

9. (A) Meat tastes delicious to him when it's cooked rare.
 (B) He isn't sure if the meal is delicious.
 (C) This meat is the best he's tasted in a long time.
 (D) He'd like to eat some meat from this delicatessen.
10. (A) He broke his arm trying to move it.
 (B) He only hurt the broken arm.
 (C) He only tries to move the broken arm.
 (D) There's no pain if he rests quietly.

SKILL 10: LISTEN FOR NEGATIVES WITH COMPARATIVES

Negatives can be used with comparatives in the short dialogues of the TOEFL test. A sentence with a negative and a comparative has a superlative, or very strong, meaning.

Example from the Paper and Computer TOEFL® Tests



On the recording, you hear:

(woman) *What do you think of the new student in math class?*

(man) *No one is more intelligent than she is.*

(narrator) *What does the man say about the new student?*

In your test book or on the computer screen, you read:

- (A) She is not very smart.
 (B) He is smarter than she is.
 (C) Other students are smarter than she is.
 (D) She is the smartest student in the class.

The man responds to the woman's question with the negative *No* and the comparative *more intelligent*, and this combination has a superlative meaning, *the smartest*. The best answer is therefore answer (D).

The following chart outlines comparisons that you should be careful of when they are used with negatives:

COMPARATIVES WITH NEGATIVES		
Comparative	Example	Meaning
<i>more</i>	<i>No one is <u>more</u> beautiful than she is.</i>	<i>She is <u>the most</u> beautiful.</i>
<i>-er</i>	<i>He couldn't be <u>happier</u>.</i>	<i>He is <u>extremely</u> happy.</i>

EXERCISE 10: In this exercise, underline the negative and the comparative in the second line of each short dialogue. Then read the question and choose the best answer to that question. Remember that the best answer is one that expresses a superlative, or very strong, idea.

1. (woman) *Have you gotten over your cold yet?*
 (man) *I couldn't be feeling any better today.*
 (narrator) *What does the man mean?*
 - (A) He's feeling terrific.
 - (B) He felt a lot worse today.
 - (C) He's not feeling too well today.
 - (D) He's a bit better today.

2. (woman) *What did you think of Mike when you first met him?*
 (man) *He couldn't have been more unfriendly.*
 (narrator) *What does the man mean?*
 - (A) Mike was extremely friendly when he met him.
 - (B) Mike could have met him sooner.
 - (C) Mike didn't seem to like him at all.
 - (D) When he met Mike, he didn't have a friend.

3. (man) *Did you see Theresa's grade on the math exam? It was unbelievable!*
 (woman) *No one else could have done better.*
 (narrator) *What does the woman mean?*
 - (A) Theresa could've gotten a higher grade.
 - (B) Anyone could get a good grade.
 - (C) Theresa got the highest grade.
 - (D) A high grade is impossible for anyone.

TOEFL EXERCISE 10: In this exercise, listen carefully to each short dialogue and question on the recording, and then choose the best answer to the question. You should be particularly careful of comparatives with negatives.



NOW BEGIN THE RECORDING AT TOEFL EXERCISE 10.

1. (A) She's not very happy.
 (B) She didn't do very well on the exam.
 (C) She could be somewhat happier.
 (D) She's delighted with the results.

2. (A) Paula is always lazy.
 (B) Paula didn't work very hard this semester.
 (C) Paula made a strong effort.
 (D) Paula could have worked harder.

3. (A) The prices were great!
 (B) The prices were too high.
 (C) She didn't buy much because of the prices.
 (D) The prices could have been lower.

4. (A) She is not very smart.
 (B) She always tells him everything.
 (C) He doesn't know her very well.
 (D) She's extremely intelligent.

5. (A) The patient absolutely didn't need the surgery.
 (B) The necessity for the surgery was unquestionable.
 (C) The surgeon felt that the operation was necessary.
 (D) It was essential that the surgery be performed immediately.

6. (A) They were not very lucky.
 (B) No one was hurt.
 (C) The accident was unfortunate.
 (D) She wanted to have better luck.

7. (A) Nothing was very difficult.
 (B) The exam wasn't at all easy.
 (C) The exam couldn't have been easier.
 (D) The exam had nothing difficult on it.

8. (A) She wants that job very much.
 (B) No one is going to get the job.
 (C) Everybody else wants that job as much as she does.
 (D) She is not sure about taking the job.
9. (A) She was second in the race.
 (B) She was almost the slowest person in the race.
 (C) She won the race.
 (D) She was not faster than anyone else.
10. (A) This math project was extremely complex.
 (B) This math project was less complicated than the last.
 (C) They seldom complete their math projects.
 (D) Complicated math projects are often assigned.

TOEFL EXERCISE (Skills 7–10): In this exercise, listen carefully to each short dialogue and question on the recording, and then choose the best answer to the question.



NOW BEGIN THE RECORDING AT TOEFL EXERCISE (SKILLS 7–10).

1. (A) She can try a little harder.
 (B) There is a lot more that she can do.
 (C) She's doing the best that she can.
 (D) It is impossible for her to do anything.
2. (A) She's always been late for the bus.
 (B) The bus has always been late.
 (C) The bus only left on time once.
 (D) Only on this trip has the bus been on time.
3. (A) There wasn't enough soup to go around.
 (B) We had so much soup that we couldn't finish it.
 (C) Everyone got one serving of soup, but there wasn't enough for seconds.
 (D) Everyone around the table had a lot of soup.
4. (A) She does want to see the movie.
 (B) It's extremely important to her to go.
 (C) She doesn't want to go there anymore.
 (D) She really couldn't move there.
5. (A) She handed the paper in on time.
 (B) She was able to complete the paper, but she didn't turn it in.
 (C) The paper was a complete mess, so she didn't turn it in.
 (D) The paper was unfinished.
6. (A) Neither Tim nor Sylvia is taking care of Art.
 (B) Sylvia likes modern art even less than Tim does.
 (C) Sylvia doesn't care for anything Tim does.
 (D) Sylvia and Tim agree in their opinion of modern art.
7. (A) They always work hard in the afternoon.
 (B) They don't do much after lunch.
 (C) After noon they never work.
 (D) It's never hard for them to work in the afternoon.
8. (A) It's hard for him to work when it gets warm.
 (B) Whenever it gets warm, he turns on the air-conditioner.
 (C) The air-conditioner only works when it isn't needed.
 (D) He likes to use the air-conditioner when it is warm.

9. (A) He did really poorly.
 (B) He's felt worse before.
 (C) The results could not have been better.
 (D) He's not too unhappy with the results.
10. (A) With so many members present, the committee couldn't reach a decision.
 (B) The committee should've waited until more members were present.
 (C) The issue shouldn't have been decided by all the committed members.
 (D) The issue wasn't decided because so many members were absent.

TOEFL REVIEW EXERCISE (Skills 1–10): In this exercise, listen carefully to each short dialogue and question on the recording, and then choose the best answer to the question.



NOW BEGIN THE RECORDING AT TOEFL REVIEW EXERCISE (SKILLS 1–10).

1. (A) In a doctor's office
 (B) At a bar
 (C) In a travel agency
 (D) In a business office
2. (A) She bought some sheets.
 (B) She got a new piece of clothing.
 (C) She couldn't find anything because she's too short.
 (D) She was sure to greet her boss.
3. (A) The hotel was all right, except for the poor view.
 (B) The view from the hotel room was spectacular.
 (C) She would have preferred a better hotel.
 (D) Only a few hotels would have been better.
4. (A) Take a nap
 (B) Try the rest of the work
 (C) See a doctor
 (D) Have a bite to eat
5. (A) She's an exacting person.
 (B) She can't be expected to give you four of them.
 (C) She generally forgives others.
 (D) She isn't exact about what she gives to others.
6. (A) She's unable to take her vacation this year.
 (B) Her vacation next week has been postponed.
 (C) She'll go on vacation next week.
 (D) She'll return from vacation in a week.
7. (A) The waitress was sitting in the back of the restaurant.
 (B) They were waiting for a seat in the restaurant.
 (C) The customers had a table in the back.
 (D) The waitress sat down behind the table.
8. (A) It's hard for the market to sell its fruit.
 (B) All of the fresh fruit at the market is hard.
 (C) She hardly ever goes to the market to buy fresh fruit.
 (D) There was a scarcity of fresh fruit at the market.
9. (A) The man should never be late for school.
 (B) The man can always return to school.
 (C) The man should never go back to school.
 (D) If the man's late to school, he should go through the back door.
10. (A) She can't bear to try.
 (B) She is a daring person.
 (C) She doesn't want the man even to try.
 (D) She is challenging the man to make the effort.