Tips and Strategies on Structure & Written Expression

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Structure & Written Expression

Structure
- 15 Qs
- Sentence Completion
- Multiple choice

Written Expression
- 25 Qs
- Error Identification
General Strategies:

1. Be familiar with the directions.
   - The directions on every TOEFL test are the same.
   - Don’t spend time reading the directions carefully when you take the test.
   - Be completely familiar with the directions before the day of the test.
2. Begin with questions 1 through 15

 ✓ Anticipate that questions 1 through 5 will be the easiest.

 ✓ Anticipate that questions 11 through 15 will be the most difficult.

 ✓ Do not spend too much time on questions 11 through 15

 ✓ There will be easier questions that come later.
3. Continue with questions 16 through 40

- Anticipate that questions 16 through 20 will be the easiest.
- Anticipate that questions 36 through 40 will be the most difficult.
- Do not spend too much time on questions 36 through 40.
4. If you have time, return to questions 11 through 15

☑ Spend extra time on questions 11 through 15 only after you spend all the time that you want on the easier questions.
5. Altogether there are 40 Qs in 25 minutes

✓ That means one item is answered in $\pm 1.6$ min.

6. Never leave any questions blank on your answer sheet.

✓ Even if you are not sure of the correct response, you should answer the question.
✓ There is no penalty for guessing.
Structure

Sentence
Completion
Skills (1-10)

- Adjective Clause Connectors/Subjects
- Subjects and Verbs
- Objects of Prepositions
- Present Participles
- Past Participles
- Coordinate Connectors
- Adverb Clause Connectors
- Noun Clause Connectors
- Adjective Clause Connectors
- Noun Clause Connectors/Subjects

Structure
General Strategies:

1. Study the sentence
   - Determine what is needed to complete the sentence correctly.

2. Study each answer based on how well it completes the sentence
   - Eliminate answers that do not complete the sentence correctly.
3. Do not try to eliminate incorrect answers by looking only at the answers
   ✓ The incorrect answers are generally incorrect only when used to complete the sentence.

4. Never leave any answers blank

5. Do not spend too much time on the Structure questions
   ✓ Be sure to leave adequate time for the Written Expression questions.
6. Questions in Structure have some patterns which are tested regularly.

7. Time is essential here.
Written Expression

Error Identification
Skills 11-18

- Agreement after prepositional phrases
- Agreement after expressions of quantity
- Agreement after certain words
- Parallel structure with coordinate conjunctions
- Parallel structure with paired conjunctions
- Past participle after *have*
- Present participles/past participles after *be*
- Base form verbs after modals
General Strategies:

1. Do not pay attention to the directions (because they are all the same)

2. Look at the underlined word or groups of words
   ✓ Spot which of the four answer choices is not correct.
3. If you have been unable to find the error by looking only at the four underlined expressions, then read the complete sentence.

- Pay attention that a sentence must have a subject and a verb (predicate).

4. Questions in Written Expression have some patterns which are tested regularly.

5. Time is essential.

Practice Discussion
1. Refrigerating meats retards the spread of bacteria.

2. Throughout the animal kingdom, only the whale is bigger than the elephant.
3. The fact that money orders can usually be easily cashed has made them a popular form of payment.

4. The first article of the US Constitution gives Congress the power to pass laws.
5. Electrical disturbances on Earth are frequently caused by storms on the surface of the sun.

6. Inventor Granville Woods received his first patent on January 3, 1884, for a steam boiler furnace.
7. A **deficiency** of folic acid is rarely found in humans because the vitamin is contained in a wide variety of foods.

8. The gopher digs with the big strong claws of its two **feet** and with its **overchanging front teeth**.
9. An internationally famous ballerina, Maria Tallchief demonstrated that the quality of ballet in North America could equal that of the ballet in Europe.

10. As two nuclei move closer together, their mutual electrostatic potential energy becomes more large and more positive.
THANK YOU