

Structure and Written Expression Practice Questions — Section 2

The **Structure and Written Expression** section contains sentences that test your knowledge of important structural and grammatical elements of standard written English. These sentences include a variety of topics and give no particular advantage to individuals in any specific field of study.

When topics have a national context, they refer to the United States or Canadian history, culture, art, or literature. However, you do not need to have a prior knowledge of these contexts to answer the structural or grammatical points being tested.

Directions and Practice Questions for Section 2

Following are directions and examples of the types of questions you will find in the **Structure and Written Expression** section of the *TOEFL*® test. If you would like to see the correct answers for the Structure and Written Expression questions, use the [answer key](#) to check your answers.

This section is designed to measure your ability to recognize language that is appropriate to use in standard written English. There are two types of questions in this section, with special directions for each type.

Structure

Directions: Questions 1–4 are incomplete sentences. Beneath each sentence you will see four words or phrases, marked A, B, C and D. 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.

Look at the following examples:

Example 1

Geysers have often been compared to volcanoes _____ they both emit hot liquids from below the Earth's surface.

- A. due to
- B. because
- C. in spite of
- D. regardless of

The sentence should read, "Geysers have often been compared to volcanoes because they both emit hot liquids from below the Earth's surface." Therefore, you should choose answer B.

Example II

During the early period of ocean navigation, _____ any need for sophisticated instruments and techniques.

- A. so that hardly
- B. where there hardly was
- C. hardly was
- D. there was hardly

The sentence should read, "During the early period of ocean navigation, there was hardly any need for sophisticated instruments and techniques." Therefore, you should choose answer D.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Refrigerating meats _____ the spread of bacteria.

- A. retards
- B. retarding
- C. to retard
- D. is retarded

2. Throughout the animal kingdom, _____ bigger than the elephant.

- A. whale is only the
- B. only the whale is
- C. is the whale only
- D. only whale is the

3. The fact _____ money orders can usually be easily cashed has made them a popular form of payment.

- A. of
- B. that
- C. is that

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

5. Electrical disturbances on Earth are frequently caused with storms
A B C
on the surface of the sun.
D
6. Inventor Granville Woods received him first patent on January 3,
A B
1884, for a steam boiler furnace.
C D
7. A deficient of folic acid is rarely found in humans because the
A B C
vitamin is contained in a wide variety of foods.
D
8. The gopher digs with the big strong claws of its two front foot
A B C
and with its overhanging front teeth.
D
9. An internationally famous ballerina, Maria Tallchief demonstrated
A B
that the quality of ballet in North America could equal those of the
C D
ballet in Europe.
10. As two nuclei move closer together, their mutual electrostatic
A B
potential energy becomes more large and more positive.
C D