

# BARRON'S

The Leader in Test Preparation



# ESSENTIAL WORDS FOR THE TOEFL®

**6TH EDITION**

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- A fully updated list of 500 words that frequently appear on the TOEFL
- Definitions, sample sentences, and practice exercises to build your word power
- An overview of each section of the TOEFL iBT and ITP
- A Reading Section test with answers to help you assess your test-taking readiness

# LESSON 1

- **abroad**
- **abrupt**
- **acceptable**
- **acclaim**
- **actually**
- **adverse**
- **advice**
- **attractive**
- **autonomous**
- **chronic**
- **disapproval**
- **disruptive**
- **haphazardly**
- **persistent**
- **postpone**
- **valid**
- **withdraw**

**abroad** *adv.* to or in another country  
*syn.* overseas; internationally

Louis Armstrong often traveled *abroad*.

Living *abroad* can be an educational experience.

**abrupt** *adj.* quick; without warning  
*adv.* abruptly *syn.* sudden  
*n.* abruptness

There was an *abrupt* change in the weather.

After the incident everyone left *abruptly*.

**acceptable** *adj.* allowable or satisfactory  
*v.* accept *syn.* permissible  
*adv.* acceptably  
*n.* acceptability

The idea was *acceptable* to everyone.

The registrar *accepted* more applicants than he should have.

**acclaim** *n.* enthusiastic approval; applause  
*adj.* acclaimed *syn.* praise  
*n.* acclamation

Isaac Stern has won *acclaim* abroad.

*Acclaimed* authors often win Pulitzer Prizes.

**actually** *adv.* being in existence, real or factual  
*adj.* actual *syn.* truly

They were *actually* very good soccer players.

The *actual* time allotted to complete the test is two hours.

**adverse** *adj.* displeasing, objectionable, or bad  
*adv.* adversely *syn.* unfavorable  
*n.* adversity  
*n.* adversary

*Adverse* weather conditions made it difficult to play the game.  
His indecision *adversely* affected his job performance.

**advice** *n.* a recommendation given by someone not associated with the problem or situation  
*v.* advise *syn.* suggestion  
*adj.* advisable  
*n.* advisability

Good *advice* is hard to find.  
It is not *advisable* to stay up late the day before a test.

**attractive** *adj.* calling attention to; pleasing; creating interest; pretty  
*v.* attract *syn.* appealing  
*n.* attraction  
*n.* attractiveness  
*adv.* attractively

The idea of working four, ten-hour work days was *attractive* to the employees.  
The major *attraction* of the show was a speech by the president.

**autonomous** *adj.* by itself; with no association  
*adv.* autonomously *syn.* independent

Mexico became an *autonomous* state in 1817.  
Although working closely with the government, all businesses function *autonomously*.

**chronic** *adj.* always present; continual  
*adv.* chronically *syn.* constant

The author's *chronic* headache prevented her from finishing the chapter.  
He is *chronically* late to class.

**disapproval** *n.* the act of disagreeing; not giving approval  
*v.* disapprove *syn.* objection  
*adv.* disapprovingly

Their *disapproval* of the plan caused the experiment to be abandoned.  
The students *disapproved* of the plan of study.

**disruptive** *adj.* causing confusion and interruption  
*v.* disrupt *syn.* disturbing  
*n.* disruption  
*adv.* disruptively

Frequent questions during lectures can be *disruptive*.

The storm caused a *disruption* in bus service.

**haphazardly** *adv.* having no order or pattern; by chance  
*adj.* haphazard *syn.* arbitrarily; carelessly  
*n.* haphazardness

It was obvious that the house was built *haphazardly*.

Susan completed the assignment in a *haphazard* way.

**persistent** *adj.* continuous; refusing to give up; firm in  
 action or decision  
*v.* persist *syn.* constant  
*n.* persistence  
*adv.* persistently

The attorney's *persistent* questioning weakened the witness.

Her *persistence* earned her a spot on the team.

**postpone** *v.* to change to a later time; to delay  
*adj.* postponable *syn.* reschedule  
*n.* postponement

The referees decided to *postpone* the soccer match.

The *postponement* of the meeting upset the impatient club members.

**valid** *adj.* producing a desired result based on truths  
 or facts  
*n.* validity *syn.* convincing  
*adv.* validly

The students had a *valid* reason for missing class.

The professor questioned the *validity* of the test results.

**withdraw** *v.* to remove, take out, or take back  
*n.* withdrawal *syn.* extract

The player *withdrew* from the competition.

Gloria had to make a *withdrawal* from her savings to pay tuition.

**MATCHING**

Choose the synonym.

1. **withdraw**

- (A) extract
- (B) describe
- (C) copy
- (D) convince

2. **autonomous**

- (A) independent
- (B) sudden
- (C) international
- (D) abrupt

3. **chronic**

- (A) famous
- (B) visible
- (C) constant
- (D) ordinary

4. **attractive**

- (A) appealing
- (B) adverse
- (C) arbitrary
- (D) perfect

5. **disapproval**

- (A) attraction
- (B) attention
- (C) objection
- (D) persistence

6. **haphazardly**

- (A) suddenly
- (B) secretly
- (C) carelessly
- (D) constantly

7. **constant**

- (A) disruption
- (B) acceptable
- (C) abrupt
- (D) persistent

8. **valid**

- (A) attractive
- (B) convincing
- (C) normal
- (D) abrupt

9. **unfavorably**

- (A) attractively
- (B) haphazardly
- (C) acceptably
- (D) adversely

10. **postpone**

- (A) respond
- (B) reschedule
- (C) assert
- (D) reveal

**LESSON 1—MULTIPLE-CHOICE TEST QUESTIONS**

1. A customs union is an organization of **autonomous** countries that agree that international trade between member states is free of restrictions. They place a tariff or other restriction on products entering the customs union from nonmember states. One of the best-known customs unions is the European Union, or EU.

The word **autonomous** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) massive
- (B) acclaimed
- (C) prosperous
- (D) independent

2. The search to hide natural body odors led to the discovery and use of musk. Musk is a scent used in perfumes. It is obtained from the sex glands of the male musk deer, a small deer native to the mountainous regions of the Himalayas. The odor of musk, penetrating and **persistent**, is believed to act as an aphrodisiac. In animals, musk serves the functions of defining territory, providing recognition, and attracting mates.

The word **persistent** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) attractive
- (B) disruptive
- (C) constant
- (D) pleasant

3. Until the late nineteenth century all rubber was extracted **haphazardly** from trees found in the jungles of South America. It was expensive and the supply was uncertain. However, during the 1860s the idea of transporting rubber trees to the British colonies in Asia was conceived. This led to the larger-scale cultivation of rubber trees on organized plantations.

The word **haphazardly** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) carelessly
- (B) secretly
- (C) constantly
- (D) dangerously

4. Some animals' coloration uses bold, **disruptive** markings to scare predators. Other animals have color patterns that blend with their surroundings. Such coloration serves for protection, to attract mates, or to distract enemies. Called cryptic coloration, it uses the animals' living place, habits, and means of defense. Cryptic coloration may blend an animal so well with its environment that it is virtually invisible.

The word **disruptive** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) disturbing
- (B) distinctive
- (C) brilliant
- (D) unfavorable

5. Cognitive approaches to therapy assume that emotional disorders are the result of irrational beliefs or perceptions. The mind may interpret an event as scary or calming, happy or sad. The emotionally disordered person may perceive **adverse** events as personal failures. Cognitive psychotherapies seek to make the patient aware of the irrationality of this perception and to substitute more rational evaluations of such events.

The word **adverse** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) monotonous
- (B) threatening
- (C) inoffensive
- (D) unfavorable

6. Increasingly, authorities are uneasy about teenagers who drive while talking on the telephone. For many, phone use and driving are perfectly compatible; others are more easily distracted, especially while listening to music. The growing number of accidents associated with phone use also supports this claim. Many communities now **disapprove of** these phones so much that they have forbidden anyone of any age to use them while driving.

In stating that many communities now **disapprove of** these phones, the author means that they

- (A) fully endorse their popularity.
- (B) condemn or oppose their use.
- (C) favor their use only by adults.
- (D) agree to their unrestricted use.

7. Fans are used to circulate air in rooms and buildings, and for cooling and drying people, materials, or products. Even though air circulated by a fan is comforting, no fan **actually** cools the air. Only devices such as air conditioners can affect changes in air temperature.

The word **actually** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) legitimately
- (B) factually
- (C) truly
- (D) essentially

8. Tornadoes strike in many areas of the world, but nowhere are they as frequent or as devastating as in the United States. A vast “tornado belt” embraces large portions of the Great Plains of the United States and the southeastern portion of the country. Tornadoes pose the greatest threats to these areas, which are especially vulnerable to **abrupt** changes in weather conditions.

The word **abrupt** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) sudden
- (B) vivid
- (C) sharp
- (D) direct

9. For women in the 1920s, freedom in dress reflected their new freedom to take up careers. Only a small percentage of women pursued such opportunities, but the revolutionary change affected the types of clothes worn by most women. For example, trousers became **acceptable** attire for almost all activities. This milestone in the fashion world favored more stylish and comfortable clothing instead of more formal modes of dress.

The word **acceptable** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) usable
- (B) enduring
- (C) believable
- (D) permissible



10. The National Film Board of Canada was established in 1939 to produce films that reflect Canadian life and thought, and to distribute them both domestically and abroad. By winning awards from film festivals around the world, it has earned international **acclaim** for the artistic and technical excellence of its work.

The word **acclaim** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- Ⓐ fascination
- Ⓑ praise
- Ⓒ acceptance
- Ⓓ attraction