

A Concise Dictionary of Special Expressions Used in TOEFL Listening Tests

**Compiled
by**

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Foreword

It is generally agreed today that there are no magic formulas or secret keys for passing TOEFL tests with flying colors. The riddle of success, it may be said, lies in the fact that the TOEFL candidates should gradually improve their overall language skills by accessing those resource materials which can pave the way most effectively for meeting the test requirements.

A Concise Dictionary of American English Special Expressions Used in TOEFL Listening Tests is an abridged dictionary in support of the thesis that familiarity with daily conversational expressions should be an important concern of TOEFL candidates in general and English students in particular and, as such, deserves careful attention and thoughtful action of lexicographers and material developers. This is not a new thought but it is one that is receiving special attention from language educators today, in the effort to provide appropriate sources of lexical knowledge for the candidates who are preparing for a more satisfying and successful experience in learning English.

It is our hope that the present dictionary will help the TOEFL examinees toward attaining a satisfactory test score on the TOEFL test. We have endeavored to provide an adequate number of expressions which are most frequently employed during daily conversational encounters in America. We trust that the dictionary will enhance the spirit of enthusiasm and the lexical background that TOEFL candidates as well as English students need to increase their chance of success in English proficiency tests such as TOEFL.

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About the book:

The present concise dictionary of special American conversational expressions has been prepared so that English learners can learn the meaning and usage of the conversational expressions they may see and hear during their English learning experiences. The learners may find the dictionary useful for several reasons. Firstly, most of the expressions do not appear in the ordinary dictionaries. Secondly, appropriate examples of usage have been provided for each expression. Finally, the sentences chosen as examples reflect the most frequent conversational expressions used in the American contexts of informal language use.

It is stated that words are like fish; they are easy to catch, but difficult to hold. Consequently, we suggest that learners should write unfamiliar expressions on a piece of paper after they hear or see them. This will provide some kind of scaffolding since learners may most likely forget the heard or seen expression if they do not write it down.

As can be seen, the selected expressions are arranged in an alphabetical order. However, the learners may have a little trouble in finding a few of them. Suppose, for instance, the learner finds a special expression such as *Don't push the panic button*; s/he may find the entry under *Don't*, *push*, or *panic*. It is also important to mention that the dictionary does not give you a comprehensive list of special expressions. However, it is designed to provide you with a common core of current American expressions large enough to satisfy your immediate needs in TOEFL tests and other relevant environments.