

## 4. Writing

## Starter Quiz · 课前小测

TOEFL iBT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_

1. About how many minutes is TOEFL Writing? Use the figure ETS publishes.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Which is correct?

- ☐ The teacher gave us a useful advice.  
☐ The teacher gave us some useful advice.  
☐ The teacher gave us useful advices.

3. What belongs in the first sentence of the email?

- ☐ A polite greeting and some background  
☐ Why you are writing  
☐ An apology for taking the reader's time

4. Your post states a position, gives a reason and an example, and never mentions either classmate. What happens?

- ☐ Nothing — the professor's question is what you were asked  
☐ Task completion is capped: you did not join the discussion  
☐ It scores higher, because it stays focused

5. Why does 'With the development of society' cost you marks?

- ☐ It is grammatically wrong  
☐ It adds no information and a marker reads past it, in a section with no time to spare  
☐ It is too informal for academic writing

6. Complete: Writing has about \_\_\_\_ items.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Complete: 'The list of participants \_\_\_\_ on my desk.'

- ☐ are  
☐ is  
☐ were

8. Complete: 'The result depends \_\_\_\_ the temperature.'

\_\_\_\_\_

9. 'It depends on the situation' is a clear position.

☐ True    ☐ False

10. A long complex sentence with two errors scores better than a short correct one.

☐ True    ☐ False

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TOEFL iBT

1. **23**

ETS says about 23 minutes and 12 items.

2. **The teacher gave us some useful advice.**

'Advice' is uncountable: no 'a', no plural. The same goes for information, equipment, research and homework.

3. **Why you are writing**

A reader who knows the purpose reads everything after it correctly. Background before purpose makes them guess.

4. **Task completion is capped: you did not join the discussion**

The task is to contribute to a discussion. A post that ignores both classmates is an essay posted in a thread, and it is marked as one.

5. **It adds no information and a marker reads past it, in a section with no time to spare**

It is not an error; it is empty. In 23 minutes a wasted opening sentence is a real cost, and these phrases appear in thousands of scripts.

6. **12**

About 12 items across Build a Sentence, Write an Email, and Academic Discussion.

7. **is**

The subject is 'the list', not 'participants'. English agrees with the subject, not with the nearest noun — a favourite trap.

8. **on**

'Depend on' is one item. Learn the verb and its preposition together, the way you learn a single word.

9. **False**

It becomes one the moment you say WHAT it depends on, in the same sentence. Without that it reads as avoiding the question.

10. **False**

Complexity only earns marks when it is accurate. Write the sentence you can control, then join two if you have the words.