

TOEFL. My personal experience

16 September 2011

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 - Reading
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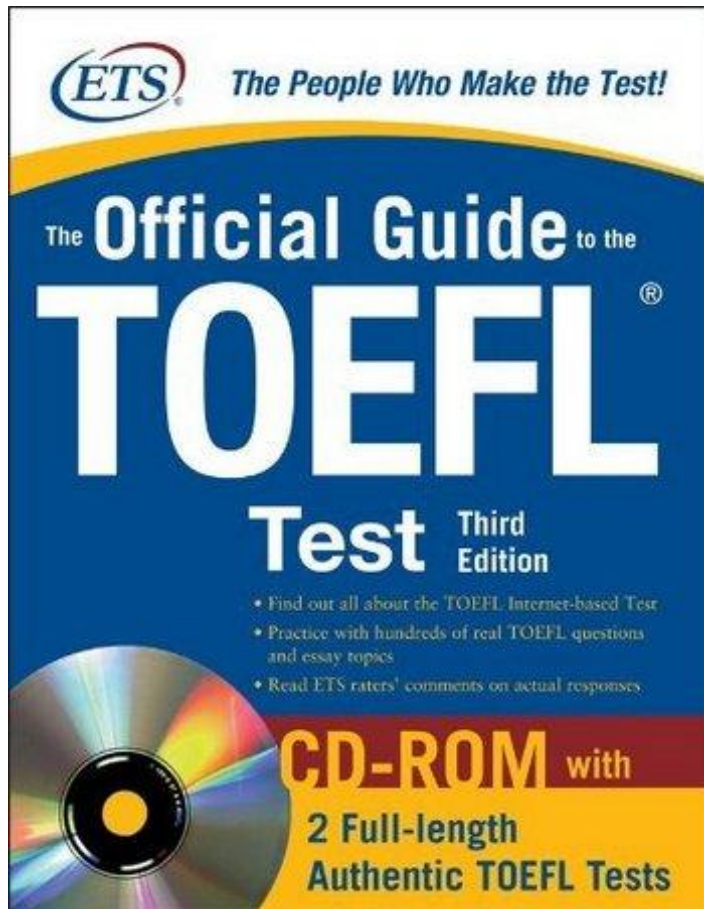
1. Nikita

- Major: Mathematics
- Level before TOEFL preparations: intermediate
- Duration of preparation: 2,5 months
- Approximate number of hours per day: 6+
- Days off: of course



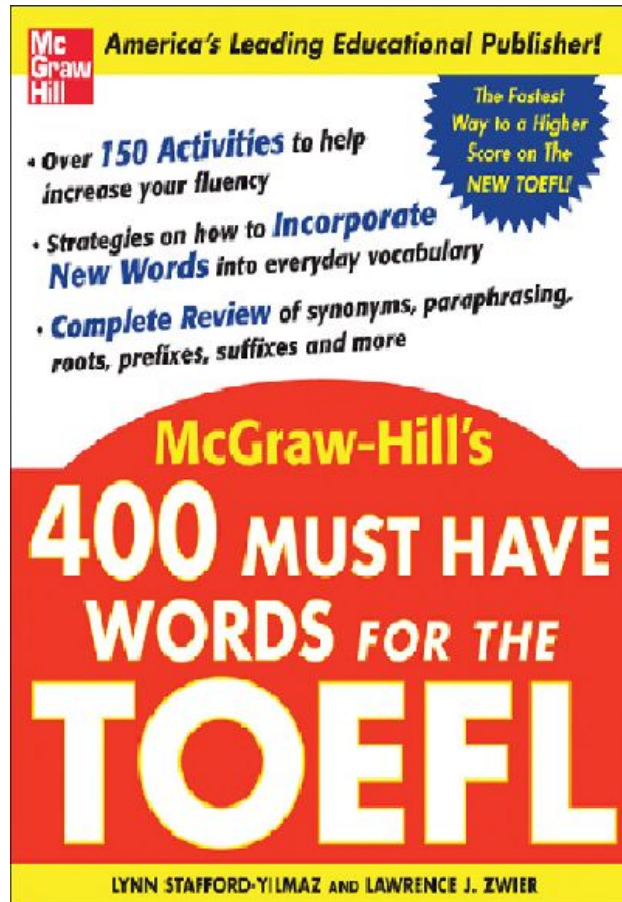
2. Several useful resources

□ 1. The Official guide to the TOEFL



2. Several useful resources

□ 2. 400 Must-have words for the TOEFL



2. Several useful resources

- 3. Different books for TOEFL with sample tests
 - Barron's – 8 tests
 - Kaplan - 4 tests
 - Longman – 2 tests
 - Cracking the TOEFL – 1 test



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- 7. Grammar video lessons

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- 8. Grammar: theory and exercises
englishpage.com



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- 9. Lectures to listen

voanews.com/learningenglish

- 10. Books

amazon.com

- 11. Subtitles

subscene.com



3. Some general ideas

- Spend as much time as possible studying English
- Collaborate with EducationUSA center



4. Ideas for: READING

□ TOEFL 400



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- TOEFL 400
- learn new words: not just write down, but also expressions with them

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- Timed exercises -> complete sections



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- Write down words which were mentioned in synonyms questions, and clue words.
- Be attentive all the time



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history, news, science -> player; academic lectures from
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- idioms, phrasal verbs are very rare
- practice write down things and listen to lecture simultaneously



4. Ideas for: SPEAKING

- The first part when you need a tutor to check your responses and grammar! Emulate speaking tasks and record your responses, then discuss
- There are sample responses in books: Barrons, Longman



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- Write down useful and general good/bad qualities of person, reasons why you like a place, think about traditions and holidays
- Create a mold: one statement for introduction /from my point of view/, 2 supporting reasons /first of all, secondly/, conclusion /as you can see from these examples/.



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- Practice to know what 45 and 60 seconds is
- If you are asked to state your opinion, allot 20-30 seconds of 60, since you are expected to support your preferences
- Spend an evening in café with your friend to speak in a crowded place in a foreign language



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 - 3 min: point of view, 3 supporting ideas
 - 25 min: write
 - 2 min: obvious grammar mistakes



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Good Luck!





Thank you!

