



DEAR  
DIEGO,



I have listened to your audio recording and evaluated your abilities in topic development, delivery, and language use. For topic development, I checked whether you have addressed the task and conveyed relevant information. I evaluated if the delivery of your response was clear, smooth, and consistent throughout your response for overall intelligibility. I have also assessed the range and accuracy of your vocabulary and grammar.

Skill-Assessment Checklist:

You read (listened to) the question carefully.  YES

You began your answer with an introduction.  YES

You used strong supporting ideas.  NO

You used transitions to connect the supporting ideas.  NO

You ended with a conclusion.  NO

**DELIVERY:** Your response addresses the task, but the development of the topic is limited. There are too many pauses and hesitations in your answer.

Score: 2 (out of 4)

**PRONUNCIATION:** Your speech is basically intelligible, though listener effort is needed because of unclear articulation and a choppy pace. Pronunciation, stress, rhythm, and intonation are influenced by your first language and frequently interfere with ease of understanding. Basic grammatical structures and sentence patterns associated with predictable situations are not always well controlled. Incorrect pronunciation of English words sometimes interferes with meaning.

Score: 3 (out of 4)



**GRAMMAR:** Your response demonstrates limited control of English grammar; these limitations often prevent full expression of ideas. Your answer exhibits incorrect use of grammatical structures.

Score: 2 (out of 4)

**VOCABULARY:** Your response demonstrates a fairly automatic and effective use of vocabulary; though in some cases, inappropriate word-choices result in noticeable lapses in the expression of ideas.

Score: 3 (out of 4)

**TOPIC DEVELOPMENT:** Your response conveys some relevant information, but is incomplete and sometimes inaccurate. It omits key ideas and demonstrates limited development of important information. The ideas are not well connected or cohesive; strong supporting ideas and a conclusion are missing.

Score: 2 (out of 4)

Based on your response to this TOEFL® iBT question, your total score for a similar Independent Speaking Task would be: **3 points** (out of 4)

Your total score for the TOEFL® iBT Speaking Section would be between 18 and 25 points:

Speaking Skills		
Level	Task Rating	Scaled Score Range
Good	3.5-4.0	26-30
Fair	2.5-3.0	18-25
Limited	1.5-2.0	10-17
Weak	0-1.0	0-9



The Speaking Section of the TOEFL® iBT exam consists of 2 independent and 4 integrated speaking questions. The highest possible score you can get for the TOEFL® iBT Speaking Section is 30. (5 points for each task)

As you can see below, I have corrected all of your mistakes, restructured and completed your response to the following TOEFL® iBT question:

**What do you think your life will look like after retirement? Use reasons and details to support your response.**

Revised answer with comments and suggestions:

**Introduction:**

I believe that human beings are hard-wired for some kind of purpose; they constantly need to set new goals for themselves and work hard to achieve them – even after they have retired. I've read it somewhere that the busiest people are the happiest, and I think it's true. This idea has inspired me, and so, one thing I won't do after I have retired is sit around at home, doing nothing all day. I don't want to run the risk of becoming bored, depressed, or turning into a grumpy old man.

**Supporting ideas:**

In my opinion, retirement gives everybody a chance to finally do things they simply didn't have enough time for while they were employed. People can finally get a new hobby, take up a sport, start their own business, or travel around the world.

**Conclusion:**

I think taking up golf, reading books, and going on a backpacking trip in Southeast Asia would make me a very happy senior citizen.



## TIPS AND ADVICE

**TOPIC DEVELOPMENT:** Always make sure your speech or essay is made up of at least 3-5 paragraphs: an introductory paragraph, a body paragraph (or paragraphs), and a conclusion paragraph.

**GRAMMAR:** ‘He or she’ versus ‘they’ – In English there are no personal pronouns that can refer to someone without identifying whether that person is male or female, but you can use the plural pronouns ‘they’, ‘them’, ‘their’ etc., despite the fact that, technically, they are referring back to a singular noun: “*When somebody stops working, they need to be prepared for a happy transition from working life to active retirement.*” “After you retire...” or “After you have retired,...” – both are correct: “Working part time after you retire, is also possible.” = “Working part time after you have retired, is also possible.”

**PRONUNCIATION:** Listen to the audio file and practice pronouncing the following words as you hear them: **purpose, retire, depressed, hobby**

**FLUENCY:** Listen to the audio file called “Sample Feedback Lesson - Independent Speaking 1”, and try to repeat each sentence with the same speed as the speaker several times. Try to deliver the whole response clearly in 45 seconds without any help. Record yourself as many times as necessary, and compare your speech to the native speaker’s each time.

**VOCABULARY:** **hard-wired** = genetically compelled; **purpose** = aim or intention; **achieve** = accomplish; **depressed** = dispirited or unhappy; **grumpy** = bad-tempered and easily annoyed; **hobby** = pastime, an activity that you enjoy doing in your free time; **senior citizen** = an old retired person, a pensioner

**Don’t confuse “retire” with “resign”!** – **retire** = leave your job at the end of your working life, usually because you have reached a particular age: “In the U.K., men usually retire at the age of 65 and women at 60.” “If you retire early, you won't get your full pension.” **resign** = leave your job because you do not like it, because you have found a better one, etc.: “If she doesn't get a salary increase, she's going to resign.”



### PHRASES:

Human beings are hard-wired for some kind of purpose. ~ People in general always have a purpose that they are trying to achieve.

set a goal for yourself = establish an objective for yourself

achieve your goals = accomplish your objectives

run the risk of (becoming depressed) = take the risk of (becoming depressed)

get a hobby = take up a hobby – also: Retirement can give you the time to pursue your hobbies.

start a business = set up a business; set up a company

### EXERCISES

1) Replace words and expressions in the TOEFL® response with the following:

It seems to me that ...

feel compelled to ...

need to have a purpose in life

establish new objectives

succeed in achieving them

In my view ...

provides everybody with the opportunity to ...

they had a full-time job

become self-employed

feel contented



2) Complete the sentences below with a word from the box.

retired    maintain    retirees    reclusive    regularly    sharp    people    retirement

Even those who have \_\_\_\_\_ savings say that they rely heavily on Social Security.

The company specializes in holidays for retired \_\_\_\_\_.

Florida is the perfect place for \_\_\_\_\_.

One of the worst things you can do when you retire is become \_\_\_\_\_ and inactive.

It's important to \_\_\_\_\_ social connections and frequently enjoy the company of friends.

Seniors should \_\_\_\_\_ exercise their muscles and brains.

Keeping active can help the elderly stay mentally \_\_\_\_\_ and physically healthy.

These days, more and more \_\_\_\_\_ people are making the decision to do volunteer work.

*As you probably have noticed, this document does not contain any incorrect elements of your original TOEFL® response. It is advisable that you compare this revised version with the response you submitted to [www.correctmytoefl.com](http://www.correctmytoefl.com), and try to memorize the proper way to express each of your ideas.*

*Your audio file for this feedback lesson is available at [this link](#), or simply scan the QR code on the first page.*

*Thank you for using our services. We look forward to working with you again.  
Good luck on your TOEFL® test!*

*Best regards,  
Michael  
(CMT code: T510)*



## ANSWER KEY

### TASK 1

It seems to me that human beings need to have a purpose in life; they feel compelled to constantly establish new objectives for themselves, and work hard to succeed in achieving them – even after they have retired. I've read it somewhere that the busiest people are the happiest, and I think it's true.

This idea has inspired me, and so, one thing I won't do after I have retired is sit around at home, doing nothing all day. I don't want to run the risk of becoming bored, depressed, or turning into a grumpy old man.

In my view, retirement provides everybody with an opportunity to finally do things they simply didn't have enough time for while they had a full-time job. People can finally get a new hobby, take up a sport, become self-employed, or travel around the world.

I think taking up golf, reading books, and going on a backpacking trip in Southeast Asia would make me feel contented.

### TASK 2

Even those who have retirement savings say that they rely heavily on Social Security.

The company specializes in holidays for retired people.

Florida is the perfect place for retirees.

One of the worst things you can do when you retire is become reclusive and inactive.

It's important to maintain social connections and frequently enjoy the company of friends.

Seniors should regularly exercise their muscles and brains.

Keeping active can help the elderly stay mentally sharp and physically healthy.

These days, more and more retired people are making the decision to do volunteer work.