

Intermediate TOEFL Speaking Samples 7 to 9

AUDIO SCRIPTS

QUESTION 7:

On-Campus Conversation

W: I've just been reading about the writing center here on campus. Do you know anything about it?

M: As a matter of fact, I used their services last term when I was putting together my resumé for a summer job. Their tutors are all qualified and extremely helpful.

W: You mean that you can take non-academic writing to the writing center?

M: Definitely! They'll help you with application essays, résumés, whatever!

W: That's awesome! I need help on my grad school application.

Where is the writing center?

M: It's in Griffin Hall, and it's open 8:30 to 5, Monday through Friday.

W: Those hours are perfect for my schedule. Do you think I need an appointment?

M: Not necessarily. If you go in and a tutor is free, they won't turn you away. They can get pretty busy though, so it's a good idea to book an appointment in advance if you can.

W: Wow! No appointment necessary, any kind of writing and it's free so I can afford it! That's great! I'm going to try it right now. Thanks for the info!

M: No problem.

Sample response:

She thinks that the Writing Center offers a great service. First, she feels their service is great because they help students with both academic and non-academic writing. This is a benefit to her because she needs help writing a grad school application. The second reason she likes the service is because it is convenient. This is a benefit to her because the Writing Center's hours match her schedule and she doesn't necessarily need to make an appointment. Finally, she thinks the service is great because it's free, so she can afford it.

QUESTION 8:

On-Campus Conversation

W: Hey, Richard. Where're you going in such a hurry?

M: I'm trying to find the Admissions office. I need to drop a class today by 4 p.m.

W: Well, slow down. It's only 2 p.m.

M: You don't understand. If I don't drop my physics class by that time, I'm dead!

W: Okay, okay. The Admissions office is a long way from here. It's going to take you at least 20 minutes just to walk to that building. Then you'll probably have to wait in a long line to drop the class.

M: You're right. What can I do? I gotta get over there!

W: Why don't we stop in the library? You can drop the class using one of the computers.

M: Really? How?

W: You can drop the class on the registrar's website. You just need your student ID number, your password, and the course info.

M: You mean I don't have to wait in line with a hundred other sweaty students and then deal with a nasty administration worker?

W: That's right.

M: That's way more convenient. Thanks for your help!

W: Hey, that's what friends are for.

Sample response:

The man plans to find the Admissions Office and drop the class there. However, the woman points out that the Admissions Office is far away and he will have to wait in line once he gets there. She recommends that he use the library computer to drop the class instead. The man agrees with her idea because it is much more convenient than going to the Admissions Office. The man says that it is more convenient because it is closer, and he won't have to wait in line or talk to rude Admissions staff.

QUESTION 9:

On-Campus Conversation

M: Hey, did you hear about the new language partners program?

W: Hmm, I don't think so. What's that about?

M: The Student Center just announced it. It's called the Language Bank.

W: Oh, I think I know what you're talking about. That's for matching conversation partners from different countries. It sounds like a great idea. I think I'll register to try to get a Spanish partner.

M: Really? I don't know if that's such a good idea.

W: Why not? I really need help in Spanish, and I'd like to make a friend from another country.

M: True. The problem is that you don't really know anything about the person you're being matched up with. They may not be very good teachers, and they may not be very good people either. If you're having trouble with Spanish, you should ask your professor for help instead. She can introduce you to a good tutor.

W: You may have a point, but I think you're just being too cautious. I'm going to give it a shot.

M: OK. Just be careful.

Sample response:

The university is offering a Language Bank program. Students can give their information to meet partners for language exchange. The man says that participating in this program is a bad idea. First, he states that students won't know anything about the partner the program assigns them. This is a problem because the partner could be a bad person or a bad teacher. Second, he states that talking to a language professor is a better idea. This is better because the professor can introduce the student to a good tutor.