YOUTHAMA GLOBAL TOEFL TRAINING COURSE

Delta Key to the TOEFL Test

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SECTION 2 – STRUCTURE

The Structure section of the TOEFL measures your ability to recognize language that is appropriate for standard written English. The language in this section is more formal than the conversational language in the Listening section. The topics usually relate to academic subjects.

Vocabulary is not directly tested in the Structure section, but knowledge of vocabulary and word forms makes it easier to answer many of the questions.

THE PAPER–BASED TEST

The paper–based TOEFL will continue to be administered in certain parts of the world and by certain educational institutions in North America.

There are 40 questions in the Structure section of the paper test. You have 25 minutes to complete this section. This time includes your reading of the directions.

QUESTION TYPES ON THE PAPER TEST

There are two types of questions in this section, with special directions for each type:

Question Type 1 – Complete the Sentence (15 questions)

In the first type of question, you will see an incomplete sentence. Beneath the sentence, you will see four words or phrases, marked (A), (B), (C), and (D). You must choose the one word or phrase that best completes the sentence. Then, on your answer sheet, find the number of the question and fill in the space that corresponds to the letter of the answer you have chosen.

Question type 1 will look like this:

Although Chicago is not ---------- New York, it has many attractions for visitors.

    (A)   as large as
    (B)   larger
    (C)   larger city
    (D)   the larger city is

The sentence should read, *Although Chicago is not as large as New York, it has many attractions for visitors*. Therefore, you should choose (A).

Question Type 2 – Identify the Error (25 questions)

In the second type of question, you must recognize the error in a sentence. You will see a sentence with four underlined words or phrases, marked A, B, C, and D. You must choose the one underlined word or phrase that must be changed for the sentence to be correct. In other words, you are looking for the part of the sentence that is *incorrect*.

Question type 2 will look like this:

Guglielmo Marconi, <u>the son of</u> a wealthy Italian landowner, <u>made</u> the first
                A   B

<u>successfully</u> transmission <u>using</u> radio waves.
   C   D

The sentence should read, *Guglielmo Marconi, the son of a wealthy Italian landowner, made the first successful transmission using radio waves*. Therefore, you should choose (C).

THE COMPUTER–BASED TEST

The Structure section of the computerized TOEFL is *computer–adaptive*. This means that the computer will give you test questions that are aimed at your ability level.

How does the computer–adaptive test work? The first question will be of average difficulty.

> If you answer it correctly, the computer will then give you a slightly harder question.
> If you answer it incorrectly, the computer will then give you an easier question.

The second question will match your performance on the first question. In other words, the computer adapts the questions to your ability level.

You will be able to change your answer as many times as you like—*until you confirm your answer*. When you confirm your answer, the computer will give you the next question.

The computer will give you one question at a time.

You will not be allowed to go back to a previous question. This is because the answer you give helps the computer determine the difficulty level of your next question.

There are 20 to 25 questions in the Structure section of the computer test. You have 15 to 20 minutes to complete this section.

QUESTION TYPES ON THE COMPUTER TEST

There are two types of questions in this section. The two question types will be mixed up randomly. You must be able to quickly recognize the two different types because they ask you to do different things.

Question Type 1 – Complete the Sentence

In the first type of question, you will see a sentence with a blank space where part of the sentence is missing. Beneath each sentence, there are four words or phrases. You must choose the one word or phrase that best completes the sentence. In other words, you are looking for the *correct* answer.

For question type 1, the computer screen will look like this:

TOEFL – Structure

Directions: Click on the one word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

Although Chicago is not _____ New York, it has many attractions for visitors.

○ as large as
○ larger
○ larger city
○ the larger city is

Time   ?   Answer   →
        Help Confirm   Next

The sentence should read, *Although Chicago is not as large as New York, it has many attractions for visitors*. Therefore, you should click on the oval next to *as large as*, the first answer choice.
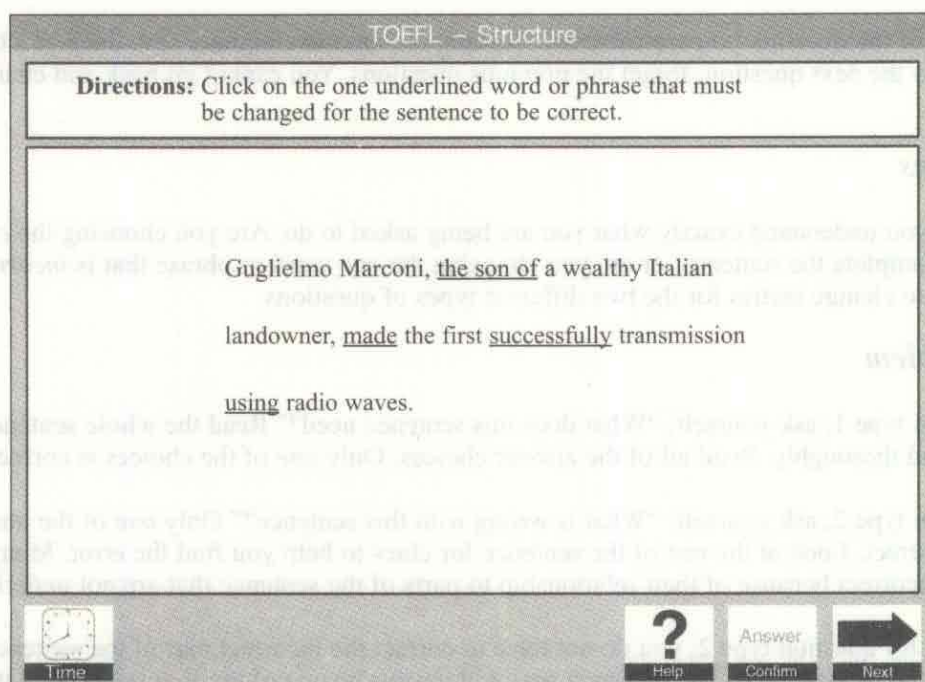
When you click on the oval next to one of the answer choices, the oval will darken. To change your answer, click on a different oval.

When you are satisfied that you have chosen the right answer, click on **Next**. Then click on **Confirm Answer**. When you do this, the computer will present the next question.

Question Type 2 – Identify the Error

In the second type of question, you will see a sentence with four underlined words or phrases. You must choose the one underlined word or phrase that must be changed for the sentence to be correct. In other words, you are looking for the part of the sentence that is *incorrect*.

For question type 2, the computer screen will look like this:

The sentence should read, *Guglielmo Marconi, the son of a wealthy Italian landowner, made the first successful transmission using radio waves*. Therefore, you should click on the word *successfully*.

When you click on one of the underlined answer choices, that word or phrase will darken. To change your answer, click on a different word or phrase.

When you are satisfied that you have chosen the right answer, click on **Next**. Then click on **Confirm Answer**. When you do this, the computer will present the next question.

STRATEGIES FOR THE STRUCTURE SECTION

Pace Yourself

- Pay attention to the number of questions and the amount of time you have during the test. You have approximately 40 seconds to spend on each question, on both the paper test and the computer test. Use your time wisely. Do not spend too much time on a single question. When you take the quizzes in this book, time yourself. This will give you a good idea of how to pace yourself during the test.

- On the computer test, you must answer each question in this section before you can move on to the next question. You cannot skip questions. If you are not sure of the answer, eliminate the choices that you know are incorrect. Then, guess! Confirm your answer only when you are certain you are ready to move on to the next question.

Concentrate

- Think only of the question you are currently working on. On the computer test, once you have moved on to the next question, forget the previous questions. You cannot go back and change them.

Follow Directions

- Make sure you understand exactly what you are being asked to do. Are you choosing the *correct* answer to complete the sentence, or are you choosing the one word or phrase that is *incorrect*? Remember to change tactics for the two different types of questions.

Identify the Problem

- For question type 1, ask yourself, "What does this sentence need?" Read the whole sentence carefully and thoroughly. Read all of the answer choices. Only *one* of the choices is correct.

- For question type 2, ask yourself, "What is wrong with this sentence?" Only *one* of the underlined parts is incorrect. Look at the rest of the sentence for clues to help you find the error. Many of the errors are incorrect because of their relationship to parts of the sentence that are not underlined.

- Remember, for question type 2, you do not have to correct the incorrect part of the sentence! You only have to identify it. The incorrect part will always be one of the four underlined words or phrases.

- Try to identify the grammar point being tested in each question. Look for subjects and verbs in each clause of the sentence. Look for agreement among the various parts of the sentence. Notice any incorrect word forms.

Know the Tricks

- Be familiar with the various ways the TOEFL items try to trick you. This book gives you practice in noticing some of the common tricks in the Structure section of the TOEFL.

GRAMMAR CATEGORIES ON THE TEST

On the paper test, the content of the 40 questions in the Structure section is distributed over several grammar categories, as shown below. The computer test covers the same content; however, since there are fewer items on the computer test, the number for each category will be slightly lower.

CATEGORY	APPROXIMATE NUMBER
Subjects and Objects	1–2
Appositives	1
Plurals	1–2
Articles	1–2
Verbs and Auxiliaries	2+
Passives	1–2
Infinitives and Gerunds	2
Main and Subordinate Clauses	1
Noun Clauses	1
Adjective Clauses and Phrases	1–2
Adverb Clauses and Phrases	1
Conditionals	1
Inverted Subjects and Verbs	1
Subject–Verb Agreement	2
Pronoun Agreement	2
Adjective Word Order	1
Participial Adjectives	1
Negative Modifiers	1
Equatives, Comparatives, Superlatives	2
Conjunctions	1
Prepositions	2+
Word Form	2+
Word Choice	1–2
Redundancy	0–1
Parallel Structure	2+