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Essential Words

EIGHTH EDITION

- 500 words frequently seen on the TOEFL
- Definitions, sample sentences, and practice exercises
- An overview of each section of the TOEFL iBT and ITP
- Practice reading test with answers

Steven J. Matthiesen

Acknowledgment

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(Man) Good morning ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to this tour of one of the nation's most important cities, Chicago. Before we begin, I'd like to give you some background information that will make the tour more enjoyable for you. The city was founded in 1837. Its strategic location on Lake Michigan quickly made it the center of commerce for the Midwest section of the country. It currently is the third largest metropolitan area in the United States. The city's site is generally level, built mostly on a glacial plain. The narrow Chicago River extends one mile inland from Lake Michigan, where it splits, dividing the city into North, West, and South sides. Chicago's weather is subject to rapid changes, but generally the climate is cold and windy in the winter, and hot and humid in the summer.

(Woman) What gave Chicago an advantage over other Midwestern cities?

YOU WILL SEE:

- Ⓐ Its level site
- Ⓑ Its location on Lake Michigan
- Ⓒ Its large population
- Ⓓ Its location along the Chicago River

According to the minitalk, **(B)** would be the correct choice. Remember that you will not have a written copy of the speaker's presentation or conversation and you will only hear it once. You must concentrate on details, such as names, dates, and the main idea of the selection that you hear. Do not read the choices as you listen to the talk. Listen carefully and try to remember what you hear.

SECTION 2: STRUCTURE AND WRITTEN EXPRESSION

NOUN SUFFIXES

| Suffix | Meaning | Example |
|--------|------------------|-------------|
| ary | place | library |
| ation | process | population |
| cule | small | minuscule |
| dom | state of being | wisdom |
| er | one who does | teacher |
| ery | occupation | dentistry |
| hood | state of being | manhood |
| ist | one who does | geologist |
| less | without | careless |
| ly | like, similar to | manly |
| ment | state of being | contentment |
| ness | state of being | happiness |
| ous | full of | enormous |
| ship | state of being | citizenship |

ADVERB SUFFIXES

| Suffix | Meaning | Example |
|--------|---------|-------------|
| ly | the way | predictably |
| ways | the way | sideways |
| wise | the way | otherwise |

VERB SUFFIXES

| Suffix | Meaning | Example |
|--------|------------|------------|
| ade | process of | persuade |
| ate | to make | accentuate |
| en | to make | broaden |
| er | process of | shelter |
| ize | to make | emphasize |

Her choice of clothing seemed *arbitrary*.

The teacher *arbitrarily* decided to give the class a test.

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|--|
| assert | v. | to express or defend oneself strongly; to state positively |
| <i>adv.</i> assertively | <i>syn.</i> | declare |
| <i>n.</i> assertiveness | | |
| <i>n.</i> assertion | | |
| <i>adj.</i> assertive | | |

The government *asserted* its control over the banking system.

The company president is an *assertive* individual.

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| astounding | <i>adj.</i> | very surprising |
| v. astound | <i>syn.</i> | astonishing |
| <i>adv.</i> astoundingly | | |

The scientists made an *astounding* discovery.

The fans were *astounded* by their team's success.

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| astute | <i>adj.</i> | very intelligent, smart, clever |
| <i>adj.</i> astutely | <i>syn.</i> | perceptive |
| <i>n.</i> astuteness | | |

He was an *astute* worker, finishing in half the time it took the others to finish.

They *astutely* determined that there would be no chance to finish on time.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|--|
| concur | v. | to have the same opinion or draw the same conclusion |
| <i>n.</i> concurrence | <i>syn.</i> | agree |

The director *concurred* with the conclusions of the committee's report.

Do you *concur* with the details of the business plan?

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|--|
| deceptively | <i>adv.</i> | making something appear true or good when it is false or bad |
| <i>adj.</i> deceptive | <i>syn.</i> | misleadingly |
| v. deceive | | |
| <i>n.</i> deception | | |

policy makers and economic and social planners may also create hardships.

The word **face** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- Ⓐ bear
- Ⓑ resolve
- Ⓒ confront
- Ⓓ endorse

10. Pop artists seek to portray modern culture. Their art emphasizes modern social values, the sprawl of urban life, and the flashy, frivolous, transitory, and offensive **facets** of modern life. These values are the very opposites of the values cherished by artists of the past.

The word **facets** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- Ⓐ aspects
- Ⓑ ideals
- Ⓒ facts
- Ⓓ particles

LESSON 23—MULTIPLE-CHOICE TEST QUESTIONS

1. New annual growth of trees produces growth rings. In most instances, the age of a tree can be **reliably** determined by counting the rings of a trunk's cross section. Most of the growth ring wood cells are dead. Only young xylem cells, those that grow during the current growing season, are alive. As a result, the ratio of dead to living wood cells increases as the girth of the tree increases.

The word **reliably** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- Ⓐ periodically
 - Ⓑ dependably
 - Ⓒ approximately
 - Ⓓ ordinarily
2. Lightships and buoys have an important function in coastal waters. They mark channels and thereby safely guide passing ships around hazards or shallow waters. Their great advantage is mobility, making them **readily** redeployable to meet changing conditions. For example, submerged hazards such as sandbars can change location rapidly under the influence of the sea. The use of buoys makes it possible to efficiently mark safe channels at all times.

The word **readily** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- Ⓐ freely
 - Ⓑ reluctantly
 - Ⓒ repeatedly
 - Ⓓ occasionally
3. The construction of the Saint Lawrence Seaway was an undertaking of great **proportions**. Constructing a link between the Great Lakes and the Atlantic seaboard had been proposed since 1535. Locks built in the 1800s by Canada became operational in 1901 on the upper Saint Lawrence River. But this original seaway was not deep or wide enough for modern ships. Canada and the United States constructed the new seaway, which became operational in 1959.

4. A

4. C

4. **B**