

# BARRON'S

The Leader in Test Preparation



# ESSENTIAL WORDS FOR THE TOEFL<sup>®</sup>

**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 14

- **ample**
- **arduous**
- **arid**
- **avert**
- **defy**
- **diligent**
- **enact**
- **feign**
- **fertile**
- **freshly**
- **function**
- **fundamental**
- **indiscriminate**
- **pinpoint**
- **selective**
- **spacious**
- **withstand**

## **ample**

*adv.* amply

*adj.* more than enough

*syn.* sufficient

There is *ample* evidence that the young man was speeding when the accident occurred.

She was *amply* paid for the work she completed.

## **arduous**

*adv.* arduously  
*n.* arduousness

*adj.* very difficult or challenging; requiring hard work

*syn.* demanding

The mountain tour guides climbed the mountain at an *arduous* pace.

The farmer's crops survived despite the *arduous* summer heat.

## **arid**

*adj.* being of little rain or water

*syn.* dry

The area known as the Sahara Desert is one of the most *arid* places in the world.

The valley on the leeward side of the mountain was extremely *arid*.

## **avert**

*n.* aversion  
*adj.* avertable

*v.* to stop from occurring; to turn away or aside

*syn.* prevent

She could have *averted* the accident if she had not been texting while driving.

The citizens packed sandbags along the river bank to *avert* the flooding of their streets.

**defy**

*adv.* defyingly  
*adj.* defying

*v.* to show little fear or regard for rules or established norms; to challenge

*syn.* resist

I *defy* you to find that book in the library's collection.

The circus performer demonstrated her death-*defying* routine.

**diligent**

*n.* diligence  
*adv.* diligently

*adj.* done with persistence and hard work; with attention to details

*syn.* conscientious

Stephanie displayed great *diligence* in the completion of her assignments.

The *diligent* worker received recognition for his accomplishments.

**enact**

*adj.* enacted  
*n.* enactment

*v.* to pass a law

*syn.* legislate

Congress *enacted* the legislation during its last session.

The *enactment* of the laws was in the hands of the Senate.

**feign**

*adj.* feigned

*v.* to pretend; make believe

*syn.* simulate

She *feigned* illness when it was time to visit the dentist.

The athlete *feigned* his injury.

**fertile**

*v.* fertilize  
*n.* fertility  
*n.* fertilizer

*adj.* able to produce abundantly

*syn.* rich

The delta areas of rivers are known for their *fertile* soil.

*Fertilizers* are used on crops to increase yields.

**freshly**

*adj.* fresh  
*v.* freshen  
*n.* freshness

*adv.* caught or produced not long ago

*syn.* recently

*Freshly* harvested produce is hard to find in the winter months.

The product's *freshness* depends on an efficient transportation system to bring it to market.

**function***n.* the normal purpose of something*adv.* functionally*syn.* role*adj.* functional*v.* function

It is the *function* of the director to organize and lead the department.

Most appliances cannot *function* without electricity.

**fundamental***adj.* a primary or basic element*adv.* fundamentally*syn.* essential

The student government promised *fundamental* changes in the registration process.

He is *fundamentally* strong in his area of expertise.

**indiscriminate***adj.* not chosen carefully; unplanned*adv.* indiscriminately*syn.* arbitrary

The *indiscriminate* arrangement of the products made the store confusing.

The book's chapters seem to be organized *indiscriminately*.

**pinpoint***v.* to find or describe something with precision*adj.* pinpoint*syn.* locate

The engineers were immediately able to *pinpoint* the problem with the bridge.

The new, advanced thermometer measures the temperature with *pinpoint* accuracy.

**selective***adj.* carefully chosen*adv.* selectively*syn.* discriminating*adv.* select*v.* select*n.* selection*n.* selectivity

They were very *selective* when they chose the members of the academic team.

He *selected* Spanish as his language class.

**spacious** *adj.* having a lot of room

*adv.* **spaciously** *syn.* expansive

*n.* **space**

*n.* **spaciousness**

The *spacious* plains of the Midwest make up the nation's breadbasket.  
A vacuum is an empty *space*.

**withstand** *v.* to fight without surrender; to persist

*syn.* survive

She cannot *withstand* the pressures of her job.

The old building *withstood* the terrible storm.

**MATCHING**

Choose the synonym.

1. **sufficient**

- (A) crucial
- (B) essential
- (C) ample
- (D) extensive

2. **survive**

- (A) erode
- (B) weaken
- (C) elude
- (D) withstand

3. **defy**

- (A) resist
- (B) determine
- (C) simulate
- (D) discriminate

4. **arduous**

- (A) predictable
- (B) demanding
- (C) functional
- (D) chronic

5. **arid**

- (A) dry
- (B) fertile
- (C) fresh
- (D) drab

6. **avert**

- (A) prevent
- (B) amaze
- (C) assert
- (D) allow

7. **selective**

- (A) inaccessible
- (B) rich
- (C) recent
- (D) discriminating

8. **diligent**

- (A) fundamental
- (B) erratic
- (C) evident
- (D) conscientious

9. **spacious**

- (A) crucial
- (B) superficial
- (C) minuscule
- (D) expansive

10. **pinpoint**

- (A) locate
- (B) enact
- (C) dictate
- (D) sustain

## LESSON 14—MULTIPLE-CHOICE TEST QUESTIONS

1. Naturally formed caves evolve mainly as a result of the solvent action of water and the chemical compounds it contains. Known as caves of solution, they are most common in regions that have **ample** rainfall.

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

- (A) infrequent
- (B) abundant
- (C) exemplary
- (D) erratic

2. In the early days of gliding, gliders were towed by cars. Today, gliders are towed in the sky by airplanes to a height between 600 and 900 meters above the ground. Flight duration depends on finding updrafts of air along mountain slopes, near cumulus clouds, or over **arid** terrain where rising thermal currents occur.

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

- (A) rocky
- (B) hot
- (C) dry
- (D) high

3. The Conestoga Indians were a powerful people, **defying** the invading Iroquois, until the Iroquois defeated them in about 1675. Part of the tribe fled to the Roanoke River. Others subsequently settled at Conestoga, near what is now Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

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

- (A) ridiculing
- (B) honoring
- (C) resisting
- (D) overthrowing

4. Fasting has been practiced for centuries for many diverse purposes. Some fasts were to induce fertility. Others were intended to **avert** catastrophe or to serve as penance for sin. American Indians held tribal fasts to escape threatening disasters. The Aztecs of Mexico and the Incas of Peru observed penitential fasts to pacify their gods.

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

- (A) overcome
- (B) assert
- (C) confirm
- (D) prevent

5. Monte Albán, near Oaxaca, Mexico, was the center of the Zapotec culture that flourished around the year 100 A.D. Its gigantic stone structures were set around a **spacious** plaza created by leveling the top of a mountain.

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

- (A) exhaustive
- (B) expansive
- (C) circular
- (D) fertile

6. Space exploration has had its share of problems throughout the years. A flaw in the *Challenger's* design led to a fatal accident in 1986, the Mir station was often in trouble, and the *Columbia* shuttle crashed on reentry in 2003. Despite these tragedies, the program has profited from its mistakes, and from new engineering and new materials. Today, NASA is confident that spacecraft are **fundamentally sound** and perfectly safe.

In saying that spacecraft are **fundamentally sound**, the author means that they are

- (A) basically well designed and built.
- (B) equipped with electronic music.
- (C) dangerously old and worn.
- (D) entirely new and experimental.



7. Food serves three **functions** in most living organisms. First, it provides material that is used to sustain the activities of the organism. Second, food supplies the electron donors required for the formative processes that occur within the cell. Third, food provides the materials from which all of the structural components of the living cell can be assembled.

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

- (A) cores
- (B) facets
- (C) resolutions
- (D) roles

8. Harvested wood is dried and preserved as a treatment against insect infestation and rot. These processes ensure that it will last. Some wood products, such as posts and poles, are **freshly** cut. Most other wood products are made up of intermediate materials, which require further processing before they are manufactured into final products.

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

- (A) hardly
- (B) recently
- (C) routinely
- (D) scarcely

9. Loess is topsoil left by glaciers. Vast deposits of loess make the Midwestern plain of the United States extremely **fertile** and one of the most important farming areas in the world. In addition, the soils in the land along the many rivers and streams of the region also add to its farming potential.

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

- (A) rich
- (B) hardy
- (C) vital
- (D) adaptable

10. Since opossums are largely arboreal, their homes are often found in hollow trees or under stumps and roots. **Feigning** death is one of the opossum's principal defense mechanisms. This confuses its predators, protecting the opossum from danger.

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

- Ⓐ imagining
- Ⓑ enacting
- Ⓒ pretending
- Ⓓ displaying