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## Introduction

This book is a revised and expanded new edition of the best-selling *McGraw-Hill's 400 Must-Have Words for the TOEFL*. The readings have been updated, and an entirely new chapter has been added. Like the first edition, this book will help you improve your score on the Internet-based TOEFL (iBT). Vocabulary is extremely important in a good iBT performance, so this is a very valuable study guide.

This book has been designed for easy use as a self-study guide. You can complete each chapter in one sitting of about 25 minutes. *McGraw-Hill Education: 400 Must-Have Words for the TOEFL, 2e*, is also highly effective in the TOEFL-prep classroom.

Each chapter begins with a list of 10 target words. They are defined and used in simple sentences. Usage tips are given for many words. If there are other commonly used parts of speech related to the word, those are listed too.

Following the definitions, the target words are practiced in three exercises. TOEFL Prep I and TOEFL Prep II give straightforward practice in a variety of easy exercise styles. The last exercise, TOEFL Success, includes a TOEFL-style reading followed by one or two authentic TOEFL-style questions. Most TOEFL Success readings incorporate all 10 target words, and most also include an additional bonus structure. Each chapter ends with an answer key so you can check your work.

As an extra feature, this book includes a special front section called “Six Quick Hints for Success on the TOEFL.” These general test-taking strategies are crucial to TOEFL success.

After the publication of *McGraw-Hill's: 400 Must-Have Words for the TOEFL*, we suffered a sad loss in the death of Lynn Stafford-Yilmaz, one of this book's coauthors. Lynn was a superb writer and a dedicated teacher, always eager to help her students forge ahead in their studies and preparation for tests. We fondly remember Lynn in this new edition. She would have been very proud to see how many students have been helped by the advice and practice this book provides.

We wish you all the best in your vocabulary study for the TOEFL test.

## Six Quick Hints for Success on the TOEFL®

1. **Try to understand a reading or lecture as a whole.** Unlike earlier versions of the TOEFL, the new version tests whether you can see how ideas interact in a longer reading.
2. **Take notes.** Especially in the listening section, you will need notes to remember what you have heard. Note-taking will also help you concentrate. You can practice by taking notes of news stories, documentaries, or lectures.
3. **Study grammar in context, not by itself.** Unlike earlier versions of the TOEFL, the new version has no grammar section. Your knowledge of grammar is useful in helping you understand the readings and lectures, not in answering grammar-specific questions.
4. **Practice writing essays that express your opinion on a topic.** The writing section of the 2005 TOEFL includes questions asking for your opinion on various daily topics. These are timed. Practice writing under a time limit, shaping your thoughts into a well-rounded essay.
5. **Build up your academic vocabulary.** Your ability to comprehend reading passages rests largely on your academic vocabulary. Build your vocabulary by reading, making flash cards, and writing sentences using new words in context. A strong vocabulary will help you not only in your reading comprehension, but also in listening, writing, and speaking.
6. **Commit your attention to the test.** Some of the topics covered in the test may not actually interest you. Still, your focused energy will improve your test score. Agree with yourself not to think about other topics during the test. Force yourself to keep your attention on the tested material.

**Nature**



# Food Crops

## Target Words

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <b>abandon</b>     | 6. <b>intensify</b>      |
| 2. <b>adversely</b>   | 7. <b>irrigation</b>     |
| 3. <b>aggregate</b>   | 8. <b>obtain</b>         |
| 4. <b>cultivation</b> | 9. <b>photosynthesis</b> |
| 5. <b>fertilize</b>   | 10. <b>precipitation</b> |

## Definitions and Samples

1. **abandon** *v.* To leave; to give up

To save their lives, the sailors had to **abandon** the sinking ship.

*Parts of speech* **abandonment** *n*

2. **adversely** *adv.* In a harmful way; negatively

Excessive rainfall early in the spring can **adversely** affect the planting of crops.

*Usage tips* *Adversely* is often followed by *affect*.

*Parts of speech* **adversity** *n*, **adverse** *adj*

3. **aggregate** *adj.* Gathered into or amounting to a whole

It is impossible to judge last year's performance without knowing the **aggregate** sales numbers.

*Usage tips* *Aggregate* is often followed by a term like *sum*, *total*, or *numbers*.

*Parts of speech* **aggregate** *v*, **aggregate** *n*

4. **cultivation** *n.* Preparing the land to grow crops; improvement for agricultural purposes

With the development of land **cultivation**, hunters and gatherers were able to settle in one place.

*Parts of speech* cultivate *v*

5. **fertilize** *v.* To supply with nourishment for plants by adding helpful substances to the soil

Tomatoes grow well here because the farmers **fertilize** their soil with nitrogen.

*Parts of speech* fertilizer *n*, fertilization *n*

6. **intensify** *v.* To increase in power; to act with increased strength

Jacob's long absence from Rose **intensified** his certainty that he should marry her.

*Parts of speech* intensification *n*, intense *adj*, intensity *n*

7. **irrigation** *n.* The supplying of water to dry land

In dry areas of the country, you can see ditches all over the farmland for **irrigation**.

*Parts of speech* irrigate *v*

8. **obtain** *v.* To gain possession of; to get

After a series of difficult interviews, he finally was able to **obtain** the job.

9. **photosynthesis** *n.* The process by which green plants make their own food by combining water, salts, and carbon dioxide in the presence of light.

Oxygen is a by-product of the process of **photosynthesis**.

*Parts of speech* photosynthesize *v*

10. **precipitation** *n.* Water that falls to the Earth's surface

In the Pacific Northwest, the high level of **precipitation** ensures rich, green plant life.

**TOEFL Prep I** Complete each sentence by filling in the blank with the best word from the list. Change the form of the word if necessary. Use each word only once.

*abandoned precipitation cultivation fertilize photosynthesis*

1. Through \_\_\_\_\_, green plants create organic materials with the help of chlorophyll.
2. The coastal city gets half its \_\_\_\_\_ during the rainy months of January, February, and March.
3. Farmers use various methods of land \_\_\_\_\_.
4. When they heard the hull crack, all but two of the sailors \_\_\_\_\_ ship.
5. Inexperienced gardeners may not realize how important it is that they \_\_\_\_\_ their plants.

**TOEFL Prep II** Find the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the opposite of each word in the left-hand column. Write the letter in the blank.

- |                            |                |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| _____ 1. <b>obtain</b>     | (a) weaken     |
| _____ 2. <b>intensify</b>  | (b) separate   |
| _____ 3. <b>irrigation</b> | (c) lose       |
| _____ 4. <b>aggregate</b>  | (d) drainage   |
| _____ 5. <b>adversely</b>  | (e) positively |

**TOEFL Success** Read the passage to review the vocabulary you have learned. Answer the questions that follow.

In countries like Niger and Mauritania, the *cultivation* of land has changed little in the past several centuries. Additionally, these countries' mono-modal rainfall pattern brings *precipitation* for only three months during the year. **As a result**, food production doesn't nearly meet demand.

**Bonus Structure—**  
**As a result** means  
 “therefore,” “for  
 this reason.”



Several agencies and organizations have *intensified* their efforts to increase the productivity of land in these countries. They have introduced new strains of seed, improved *irrigation* techniques, and introduced new methods of *fertilization* and soil management. With ample sunlight for *photosynthesis* and modern *irrigation* techniques, sustainable farming techniques should allow farmers to boost *aggregate* production in order to meet demand.

Still, crop revitalization faces an unexpected adversary: institutional incompetence. Where crop specialists have convinced individual farmers to *abandon* old farming techniques in place of new, they can't readily *obtain* the governmental cooperation they need. The biggest hurdles are political corruption, incompetence, and the absence of a marketing infrastructure.

1. In this passage, the word adversary is closest in meaning to
  - a. friend
  - b. helper
  - c. enemy
  - d. leader
  
2. In the last paragraph, the word they refers to
  - a. crop specialists
  - b. farmers
  - c. farming techniques
  - d. adversaries

## Lesson 1 Food Crops

**TOEFL Prep I** 1. photosynthesis 2. precipitation 3. cultivation  
4. abandoned 5. fertilize

**TOEFL Prep II** 1. c 2. a 3. d 4. b 5. e

**TOEFL Success** 1. c 2. a