

# TOEFL. My personal experience

16 September 2011

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- 2. Several useful resources
- 3. Some general ideas
- 4. Special ideas for separated sections
  - Reading
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  - Writing



# 1. Nikita

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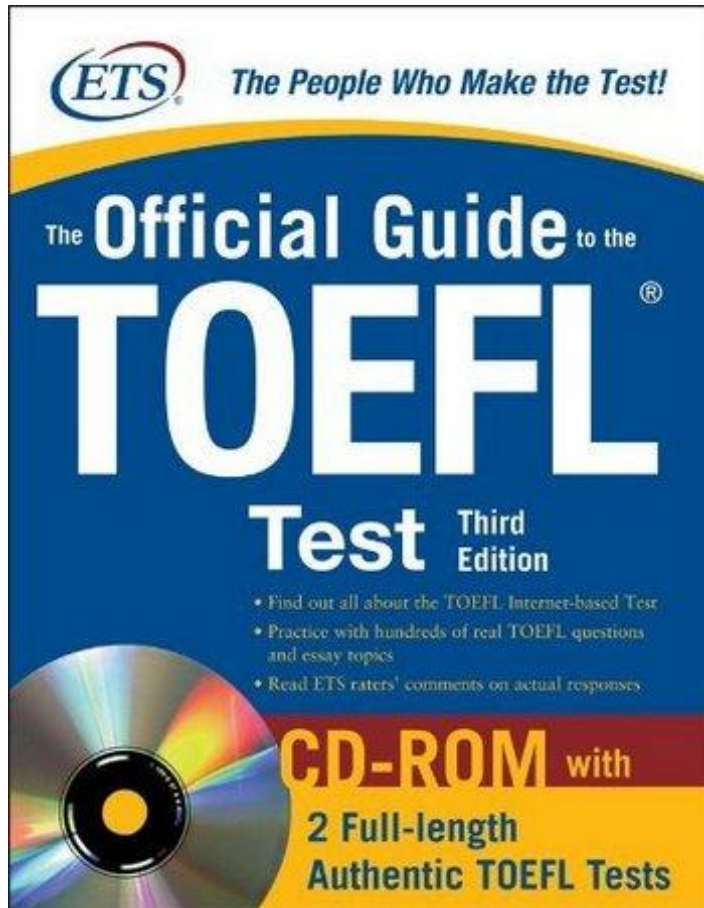
- Major: Mathematics
- Level before TOEFL preparations: intermediate
- Duration of preparation: 2,5 months
- Approximate number of hours per day: 6+
- Days off: of course



## 2. Several useful resources

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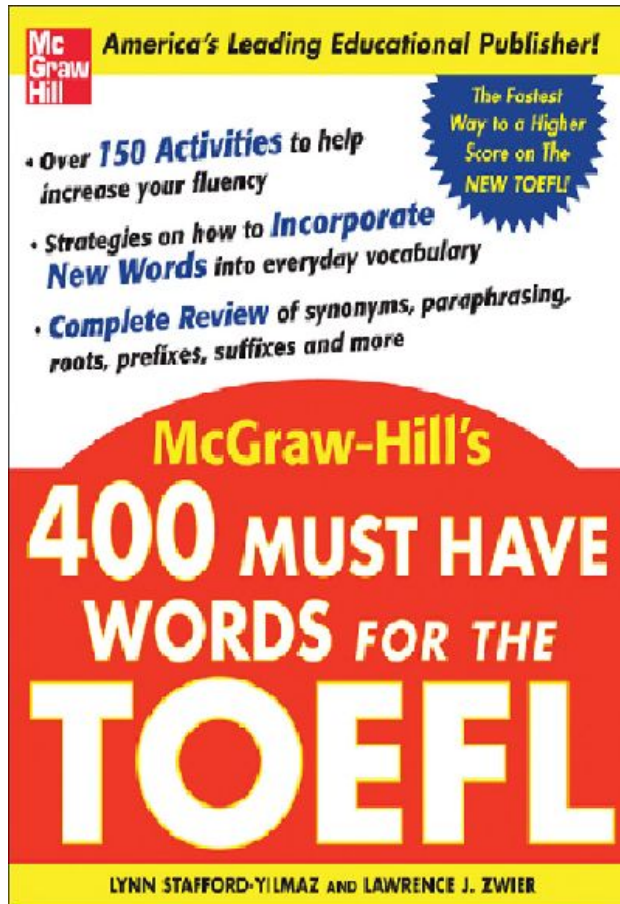
### □ 1. The Official guide to the TOEFL



## 2. Several useful resources

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### □ 2. 400 Must-have words for the TOEFL



## 2. Several useful resources

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- **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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[ets.org/toefl](https://ets.org/toefl)



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- 7. Grammar video lessons

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- 8. Grammar: theory and exercises

[englishpage.com](https://englishpage.com)

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## 2. Several useful resources

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- 9. Lectures to listen

[voanews.com/learningenglish](http://voanews.com/learningenglish)

- 10. Books

[amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

- 11. Subtitles

[subscene.com](http://subscene.com)



### 3. Some general ideas

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



## 4. Ideas for: READING

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□ TOEFL 400



## 4. Ideas for: READING

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

<http://www.learnersdictionary.com>

<http://lingvo.yandex.ru/>



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  - Timed exercises -> complete sections
- 



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- Write down words which were mentioned in synonyms questions, and clue words.



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



## 4. Ideas for: LISTENING

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□ voanews.com, bbc.com

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

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- 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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- Kaplan: 4 major topics: place, person, event



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  - Don't say any general statements without supporting reasons and examples
  - Private examples are good
  - 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/.
- 



## 4. Ideas for: SPEAKING - integrated

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- Increase your vocabulary + pronunciation



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- If you are asked to state your opinion, allot 20-30 seconds of 60, since you are expected to support your preferences



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- Create a mold: introduction (the problem is), structured essential information (the professor asserts)
- 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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  - 25 min: write
  - 2 min: obvious grammar mistakes



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Good Luck!





Thank you!

