

Preparing for the TOEIC Test

國立體育大學 - 2014

Graham Pickering

M.Ed – Monash University, Australia

Author: TOEIC SUCCESS Series



Introduction



- Know the TOEIC test
- Know your own English level
- Strategies for TOEIC success
- Questions

TOEIC – Popularity and Uses



ETS estimates 400,000 test takers will take TOEIC in Taiwan in 2014

- Human Resources management
- Universities
- High Schools

Getting to Know the TOEIC



Two Sections: Listening & Reading

Test time: 2 hours

Toeic score: 10~990

Question type: multiple choice (a), (b), (c), (d)

Listening Section:

Tests how well you understand spoken English

4 parts, 100 questions, 45 minutes, max. score 495

Reading Section:

Tests how well you understand written English

3 parts, 100 questions, 75 minutes, max. score 495

Average Test Scores by Country - 2012



Country	Mean Test Score
Japan	512
Taiwan	539
Korea	628
China (PR)	747

Getting to know the TOEIC



Part 1 Photographs	(10 Q's)
Part 2 Question-Response	(30 Q's)
Part 3 Short Conversations	(30 Q's)
Part 4 Short Talks	(30 Q's)
Part 5 Incomplete Sentences	(40 Q's)
Part 6 Text Completion	(12 Q's)
Part 7 Reading Comprehension (single passage)	(28 Q's)
Part 7 Reading Comprehension (double passage)	(20 Q's)

Know Your Level



What is your TOEIC level now?

TOEIC 200~400

TOEIC 400~600

TOEIC 600~800

TOEIC 800~990

Different levels call for different strategies

Skill Focus (200~400)



Strategy 1: Increase vocabulary

Strategy 2: Work on 'questions'

Strategy 3: Focus on basic grammar

Strategy 1: Increase Vocabulary



1. 3,000 words to understand 90% of TOEIC
2. First, choose vocabulary based on frequency lists. Start with the most frequent and just keep going!

Later, move on to domain based vocabulary lists.

3. Learning vocabulary is lonely work, so find a partner:

“How do you spell the word_____?”

“What does it mean in Chinese?”

“Use _____ to make a sentence.”

Strategy 2: Questions



1. Wh-questions: Who, Where, What, How, Which, Why...
2. *Yes/No* questions (using *be, do* and *have*)
Yes/No (using *can, could, should, will, would...*)
3. Tag questions (*..,isn't it?, ..didn't it?, ..aren't they?*)
4. *Either/or* questions
“Do you want to eat here, or go out for lunch?”

Strategy 3: Basic Grammar



1. Verb tenses:

1. present simple 簡單現在式
2. simple past 簡單過去式
3. present continuous 現在進行式
4. simple future 簡單未來式
5. present perfect 現在完成式
6. passive 被動式

2. Conjunctions 連接詞

3. Prepositions 介係詞

4. Conditionals 假設語氣

Skill Focus (400~600)



Strategy 1: Increase 'domain' knowledge

Strategy 2: Increase vocabulary

Strategy 3: More work on 'question' formats

Strategy 4: Strengthen grammar structures

Strategy 5: Increase test familiarity

Strategy 6: Practice authentic test questions

Strategy 1: Domain Knowledge

1. Corporate Development 企業發展
2. Dining Out 外食
3. Entertainment 娛樂
4. Finance & Budgeting 金融/預算
5. General Business 一般商務
6. Health 保健
7. Housing/Corporate Property 房屋/公司地產
8. Manufacturing 製造業
9. Offices 辦公室
10. Personnel 人事
11. Purchasing 採購
12. Technical Areas 技術層面
13. Travel 旅遊



Frequently-tested Grammar Structures



1. Word Families
2. Verb Tenses
3. Causative Verbs
4. Phrasal (two-word) verbs
5. Conditionals
6. Gerunds & Infinitives
7. Modals
8. Adjectives (Comparatives & Superlatives)
9. Verbal Adjectives
10. Adverbs of Frequency
11. Transitions
12. Pronouns
13. Prepositions
14. Participles
15. Conjunctions

Skill Focus (600~800)



Strategy 1: Consolidate 'domain' knowledge

Strategy 2: Improve high-level vocabulary
(corpus based)

Strategy 3: Develop the ability to make inferences

Strategy 4: Increase reading speed

Strategy 5: Learn skimming/scanning techniques

Skill Focus (800~990)



Strategy 1: Consolidate high-level vocabulary

Strategy 2: Refine test taking strategies

Strategy 3: Further increase reading speed

Strategy 4: Refine skimming/scanning techniques

Strategy 5: Refine inference skills

Strategy 6: Encourage self-study

Getting to know the TOEIC

Part 1 Photographs (10 Q's)

Part 2 Question-Response (30 Q's)

Part 3 Short Conversations (30 Q's)

Part 4 Short Talks (30 Q's)

Part 5 Incomplete Sentences (40 Q's)

Part 6 Text Completion (12 Q's)

Part 7 Reading Comprehension
(single passage) (28 Q's)

Part 7 Reading Comprehension
(double passage) (20 Q's)



Learning focus by TOEIC level



	200~400	400~600	600~800	800~900
Part 1	✓	✗	✗	✗
Part 2	✓	✓	✓	✗
Part 3	✗	✓	✓	✓
Part 4	✗	✓	✓	✓
Part 5	✓	✓	✓	✗
Part 6	✗	✓	✓	✗
Part 7	✗	✗	✓	✓

Learning Principles



- Power of Pair Work
- Take risks/ experiment
- Spelling is Important
- Production of language (fluency) vs. accuracy
- L1 (Chinese) is important

Questions?

