

BARRON'S

The Leader in Test Preparation



ESSENTIAL WORDS FOR THE TOEFL®

6TH EDITION

Steven J. Matthiesen

- 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 3

- **alter**
- **analyze**
- **ancient**
- **annoying**
- **anticipate**
- **ascertain**
- **conform**
- **enrich**
- **intensify**
- **intolerable**
- **ongoing**
- **potential**
- **propose**
- **restore**
- **staple**
- **turbulent**
- **vital**

alter

- v.* altered
- n.* alteration
- adj.* alterable
- adv.* alterably

v. to change or make different
syn. modify

Will the storm *alter* its course and miss the coast?
Gloria hasn't *altered* her plans to return to school.

analyze

- v.* analyzed
- n.* analysis

v. to study something carefully; to separate into parts for study
syn. examine

Scientists must *analyze* problems thoroughly.
Analysis of the substance confirms the presence of nitrogen.

ancient

adj. something from a long time ago; very old
syn. old

Archaeologists analyze *ancient* civilizations.
Dave found an *ancient* Roman coin.

annoying

- n.* annoyance
- v.* annoy
- adv.* annoyingly

adj. a slight bother; disturbing to a person
syn. bothersome

Mosquitoes can be an *annoying* part of a vacation at the beach.
She *annoyed* her parents by coming home late.

anticipate v. to think about or prepare for something ahead of time
adj. anticipatory
n. anticipation
syn. predict

No one can *anticipate* the results of the games.
They planned their vacation with *anticipation*.

ascertain v. to discover; find out
adj. ascertainable
adv. ascertainably
n. ascertainment
syn. determine

I tried to *ascertain* if he was telling the truth.
The jury made a decision based on its *ascertainment* of the facts.

conform v. to follow established rules or patterns of behavior
n. conformity
n. conformist
syn. adapt

You must *conform* to the rules or leave the club.
She has always been a *conformist*.

enrich v. to make rich; to make something of greater value
n. enrichment
adj. enriching
syn. enhance

The fine arts *enrich* our lives.
The discovery of oil was an *enrichment* for the country.

intensify v. to make stronger in feeling or quality
n. intensity
adj. intense
adj. intensive
adv. intensely
adv. intensively
syn. heighten

The importance of the test will sometimes *intensify* the nervousness of the students.
The chess match was played with great *intensity*.

intolerable adj. difficult or painful to experience; not able to accept different ways of thought or behavior
n. intolerance
adv. intolerably
adv. intolerantly
adj. intolerant
syn. unbearable

turbulent

n. turbulence
adv. turbulently

adj. to be in a disordered, disturbed or
unstable condition
syn. chaotic

The plane flew through an area of *turbulence*.

The *turbulent* crowd insisted on a meeting with the prime minister.

vital

n. vitality
adv. vitally

adj. of great importance; full of life
syn. indispensable

Money is *vital* to the success of the program.

His intense *vitality* was easily observable.

MATCHING

Choose the synonym.

1. **indispensable**
 - (A) abrupt
 - (B) abroad
 - (C) vital
 - (D) frail
2. **restore**
 - (A) appeal
 - (B) revitalize
 - (C) attract
 - (D) disrupt
3. **conform**
 - (A) annoy
 - (B) divide
 - (C) encourage
 - (D) adapt
4. **turbulent**
 - (A) chaotic
 - (B) intolerant
 - (C) annoying
 - (D) adverse
5. **ascertain**
 - (A) delay
 - (B) render
 - (C) determine
 - (D) assert
6. **potential**
 - (A) attraction
 - (B) possibility
 - (C) anticipation
 - (D) persistence
7. **staple**
 - (A) essential
 - (B) advice
 - (C) fable
 - (D) agreement
8. **enrich**
 - (A) alter
 - (B) dispense
 - (C) disrupt
 - (D) enhance
9. **unbearable**
 - (A) inspiring
 - (B) unfavorable
 - (C) intolerable
 - (D) ancient
10. **proposal**
 - (A) question
 - (B) attention
 - (C) benefit
 - (D) suggestion

LESSON 3—MULTIPLE-CHOICE TEST QUESTIONS

1. The point at which pain becomes **intolerable** is known as the pain perception threshold. Studies have found this point to be similar among different social and cultural groups. However, the pain tolerance threshold varies significantly among these groups. A stoical, unemotional response to pain may be seen as a sign of braveness in certain cultural or social environments. However, this behavior can also mask the seriousness of an injury to an examining physician.

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

- (A) elusive
- (B) altered
- (C) intensified
- (D) unbearable

2. Nutritional additives are utilized to restore nutrients lost during production, to **enrich** certain foods in order to correct dietary deficiencies, or to add nutrients to food substitutes. Nowadays, vitamins are commonly added to many foods in order to increase their nutritional value. For example, vitamins A and D are added to dairy and cereal products, and several of the B vitamins are added to cereals.

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

- (A) alter
- (B) enhance
- (C) produce
- (D) restore

3. In modern manufacturing production facilities that produce equipment sensitive to environmental contamination, a dust-free working area with strict temperature and humidity controls is of **vital** importance. Seamless plastic walls and ceilings, external lighting, a continuous flow of dust-free air, and daily cleaning are features of this “clean room.” Workers wear special clothing, including head coverings. When entering this room, they pass through a “shower” to remove contaminants.

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

- (A) indispensable
- (B) lively
- (C) extreme
- (D) dubious

4. Human populations are classified in terms of genetically transmitted traits. For groups that have lived for generations in certain locations, research illustrates the long-term genetic effects of environmental factors such as climate and diet. **Ongoing** investigations track the history of evolution and its genetic changes and help to explain the origin of genetically determined diseases and their long-term influence.

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

- (A) current
- (B) thorough
- (C) proposed
- (D) temporary

5. In the 1890s, a rising generation of young antiorganization leaders came on the political scene. These leaders transformed the art and practice of politics in the United States, by exercising strong leadership and by bringing about institutional changes that helped **revitalize** political democracy. Most important was their achievement of economic and social objectives, such as legislation to prevent child labor, and accident insurance systems to provide compensation to injured workers.

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

- (A) intensify
- (B) establish
- (C) reform
- (D) restore

6. There are more than 100 types or species of chameleon. A member of the lizard family, the chameleon lives in countries as diverse as Madagascar, Spain, and Sri Lanka. It is thought to change color to **conform to** its surroundings, but that is rarely true. While changes do occur with changes in light or temperature, especially when the chameleon is frightened, its new color rarely matches its immediate surroundings.

In stating that the chameleon's color **conforms to** its surroundings, the author means that it

- (A) differs from the color of its setting.
- (B) contrasts with its surroundings.
- (C) clashes with the colors around it.
- (D) looks the same as its environment.

7. Infrared light emission photographs are particularly helpful to astronomers. The composition and temperature of heavenly bodies can often be determined by **analysis** of photos taken with a camera that is sensitive to infrared light emissions. Using infrared detectors, astronomers can observe cooler celestial objects than they can with optical devices, since infrared radiation is less affected by interstellar dust than is light.

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

- (A) intensification
- (B) examination
- (C) dispersion
- (D) production

8. Working environments in which loud noise is frequent can be harmful to the employee. Aside from simply being **annoying**, the most measurable physical effect of noise pollution is damage to hearing. This may be either temporary or permanent and may cause disruption of normal activities. In work areas where noise is a problem, care should be taken to protect the ears with earplugs.

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

- (A) difficult
- (B) ongoing
- (C) bothersome
- (D) refined

9. The construction of shelter, found among the first stable human societies about 5,000 years ago, is considered to be among the most important of all **ancient** human activities. The systematic placement of groups of housing marked a momentous cultural transition toward the formation of towns. It generated new needs and resources and was accompanied by a significant increase in technological innovation.

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

- Ⓐ old
- Ⓑ actual
- Ⓒ distinct
- Ⓓ dated

10. Seeking to take advantage of new economic trends of the late 1800s, Manitoba's leaders made important changes in economic policies. These changes, which **anticipated** new directions in economic development of the region, took advantage of the unique business attributes of the province. During the early 1900s, these policies gave the province an advantage over other prairie provinces.

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

- Ⓐ encouraged
- Ⓑ analyzed
- Ⓒ modified
- Ⓓ predicted