

# 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 5

- **baffle**
- **bear**
- **blur**
- **brilliant**
- **caution**
- **delicate**
- **enhance**
- **facilitate**
- **incessant**
- **in conjunction with**
- **intrigue**
- **obstruct**
- **persuade**
- **recompense**
- **shed**
- **unique**
- **well-suited**

## **baffle**

*adj.* baffling  
*n.* bafflement

*v.* to confuse to a point at which no progress can be made

*syn.* puzzle

The causes of many harmful diseases have *baffled* doctors for centuries.  
That was a *baffling* question.

## **bear**

*adv.* bearably  
*adj.* bearable

*v.* to produce, to carry; to show; to endure

*syn.* yield

This orchard *bears* many fine harvests of apples.  
Although stock prices declined, losses have been *bearable* for most investors.

## **blur**

*adj.* blurred  
*n.* blur

*v.* to make something difficult to see

*syn.* cloud

The rain *blurred* everyone's view of the valley.  
The whole accident is just a *blur* in my mind.

## **brilliant**

*adv.* brilliantly  
*n.* brilliance

*adj.* intensely bright or colorful; intelligent

*syn.* radiant

Einstein was a *brilliant* thinker.  
She *brilliantly* produced a solution to the problem.

**caution**

*adj.* cautious  
*adj.* cautionary  
*adv.* cautiously  
*n.* caution

*v.* to alert someone of danger, warn someone to take care or pay attention to something  
*syn.* warn

The officer *cautioned* the motorist to slow down.  
They entered into the negotiations *cautiously*.

**delicate**

*adv.* delicately

*adj.* needing careful treatment; sensitive, easily broken  
*syn.* fragile

Because of its controversial nature, it was a challenge to discuss such a *delicate* issue in public.  
You must handle the antique *delicately*.

**enhance**

*n.* enhancement  
*adj.* enhanced

*v.* to increase in a positive way, such as in value, power, or beauty  
*syn.* strengthen

Passing the exam should *enhance* your chances of being admitted to college.  
The computer *enhanced* our productivity.

**facilitate**

*adv.* facilitative

*v.* to make easier; to ease the progress of  
*syn.* assist

His careful planning *facilitated* the completion of the project.  
Good teaching strategies *facilitate* student learning.

**incessant**

*adv.* incessantly

*adj.* nonstop, continual, or never-ending  
*syn.* constant

The woman's *incessant* talking disturbed everyone watching the movie.  
The dogs' *incessant* barking kept the whole neighborhood up all night.

**in conjunction with** *prep. ph.* in addition to, alongside  
*syn.* along with

Exercise, *in conjunction with* a nourishing diet, contributes to a healthy lifestyle.

The architects planned the building *in conjunction with* the engineers.

**intrigue** *v.* to interest greatly  
*adj.* intriguing *syn.* fascinate  
*adv.* intriguingly  
*n.* intrigue

He was *intrigued* by the acclaim that he received.

The *intriguing* question baffled historians.

**obstruct** *v.* to prevent movement, progress, or success  
*n.* obstruction *syn.* block  
*adj.* obstructive  
*adv.* obstructively

Just after the storm, downed trees *obstructed* many roads in the community.

A huge building *obstructed* the ocean view from the apartment.

**persuade** *v.* to change a belief or behavior by argument or reason  
*adv.* persuasively  
*adj.* persuasive *syn.* convince  
*n.* persuasion

They couldn't *persuade* their critics to see their point of view.

John presented a *persuasive* argument for his salary increase.

**recompense** *n.* a repayment or reward for a deed  
*adv.* recompensable *syn.* compensation  
*v.* recompense

The knight received gold as *recompense* for saving the kingdom.

His boss assured him that he'd be *recompensed* for his extra efforts.

**shed** *v.* to throw off naturally; to give out  
*syn.* discard

In order to grow, crabs must *shed* their shells.

The experiments *shed* no new information on the cause of the disease.

**unique** *adj.* to be the only one of a kind; special  
*adv.* uniquely *syn.* rare  
*n.* uniqueness

He was presented with a *unique* opportunity to attend the conference.  
His style of writing is *uniquely* his own.

**well-suited** *adj.* to be complementary or appropriate;  
a good match  
*syn.* compatible

The design of the house is *well-suited* to its surroundings.  
The experienced principal was *well-suited* for the job of superintendent of schools.

**MATCHING**

Choose the synonym.

1. **incessant**  
(A) unique  
(B) constant  
(C) blocked  
(D) baffled
2. **obstruct**  
(A) warn  
(B) tempt  
(C) enhance  
(D) block
3. **intrigue**  
(A) fascinate  
(B) elicit  
(C) intensify  
(D) enrich
4. **well-suited to**  
(A) unique to  
(B) compatible with  
(C) enhanced with  
(D) dedicated to
5. **recompense**  
(A) pinnacle  
(B) resilience  
(C) compensation  
(D) consequence
6. **convince**  
(A) assert  
(B) persuade  
(C) restore  
(D) yield
7. **rare**  
(A) determined  
(B) warned  
(C) vague  
(D) unique
8. **facilitate**  
(A) assist  
(B) refine  
(C) alter  
(D) discard
9. **enhance**  
(A) entice  
(B) strengthen  
(C) relinquish  
(D) encourage
10. **puzzled**  
(A) valid  
(B) assertive  
(C) baffled  
(D) astute

## LESSON 5—MULTIPLE-CHOICE TEST QUESTIONS

1. A newborn chick uses its egg tooth to break the shell of its egg and escape from it at hatching. This toothlike structure is then **shed** since its only use is to help the bird break the eggshell. Some animals, such as lizards and snakes, develop a true tooth that projects outside the row of other teeth. This tooth helps adults hatch their young.

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

- Ⓐ guarded
  - Ⓑ preserved
  - Ⓒ discarded
  - Ⓓ enhanced
2. Imitation gems are usually made of glass or plastics. In recent years, an enormous array of plastics has become available for imitations, but these materials are soft and lack the clarity present in real gemstones. Therefore, they are less satisfactory for the purpose than glass. Flint glasses, containing lead oxide, have higher refractive indices and therefore possess a **brilliance** not found in plastics. This makes flint glasses more suitable than plastic for imitation gems.

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

- Ⓐ radiance
- Ⓑ lightness
- Ⓒ enhancement
- Ⓓ appeal

3. During a shower, meteors appear to spread from a point in the sky, called the radiant. These radiant points give each shower its name. For example, the Perseids shower appears to radiate from the constellation Perseus. During the heaviest showers, 30 to 70 meteors may be seen every hour, but on **unique** occasions in a spectacular display, that number may be visible every second.

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

- (A) intriguing
- (B) amazing
- (C) celebrated
- (D) rare

4. Sometimes, advertisers impact society by the use of advocacy ads, whose purpose is not to **persuade** the public to buy a product, but to change the public's view about a specific issue. Companies use this advertising to influence public opinion. Critics say that such ads are unfairly one-sided; advertisers say that the mass media have been equally one-sided in failing to report company views.

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

- (A) convince
- (B) dissuade
- (C) solicit
- (D) encourage

5. In the mid-1800s, gold and silver were common components of dentures. As a result, they were very expensive. However, in 1851, a process to harden the juices of certain tropical plants into rubber was discovered. This new product could be molded to a model of a patient's mouth and artificial teeth could be made. As a result, when used **in conjunction with** new manufacturing methods, these molds caused the cost of dentures to fall dramatically.

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

- (A) along with
- (B) under
- (C) throughout
- (D) within limits



6. The issue of where human life first arose has always been an **intriguing question** for science. Many guesses, or hypotheses, have been advanced, ranging from Asia to Europe. However, the oldest known human bones, or fossils, were discovered in East Africa in 1972. They are nearly 2 million years old. Their age was determined by measuring the age of the rocks surrounding them and comparing them to other fossils.

In stating that the origin of human life is an **intriguing question**, the author means that it

- (A) interests a lot of scientists.
- (B) can never be answered.
- (C) receives too much attention.
- (D) will always be a mystery.

7. The Sioux and Cheyenne peoples told outsiders not to look for gold on Indian land. Eventually, the Sioux and Cheyenne had to defend their land against a U.S. army force in the Battle of Little Bighorn. This battle, also known as "Custer's Last Stand," was led by General George Custer. Custer was **cautioned** by his advisors not to underestimate the strength of his opponent, but ignored their advice, resulting in the defeat of the U.S. force.

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

- (A) warned
- (B) discarded
- (C) advised
- (D) convinced

8. Clothing and adornments used among the southwest Native American populations often reflect the social status of an individual. Body painting and tattooing are common methods used to distinguish social status. Other methods include the use of lip, ear, and nose rings in addition to bracelets, arm bands, necklaces, and head ornaments made of **delicate**, colorful feathers. In addition to their use as status markers, adornments are also used to enhance beauty.

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

- (A) resilient
- (B) brilliant
- (C) rare
- (D) fragile

9. Species of alyssum are particularly suitable as edging plants for flower gardens. Alyssum is generally grayish with yellow or white flowers. One popular species is sweet alyssum, a perennial that grows up to nine inches tall. The narrow, green-gray leaf of the sweet alyssum usually **bears** many silvery hairs.

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

- (A) produces
- (B) elicits
- (C) attracts
- (D) inspires

10. In ancient times, the labyrinth was a structure composed of a complex series of passageways and chambers, probably at first designed to **baffle** enemies. A labyrinth either had branched paths with misleading ends, or it contained one long meandering path that led to a central end.

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

- (A) obstruct
- (B) puzzle
- (C) discard
- (D) astound