

# SPEAKING

**Directions:** The following Speaking section of the test will last approximately **20 minutes**. To complete it, you will need a CD player, as well as a recording device that you can play back to listen to your response.

During the test, you will answer six speaking questions. Two of the questions ask about familiar topics. Four questions ask about short conversations, lectures, and reading passages. You may take notes as you listen to the conversations and lectures. The questions and the reading passages are printed here. The time you will have to prepare your response and to speak is printed below each question. You should answer all of the questions as completely as possible in the time allowed. The preparation time begins immediately after you hear the question. On the actual test, you will be told when to begin to prepare and when to begin speaking.

Play the CD tracks listed in the test instructions. Record each of your responses.

At the end of this Practice Test you will find scripts for the audio tracks, important points for each question, directions for listening to sample spoken responses, and comments on those responses by official raters.



Questions



1. You will now be asked a question about a familiar topic. After you hear the question, you will have 15 seconds to prepare your response and 45 seconds to speak.

Now play Track 85 on the CD to hear Question 1.



What characteristics do you think make someone a good parent? Explain why these characteristics are important to you.

Preparation Time: 15 Seconds

Response Time: 45 Seconds



2. You will now be asked to give your opinion about a familiar topic. After you hear the question, you will have 15 seconds to prepare your response and 45 seconds to speak.

Now play Track 86 on the CD to hear Question 2.



Some students prefer to work on class assignments by themselves. Others believe it is better to work in a group. Which do you prefer? Explain why.

Preparation Time: 15 Seconds

Response Time: 45 Seconds



3. You will now read a short passage and then listen to a conversation on the same topic. You will then be asked a question about them. After you hear the question, you will have 30 seconds to prepare your response and 60 seconds to speak.

Now play Track 87 on the CD to hear Question 3.



Reading Time: 45 Seconds

### Hot Breakfasts Eliminated

Beginning next month, Dining Services will no longer serve hot breakfast foods at university dining halls. Instead, students will be offered a wide assortment of cold breakfast items in the morning. These cold breakfast foods, such as breads, fruit, and yogurt, are healthier than many of the hot breakfast items that we will stop serving, so health-conscious students should welcome this change. Students will benefit in another way as well, because limiting the breakfast selection to cold food items will save money and allow us to keep our meal plans affordable.



The woman expresses her opinion of the change that has been announced. State her opinion and explain her reasons for holding that opinion.

Preparation Time: 30 Seconds

Response Time: 60 Seconds

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4. You will now read a short passage and then listen to a talk on the same academic topic. You will then be asked a question about them. After you hear the question, you will have 30 seconds to prepare your response and 60 seconds to speak.

Now play Track 88 on the CD to hear Question 4.



Reading Time: 50 Seconds

### Cognitive Dissonance

Individuals sometimes experience a contradiction between their actions and their beliefs—between what they are doing and what they believe they should be doing. These contradictions can cause a kind of mental discomfort known as *cognitive dissonance*. People experiencing cognitive dissonance often do not want to change the way they are acting, so they resolve the contradictory situation in another way: they change their interpretation of the situation in a way that minimizes the contradiction between what they are doing and what they believe they should be doing.



Using the example discussed by the professor, explain what cognitive dissonance is and how people often deal with it.

Preparation Time: 30 Seconds

Response Time: 60 Seconds



5. You will now listen to a conversation. You will then be asked a question about it. After you hear the question, you will have 20 seconds to prepare your response and 60 seconds to speak.

Now play Track 89 on the CD to hear Question 5.



The speakers discuss two possible solutions to the woman's problem. Briefly summarize the problem. Then state which of the solutions you recommend and explain why.

**Preparation Time: 20 Seconds**

**Response Time: 60 Seconds**

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6. You will now listen to part of a lecture. You will then be asked a question about it. After you hear the question, you will have 20 seconds to prepare your response and 60 seconds to speak.

Now play Track 90 on the CD to hear Question 6.



Using the examples from the talk, explain how persuasive strategies are used in advertising.

Preparation Time: 20 Seconds

Response Time: 60 Seconds

**STOP.** This is the end of the Speaking section of TOEFL iBT Practice Test 3.