

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 12

- **benefit**
- **blind**
- **broaden**
- **burgeon**
- **conspicuously**
- **deficient**
- **eloquent**
- **endorse**
- **enormous**
- **entirely**
- **erode**
- **evaporate**
- **noteworthy**
- **recover**
- **reportedly**
- **shift**
- **susceptible**

benefit

v. to be useful or helpful

adv. beneficially
adj. beneficial
n. benefit
n. beneficiary

syn. assist

Use of solar power will *benefit* all mankind.

It is extremely *beneficial* to prepare for a test.

blind

adj. unable to see or understand; to conceal;
showing poor judgment or understanding

adv. blindly
n. blindness

syn. unaware

They were *blind* to the fact that they had little chance to succeed.

He went into the job *blindly*, with no previous experience.

broaden

v. to make larger or greater

adv. broadly
adj. broad
n. breadth

syn. enlarge

Education will *broaden* your opportunities to land a good job.

The *breadth* of his knowledge is impressive.

burgeon

v. growing at a fast pace

adj. burgeoning

syn. thrive

The *burgeoning* population of major cities is creating a demand for more services.

His talent as a pianist *burgeoned* at the age of 14.

conspicuously *adv.* attracting attention
adj. conspicuous *syn.* noticeably

His name was *conspicuously* absent from the list of winners.
The attorneys were *conspicuous* for their aggressive manner in the courtroom.

deficient *adj.* not having enough of something
adv. deficiently *syn.* lacking
n. deficiency

A diet *deficient* in calcium can lead to bad health.
There is a *deficiency* of qualified engineers in the country.

eloquent *adj.* expressing clearly, effectively, and convincingly
adv. eloquently
n. eloquence *syn.* articulate (*adj.*)

Successful politicians are usually *eloquent* speakers.
That student's essay is *eloquently* written.

endorse *v.* to express approval
n. endorsement *syn.* support

The union *endorsed* the new contract.
The president's *endorsement* of the project guaranteed its funding.

enormous *adj.* very large
adv. enormously *syn.* tremendous
n. enormity

His *enormous* wealth allows him to contribute to many charities.
A diet with many fruits and vegetables is *enormously* beneficial to the body.

entirely *adv.* completely
adj. entire *syn.* thoroughly
n. entirety

The economist was *entirely* right in his analysis.
The president released the speech in its *entirety* before the news conference.

erode *v.* to wear away; disappear slowly
n. erosion *syn.* deteriorate

The senator's support is *eroding* because of his unpopular positions on the major issues.

It took millions of years of *erosion* for nature to form the Grand Canyon.

evaporate *v.* to vanish
n. evaporation *syn.* disappear

The chances of the two sides reaching an agreement have *evaporated*.

The *evaporation* of the funds was unexplainable.

noteworthy *adj.* deserving positive recognition or attention
n. *noteworthiness* *syn.* remarkable

The university has a *noteworthy* collection of ancient texts.

There was a *noteworthy* increase in the amount of money the school raised.

recover *v.* to get back; to have something returned
adj. recovered *syn.* retrieve
adj. recoverable
n. recovery

The NASA team was unable to *recover* the space capsule.

The *recovered* objects had not been damaged.

reportedly *adv.* to know by report; unconfirmed; supposedly
adj. reported *syn.* rumored
v. report
n. report

The students *reportedly* sent a representative, but she has not yet arrived.

The *reported* tornado has not been confirmed.

shift

adj. shifting
v. shift
adj. shifty

n. a change in position or direction
syn. switch

The *shift* in the wind was helpful to the sailors.

Earthquakes are caused by *shifting* layers of earth along faults.

susceptible

n. susceptibleness
adj. susceptibly

adj. to be subject to influence; capable of being affected by a person or thing
syn. vulnerable

When traveling in tropical climates, travelers are *susceptible* to malaria.

Adolescents are especially *susceptible* to the influence of their friends.

MATCHING

Choose the synonym.

1. **benefit**
 - (A) prosper
 - (B) demand
 - (C) assist
 - (D) distinguish
2. **noticeably**
 - (A) incessantly
 - (B) enormously
 - (C) conspicuously
 - (D) broadly
3. **rumored**
 - (A) routinely
 - (B) purposefully
 - (C) comparatively
 - (D) reportedly
4. **lacking**
 - (A) deficient
 - (B) unaware
 - (C) slim
 - (D) enjoyable
5. **thrive**
 - (A) exaggerate
 - (B) burgeon
 - (C) dominate
 - (D) endorse
6. **susceptible**
 - (A) vulnerable
 - (B) conspicuous
 - (C) exaggerated
 - (D) released
7. **broaden**
 - (A) impress
 - (B) elicit
 - (C) reveal
 - (D) enlarge
8. **switch**
 - (A) enrich
 - (B) shift
 - (C) propose
 - (D) support
9. **retrieve**
 - (A) recover
 - (B) deteriorate
 - (C) disperse
 - (D) relinquish
10. **eloquent**
 - (A) articulate
 - (B) remarkable
 - (C) enduring
 - (D) conspicuous

LESSON 12—MULTIPLE-CHOICE TEST QUESTIONS

1. Politics are an integral aspect of modern sports. In many places, political decisions determine which sports will be encouraged, how much public support will be available to promote recreational sports, and whether or not athletes will be free to compete in certain international competitions. Bitter controversies have arisen as some political support for popular sporting events has **evaporated** in various parts of the world.

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

- (A) burgeoned
- (B) intensified
- (C) broadened
- (D) disappeared

2. Rolltop desks are named after their sliding roll tops, or tambours, that cover the working surface of the upper part and can be locked. First introduced into England from France in the late eighteenth century, the rolltop desk had become a standard piece of office equipment by the end of the nineteenth century. It was mass-produced in large quantities. Shortly after this period of mass production, its popularity **eroded**.

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

- (A) recovered
- (B) shifted
- (C) intensified
- (D) deteriorated

3. The American architect Frank Lloyd Wright designed furniture, but its distinctive appearance defies categorization. The furniture design was **entirely** dependent on the design of the building; the same motifs appear in both. He consistently favored built-in furniture because then the furniture was part of the architecture.

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

- (A) slowly
- (B) reportedly
- (C) completely
- (D) conspicuously

4. While the potential **benefit** of genetic engineering is substantial, the potential dangers may be equivalent. Improper handling could pose a health hazard to the public. For example, the introduction of cancer-causing genes into common infectious organisms like the influenza virus could be one of these dangers.

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

- (A) danger
- (B) assistance
- (C) endorsement
- (D) recovery

5. Jogging has been **endorsed** by many medical authorities as valuable exercise for the heart and for general physical conditioning. It should be conducted every other day. Other medical authorities, however, warn that fallen arches and other ailments can result from jogging. Warm-up exercises before jogging, properly designed shoes, proper jogging technique, loose clothing, and general good health are vital for safe participation in this activity.

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

- (A) reported
- (B) supported
- (C) criticized
- (D) exaggerated

6. In 1900, when countries such as Russia, Italy, and Japan claimed an exclusive right to trade with China, the secret society of "Boxers" was formed to oppose this intrusion into Chinese affairs. Members of the group were **reported to** have magical powers that protected them in attacks from invading foreigners. Nevertheless, more than 20,000 foreign troops eventually landed in China, successfully attacked Beijing, established their right to remain, and disbanded the Boxers.

In stating that the Boxers were **reported to** have magical powers, the author means that their magical powers

- (A) were an established fact.
- (B) were alleged to exist.
- (C) had been reported as false.
- (D) had been verified as true.

7. From 1890 to 1940, Los Angeles was the core orange-growing area. The city was inland from any potential port, but city leaders persuaded the U.S. Congress to finance a breakwater at the city of San Pedro. The territory between the two cities was annexed, and a great harbor was constructed between 1899 and 1914. As a result, Los Angeles experienced **burgeoning** economic growth.

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

- Ⓐ enduring
- Ⓑ hastened
- Ⓒ ideal
- Ⓓ thriving

8. Normal schools were established chiefly to train elementary-school teachers. They were commonly state-supported and offered a two-year course beyond high school. In the twentieth century, schools **broadened** their teacher-training requirements to at least four years. Therefore, after World War II, teacher-training institutions lengthened their programs. By the 1960s, most former normal schools had been absorbed into colleges or universities as departments or schools of education.

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

- Ⓐ replaced
- Ⓑ shifted
- Ⓒ enlarged
- Ⓓ advanced

9. Experiments are underway to prove the usefulness of new oil discovery technology. They will enable vast accumulations of crude oil to be **recovered** along both the Athabasca River in northcentral Alberta, Canada, and along the Orinoco River in eastern Venezuela. If these experiments are successful and a significant volume of crude is found, the world's petroleum supply may be extended by several decades.

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

- Ⓐ retrieved
- Ⓑ exported
- Ⓒ reported
- Ⓓ extracted

10. The Internet is a powerful tool available to students around the world. Thanks to its rapid growth, researching any topic is now as easy as a mouse click. It is no longer commonplace to see students using information from books in a library because the Internet is far more convenient. Students can carry an **enormous** amount of information in their backpacks or briefcases just by having a laptop computer with access to the worldwide web. Some people claim that digital books will soon replace physical books. Others believe that libraries will become obsolete and that scholars will turn to online sources to conduct research.

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

- Ⓐ astounding
- Ⓑ exceptional
- Ⓒ advantageous
- Ⓓ tremendous