

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 2

- **advantage**
- **advent**
- **agile**
- **albeit**
- **appealing**
- **celebrated**
- **circumvent**
- **collide**
- **contemporary**
- **distribute**
- **encourage**
- **energetic**
- **frail**
- **heyday**
- **myth**
- **refine**
- **worthwhile**

advantage

adv. advantageously
adj. advantageous

n. something that may help one to be successful or to gain something

syn. benefit

Is there any *advantage* in arriving early?

He was *advantageously* born into a rich family.

advent

n. the coming or appearance of something
syn. arrival

With the *advent* of computers, many tasks have been made easier.

The newspapers announced the *advent* of the concert season.

agile

adv. agilely
n. agility
n. agility

adj. able to move in a quick and easy way
syn. nimble

Deer are very *agile* animals.

She moved *agilely* across the stage.

albeit

conj. in spite of the facts, regardless of the fact
syn. although

His trip was successful, *albeit* tiring.

Albeit difficult at times, speaking another language is rewarding.

appealing

v. appeal
n. appeal
adv. appealingly

adj. attractive or interesting
syn. alluring

Working abroad is *appealing* to many people.

Through his speeches, the candidate *appealed* to the voters.

celebrated *adj.* acclaimed; well-known and popular
syn. renowned

The *celebrated* pianist will be giving a concert this weekend.
San Francisco is *celebrated* for its multicultural makeup.

circumvent *v.* to go around; avoid
n. *circumvention* *syn.* evade

The hacker attempted to *circumvent* the computer's security system.
Circumvention of the freshman math requirement is possible.

collide *v.* to hit one object against another with
violent force; to be in opposition
n. *collision* *syn.* crash

The *collision* caused major damage to both cars.
Moon craters were caused when large asteroids *collided* with the moon.

contemporary *adj.* modern, up-to-date, or (*n.*) a person living
at the same time as another person
n. *contemporary* *syn.* current

Contemporary architecture makes very good use of space.
Cervantes was a *contemporary* of Shakespeare.

distribute *v.* to divide among people or to give out
n. *distribution* *syn.* dispense

Many publishers *distribute* their newspapers directly to homes in their
area.
The *distribution* of seeds is very quick with this new machine.

encourage *v.* to promote, help, or support
n. *encouragement* *syn.* stimulate
n. *encourager*
adv. *encouragingly*
adv. *encouraging*

The government cut taxes in order to *encourage* spending.
The professor gave each student the *encouragement* that was needed to
learn the material.

energetic *adj.* full of life, action, or power
n. energy *syn.* vigorous
adv. energetically

Sam hasn't been as *energetic* as he usually is.

There's a lot of *energy* in these batteries.

frail *adj.* weak in health or in body
n. frailty *syn.* fragile

The *frail* wings of the newborn bird could not lift it off the ground.

One of the *frailties* of human beings is laziness.

heyday *n.* a high point of success or abundance
syn. pinnacle

Many settlers became rich during the *heyday* of the California gold rush of the 1800s.

We are living in the *heyday* of digital communications.

myth *n.* an invented story or idea
adj. mythological *syn.* legend
n. mythology

Throughout history *myths* were created in an attempt to explain many common natural occurrences.

Mythology is the study of legends and fables.

refine *v.* to make pure; to improve
n. refinement *syn.* perfect (verb)
adj. refined

Factories must *refine* oil before it can be used as fuel.

A squirt of lime juice is the perfect *refinement* to cola.

worthwhile *adj.* value in doing something
syn. rewarding

It was *worthwhile* waiting ten hours in line for the tickets.

It's *worthwhile* to prepare for the TOEFL.

MATCHING

Choose the synonym.

1. **circumvent**
(A) celebrate
(B) attract
(C) evade
(D) appeal
2. **advantage**
(A) benefit
(B) persistence
(C) nimbleness
(D) allure
3. **fragile**
(A) modern
(B) famous
(C) refined
(D) frail
4. **contemporary**
(A) timing
(B) current
(C) well-known
(D) perfect
5. **appealing**
(A) refined
(B) encouraging
(C) alluring
(D) popular
6. **renowned**
(A) unknown
(B) celebrated
(C) adverse
(D) disapprove
7. **worthwhile**
(A) rewarding
(B) acceptable
(C) agile
(D) permitted
8. **vigorous**
(A) attractive
(B) beautiful
(C) energetic
(D) advantageous
9. **refine**
(A) persist
(B) value
(C) perfect
(D) divide
10. **heyday**
(A) agreement
(B) acclaim
(C) postponement
(D) pinnacle

LESSON 2—MULTIPLE-CHOICE TEST QUESTIONS

1. Over the years, investigators have evaluated the local folklore of areas where sightings of the **celebrated** Abominable Snowman have been reported. The same scientists have collected physical evidence, such as footprints, body parts, and photographs, but this evidence remains unconvincing. In 1960 the renowned mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand conducted an investigation of the reports of the creature, but found no evidence of its existence.

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

- (A) elusive
 - (B) ambiguous
 - (C) renowned
 - (D) indistinct
2. Exercises that demand total body involvement improve and maintain fitness. The most effective way to feel more mentally alert and **energetic** is to engage in aerobic activity at least three times a week for 30 minutes. Such activities may include jogging, running, swimming, dancing, and fast walking.

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

- (A) vigorous
 - (B) frail
 - (C) agile
 - (D) appealing
3. Most people do not appreciate the importance of packaging. Packages maintain the purity and freshness of their contents and protect them from elements outside. If the contents are harmful, corrosive, or poisonous, the package must also protect the outside environment. A package must identify its contents, which facilitates **distribution** of the product.

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

- (A) usage
- (B) disruption
- (C) dispensing
- (D) advertising

4. A **contemporary** issue among psychologists is the activation or cause of emotion, its structure or components, and its functions and consequences. Each of these aspects can be considered from a biosocial view. Generally, biosocial theory focuses on the neurophysiological aspects of emotions and their roles as organizers of cognition and motivators of action.

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

- (A) current
- (B) acclaimed
- (C) contemptuous
- (D) favored

5. The early artists of the Hudson River school were Thomas Doughty, Asher Durand, and Thomas Cole. They found the wilderness in the Hudson River valley **appealing**. Although these painters studied in Europe, they first achieved a measure of success at home, and chose the common theme of the remoteness and splendor of the American interior.

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

- (A) annoying
- (B) ongoing
- (C) spectacular
- (D) alluring

6. Recent polls suggest that fewer people see an **advantage in** moving to the city than they used to. There was a time when cities attracted country dwellers like powerful magnets: cities had more jobs, better schools, more services. Today, people often see pollution, crime, stress, and unemployment where they once saw opportunity. Instead of advantages, they see disadvantages in uprooting their families for the uncertainty of urban life.

In stating that fewer people see an **advantage in** moving to the city, the author means that fewer people

- (A) consider cities a poor option.
- (B) prefer to relocate to big cities.
- (C) take a positive view of cities.
- (D) view city life as advantageous.

7. The growing popularity of television in the 1950s marked an important turning point in the entertainment world. This development created vast new entertainment choices for people who lived within the signal areas of TV stations. Later, with the **advent** of satellite and cable TV, almost everyone, regardless of location, was able to experience this entertainment medium.

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

- (A) dependence
- (B) allowance
- (C) explosion
- (D) arrival

8. Passerines form the dominant avian group on Earth today. They are regarded as the most highly evolved of all birds and occur in abundance. Humans have long enjoyed passerines for their songs and their almost infinite variety of colors, patterns, and behavioral traits. Many passerines are considered to be quite **agile**. Among the most energetic of them is the swallow, whose small body is designed for effortless maneuvering.

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

- (A) nimble
- (B) detectible
- (C) broad
- (D) fast

9. In part because seafood tends to spoil rapidly, in certain areas of the United States, shrimping is allowed only during specific predetermined seasons. For example, in Mississippi tidal waters, shrimping is allowed only between October and May. In the past, this short season made it difficult to find shrimp out of season. However, the development of freezing techniques in the 1940s **encouraged** the shrimping industry to expand, making it a global industry. The United States now imports shrimp from over sixty countries and shrimp can be bought at any time of the year.

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

- (A) advanced
- (B) accepted
- (C) stimulated
- (D) wanted

10. Scientific disciplines, such as genetic engineering, are exploding with possibilities. As a result of new technologies and procedures to treat health conditions, new treatments for many diseases have been developed. Although the development of advanced methods will continue to change the face of healthcare, moral beliefs often **collide with** scientific advancements, slowing down the progress of some healthcare treatments.

The phrase **collide with** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- Ⓐ are in opposition to
- Ⓑ are absent from
- Ⓒ are associated with
- Ⓓ are concerned about