

TOEIC® SPEAKING TEST QUESTION 3: DESCRIBE A PICTURE

VOCAB REVIEW

SAMPLE QUESTION 7

Directions: In this part of the test, you will describe the picture on your screen in as much detail as you can. You will have 30 seconds to prepare your response. Then you will have 45 seconds to speak about the picture.



RESPONSE TIME

00:00:45

STRATEGY 6: Language

6.1 Try to include at least one complex sentence.

What is a complex sentence?

There are three kinds of sentences:

1. The simple sentence=the smallest sentence-unit with one subject-verb structure; e.g. The man is very rich.
2. The compound sentence=two (or more) main clauses linked by coordinating conjunctions such as and (addition) / or (alternative)/ but (contrast)/ nor (negative addition) ; e.g. The man is very rich, but he is not happy.
3. The complex sentence=a sentence consisting of one main clause and one or more subordinate clause(s), joined by subordinating conjunctions such as if (condition), when (time), because (cause), although (concession), or relative pronouns such as who, which, that (or relative adverbs such as when, where).

Complex Sentence Examples

Although the man is rich, he is not happy.

(Adv. Clause) (Main Clause)

The man who is rich is not always happy.

(Relative Clause)

(Main Clause)

This is the house where he was born.

(Main Clause) (Relative Clause)

Exercise

Combine the two sentences, using either a relative pronoun or a relative adverb.

1. The dress is new. She is wearing it.
2. The picture is beautiful. He is looking at it.
3. There is a boy. He is wearing a striped T-shirt and shorts.
4. The picture shows a grocery store. We can see a woman there. She is holding a shopping basket.

6.2 Use **adjectives** to modify nouns (a **beautiful shiny new Italian** car) and adverbs to modify verbs (is eating **happily**) to describe the picture in greater detail.

⊙ TEST TECHNIQUE

● Do's

During the preparation time, try to make not only fact statements but also opinion statements.

Try to describe the overall picture first and then the details.

● Don'ts

Don't spend the preparation time without mapping out your strategy.

Don't repeat the same simple sentence.

Don't finish your answer with a lot of time to spare.

Score Response Description

Scores are assigned based on the criteria in the chart below.

- 3: The description is perfectly relevant to the picture and appropriate in every detail. The description is fluent and smooth, and the listener has little trouble understanding. Speaker's vocabulary is accurate and relevant to the picture. The choice of sentence constructions is appropriate, and the opinion is coherently expressed.
- 2: The description is relevant to the picture, but some main points are missing as the examinee focuses on unnecessary details. The description is mostly fluent, with only occasional pronunciation difficulties. The use of vocabulary and grammar may sometimes be inappropriate, which may limit the general description. Speaker's use of sentence structures may be limited.
- 1: The description is still relevant to the picture, but it conveys a limited amount of information. Strong influences from the speaker's native language and/ or long pauses and frequent hesitation inhibit the speaker's fluency. The use of vocabulary and/ or grammar is often inappropriate, which limits the general description. Speaker's word choice may be highly repetitive.
- 0: No response OR no English in the response is given, OR the response is irrelevant to the task.

DICTION

1. Employees get together and ideas.
2. A is a very large upright wheel with seats on it for people to ride on in an amusement park.
3. He was only ten when he on a guitar for the first time.
4. Check and the brakes regularly.
5. The rain isn't too bad — it's only
6. A is a specially marked place for people to walk across a street.
7. He began to read in a calm, voice.

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