterfly, explain the concept of revealing coloration.

#### Sample Solution (Task 3)

Revealing coloration is a strategy where an animal **hides bright colors** and only shows them to startle predators. The professor gives the example of the **peanut bug**, which is usually camouflaged like tree bark. When attacked, it reveals bright spots on its back wings that look like eyes, shocking the predator and allowing the bug to escape. The second example is the **morpho butterfly**. While resting, it looks dull, but during flight, it reveals **shiny blue wings** that reflect sunlight. These bright "flashes of light" make it nearly impossible for a predator to follow its movement, helping the butterfly get away.

## 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 tools.*

**Professor:** We often say that humans are the only ones who use tools, but that's not true. However, how we define a "tool" is a big debate. Biologists generally use two definitions: the narrow and the broad.

Under the **narrow definition**, an object is only a tool if the animal **physically changes or shapes** it for a specific task. Take **wild chimpanzees**. To get insects out of a nest, they don't just use any old stick. They find a stick, pull off all the leaves, and then chew the end of it to sharpen it so it fits perfectly into the hole. Because they "made" the tool, it fits the narrow definition.

Then there is the **broad definition**. This says that any object used to perform a task is a tool, even if it is **unmodified**. For example, an **elephant** might pick up a fallen branch from the ground to scratch an itchy spot on its back. The elephant didn't change the stick; it used it exactly as it found it. Under the broad definition, this is still a tool because it was used as an instrument to complete a job, even though the elephant didn't "make" it.

### 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 different definitions of what constitutes a tool in the animal kingdom. The first is the **narrow definition**, which requires the animal to **modify the object**. The example used is the **chimpanzee**, which strips leaves off a stick and sharpens it to fit into an insect nest. Because the chimp actively changed the object's shape, it is a tool under the narrow definition. The second is the **broad definition**, which includes any object used for a task **without modification**. The example is an **elephant** using a fallen branch to scratch its back. Since the elephant used the branch as it was found, it only qualifies as a tool under the broad definition.