

TOPIK

*Self-Study  
Guide*

Test of Proficiency in Korean  
For All Levels

By

TOPIK GUIDE

[www.topikguide.com](http://www.topikguide.com)

Smashwords Edition

Copyright © 2014 Satish Chandra Satyarthi

Smashwords Edition, License Notes

Thank you for downloading this ebook. This book remains the copyrighted property of the author, and may not be redistributed to others for commercial or

non-commercial purposes. If you enjoyed this book, please encourage your friends to download their own copy from their favorite authorized retailer. Thank you for your support.

\*\* This book is a part of [Complete Guide to TOPIK - The Self-Study Package](http://www.topikguide.com/complete-guide-to-topik) which includes 20+ Video Lessons for all 3 levels - Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced as well as 15 Korean Language eBooks and 15+ PDF study materials for TOPIK Preparation and study. You can get more details about package here: <http://www.topikguide.com/complete-guide-to-topik>

## ***Table of Contents***

[Chapter 1. TOPIK Overview](#)

[Chapter 2. New TOPIK Format](#)

[Chapter 3. Guide to TOPIK Reading](#)

[Chapter 4. Guide to TOPIK Listening](#)

[Chapter 5. Guide to TOPIK Writing](#)

[Chapter 6. Guide to TOPIK Essay Writing](#)

[1. TOPIK Essay Evaluation - Beginner Level](#)

[2. TOPIK Essay Evaluation - Intermediate Level](#)

[3. TOPIK Essay Evaluation - Advanced Level](#)

[Chapter 7. TOPIK Grammar & Vocabulary](#)

[Grammar Section Strategies](#)

[How to Improve your Korean Vocabulary](#)

[Chapter 8. Ultimate Strategies for TOPIK Preparation](#)

[Chapter 9. Ultimate TOPIK Test Day Tips](#)

[Chapter 10. TOPIK Instructional Video Content](#)

## ***Chapter 1. TOPIK Overview***

### **WHAT IS TOPIK?**

TOPIK, Test of Proficiency in Korean, is a written test designed to measure the ability of non-native speakers for expression and comprehension in the Korean language.

TOPIK test measures proficiency in reading, writing, and listening comprehension in the Korean language. The test has three different levels: Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced. Further accuracy is expressed through six grades, two matched to each level to evaluate proficiency.

### **PURPOSE OF EXAM**

- To propagate and set direction for learning Korea for non-native Korean speakers and overseas Koreans.
- To measure and evaluate their Korean language skills and utilize the results for in-Korea colleges and job-seeking

### **APPLICANT QUALIFICATION**

Overseas Koreans and foreigners for whom Korean is a second language and who:

- Aim to learn the language and enter in-Korea universities
- Seek jobs in companies and public institutions in Korea and overseas
- Reside overseas or are attending/graduated from a foreign school

### **WHO ADMINISTERS THE TOPIK TEST?**

National Institute for International Education (NIIED), which operates directly under the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, is responsible for the general management of the test, such as supervising institutions administering

the test in domestic and overseas locations.



#### FOR WHOM IS THE TOPIK INTENDED?

This comprehensive test is intended for non-native speakers of Korean, such as Korean language learners, international students who want to study in Korea as well as individuals who would like to work in Korean companies and public institutions.

The test also serves as an excellent opportunity to receive formal certification for those who expect to use Korean in their careers. Students of Korean who take the test will also learn which aspects of the language they need to concentrate on in future study.

#### TOPIK TEST STRUCTURE

TOPIK is divided into four sections:

1. Vocabulary & Grammar
2. Writing
3. Listening
4. Reading.

Each section is graded out of 100 points with a possible total of 400 points for the total exam. The test includes composition, listening and multiple choice sections. The test consists of two 90-minute sessions with a 30-minute break in between. The first session tests vocabulary & grammar, and writing, and the second session tests listening and reading.

There are three different levels: **Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced**. Test takers who meet the requirements will be issued a formal certificate with one of six possible grades: low beginner (level 1), high beginner (level 2), low intermediate (level 3), high intermediate (level 4), low advanced (level 5), and high advanced (level 6).

#### TOPIK PASS AND FAIL SCORES

In order to score grades 1, 3 or 5 you need to get an average score over 50% and not less than 40% in any one section. To achieve grades 2, 4 or 6 you need to get an average score over 70% and not less than 50% in any one section.



Difficulty	Levels	Pass Score	Fail Score
Beginner	Level1	50 or above	Lower than 40
	Level2	Over 70	Lower than 50
Intermediate	Level3	50 or above	Lower than 40
	Level4	Over 70	Lower than 50
Advanced	Level5	50 or above	Lower than 40
	Level6	Over 70	Lower than 50

#### Example of Passing Decision

A testee with a score of 'Vocabulary/Grammar 82points, Writing 48points, Listening 76points, and Reading 80points' would qualify in which level?

- Total Average Score : 71.5points (286 Total ÷ 4 Areas)
- Individual Score (level 1 : lower than 40points, level 2 : lower than 50 points) : Writing 48points
- Qualified Level : Level 1
- The testee scored an average of 71.5points which exceeds the passing score of level 2, but the individual writing score is between 40 and 50, so the testee only qualifies for level 1.

Following is the brief description of the language skills demanded of each grade.

#### [Beginner level]

**1st Grade** Use of basic commands of Korean for survival, such as greeting, purchasing, ordering, etc. Expressing and understanding oneself in simple everyday conversation by making simple sentences from 800 basic words.

**2nd Grade** Discussion of familiar topics employing a vocabulary of about 1,500~2,000 words. Distinguishing correctly between formal and informal situations.

#### [Intermediate level]

**3rd Grade** Carrying out transactions with people in public spaces and maintaining social relationships. Understanding the correct usage of words and speech. Command of fundamental characteristics of Korean.

**4th Grade** Comprehension of news articles, general social issues and abstract topics with accuracy and fluency. Comprehension of Korean social and cultural contents relying on essential idioms and understanding of representative aspects of Korean culture.

#### [Advanced Level]

**5th Grade** High fluency in using the Korean language in professional research or work. Understanding and discussing less unfamiliar topics in politics, economics and other fields. Usage of appropriate expressions, distinguishing formal and informal, written and spoken, by context.

**6th Grade** Absolutely fluent in the Korean language for professional research or work, Capacity to understand and express oneself without problem, although without the full fluency of a native speaker.

#### HOW CAN I REGISTER FOR THE TOPIK TEST?

**In Korea:** If you are in Korea, you can register for the test online on [www.topik.go.kr](http://www.topik.go.kr). The registration fee is KRW40000 which can be paid through debit/credit card, online banking or direct bank transfer.

**In Other Countries:** In most of the countries, the Korean Embassies administer the TOPIK tests. You have to visit the embassy with 2 passport size photographs and a registration fee (which varies country to country).

#### WHEN IS THE TEST CONDUCTED?

TOPIK test is conducted 5 times in a year inside Korea (January, April, July,

October, and November) and twice a year overseas (April and October). In most countries, the beginner and advanced level TOPIK papers are in the morning and the intermediate papers are held in the afternoon. Test is always held on Sundays (in some countries on Saturdays as well).

### HOW IS THE EXAM STRUCTURED?

TOPIK is a 3-hour exam, which is split into two 90-minute papers.

- Paper 1 consists of two sections: vocabulary and grammar and writing
- Paper 2 also contains two sections – Listening and Reading Comprehension

Difficulty	Section	Subject	Entrance	Exam Start	Exam Ends
Beginner and Advanced	1st Section	Vocabulary, Grammar/Writing	09:10	09:30	11:00
	2nd Section	Listening/Reading	11:10	11:30	13:00
Intermediate	1st Section	Vocabulary, Grammar/Writing	14:10	14:30	16:00
	2nd Section	Listening/Reading	16:10	16:30	18:00

All questions are multiple choice except for the writing section in TOPIK (which has some short answer questions and an essay).

### QUESTION COMPOSITION

Section Area	1st section		2nd section		Total 4 Areas
	Vocabulary/Grammar	Writing	Listening	Reading	
Type of questions	Multiple Choice	Written Answers Multiple Choice	Multiple Choice	Multiple Choice	Multiple Choice / Written Answers
Number of Questions	30	4~6 10	30	30	104~106
Score	100	60 40	100	100	400

### IS THERE ANY SPECIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE EXAM?

No. Anyone who is studying or have studied Korean Language can sit in the exam.

### WHAT WILL BE THE VALIDITY PERIOD OF TOPIK SCORE?

TOPIK score is valid for 2 years.

### TEST RESULT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Test results are announced at the TOPIK website ([www.topik.go.kr](http://www.topik.go.kr)) and individual score reports are sent to all test takers regardless of pass or fail.
- When checking through the website, you must know the **test number** (e.g. if you took the 4th test, **4**); **application number and birth date**.
- **Level applied, area-specific score, total score, average score, and pass or fail are declared on score report**

### SCORE REPORT SHIPPING

Score reports are sent out through individual mail to test takers in Korea.

For people who appeared in the test overseas, all score reports are sent to the affiliated institution of that nation, who will be responsible for distributing to each test taker.

Those who took the test overseas can also confirm their score on the website ([www.topik.go.kr](http://www.topik.go.kr)).

#### PRINTING THE SCORE REPORT

- For the purpose of submitting score reports to institutions such as colleges or companies, score reports can be printed out on the website print page any time after paying a minimal fee.

\*\*For more information on the TOPIK test you can visit the official site <http://www.topik.go.kr> or email us on [admin@topikguide.com](mailto:admin@topikguide.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

## Chapter 2. New TOPIK Format

Recently some major changes were introduced in the structure of TOPIK test. A lot of things have been changed from the TOPIK level structure, sections of the test, number and type of questions to pass/fail scores. In this chapter we will be understanding those change and the New Format of TOPIK.

- **The New Changed TOPIK Format will be implemented from the 35th TOPIK, to be held in July, 2014.** It means that if you are going to appear in 34th TOPIK test (in April), you don't need to worry about anything. These test will follow the old format and there will be no change in the paper pattern or anything else.
- **Changes to TOPIK Level Structure:** In the old format, TOPIK had 3 levels – Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced and every level had 2 sub-levels ranging from 1 to 6. Now in the new format, we still have 6 levels but there is a slight change in the structure. Now, **instead of 3 tests we have only 2** which they call **TOPIK I (Level 1-2) [ 한국어능력시험 I (1~2급) ] & TOPIK II (Level 3-6) [ 한국어능력시험 II (3~6급) ]**. **Intermediate and Advanced Test is combined** now.

시험 등급	한국어능력시험 초급(1~2급)	한국어능력시험 I (1~2급)
	한국어능력시험 중급(3~4급)	한국어능력시험 II (3~6급)
	한국어능력시험 고급(5~6급)	

- **Changes to Sections of TOPIK test:** As we know, in the old format the test had 4 sections – Grammar & Vocabulary, Writing, Listening and Reading.



Now they have removed Grammar & Vocabulary, Writing from Level 1 & 2 (i.e. TOPIK I). Now **the beginner levels 1 and 2 have just two sections – Reading and Listening**. In TOPIK II (Level 3-6), which is the new **combined Intermediate-Advanced test**, they have kept **3 sections – Reading, Listening and Writing** and removed Grammar & Vocabulary. So overall, we can say that the new format is more simplified and easier. Good news for all!

• **Changes to Question Composition, Time and Marks:** In the old format we used to have 30 Multiple Choice Questions in Grammar-Vocab, Listening and Reading sections and writing sections had 10 Multiple Choice Questions and 4-6 Short-answer/essay questions. In the new TOPIK structure, TOPIK I (Level 1-2) has a total of 70 Multiple Choice Questions - Reading (40 Questions) and Listening (30 Questions). TOPIK I has a total of 200 marks and the Test Time is 100 Minutes. TOPIK II (Level 3-6) has a total of 104 Questions - Reading (50 Multiple Choice Questions) and listening (50 Multiple Choice Questions) and Writing (4 Short-answer/Essay Questions). TOPIK II has a total of 300 marks and the Test Time is 180 Minutes.

TOPIK-I-(Level-1-2)--70 Questions--Reading-(40),-Listening-(30)α	200-Marks--100-Minutesα
TOPIK-II-(Level-3-6)--104-Ques.-Reading(50),-Listening(50),Writing-(4)α	300-Marks--180-Min.α

• **Changes to Pass-Fail Score Rules:** Currently in the old TOPIK structure, you have to get a minimum score of 40 in all 4 sections to get levels 1, 3 or 5 and a minimum of 50 marks in all sections to get levels 2, 4 or 6. It means that if you get 70 percent marks overall but 39 in one section you get Fail. It's really a good news that now they have abolished this rule. Now they just see your overall score and **you get your level and pass/fail on the basis of total score and marks in individual sections have nothing to do with it.**

• **Change to frequency of TOPIK Test:** Till 2013, TOPIK was held twice a year (April & October) overseas and 4 times a year (January, April, July & October) in Korea. Now **they will hold the test 5 times in a year in Korea** (January, April, July, October & November). Overseas there will be two tests in a year as before.

• **New Changed TOPIK Exam Structure and Test Timing –**



	Section	Questions	Time (Minutes)		Remarks
<b>Beginner(1-2)</b>	Listening	30	40	100	1 <sup>st</sup> Sitting
	Reading	40	60		
<b>Intermediate-Advanced(3-6)</b>	Listening	50	60	110	1 <sup>st</sup> Sitting
	Writing	4	50		
	Reading	50	70	70	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sitting

- **Changes to Writing section in Intermediate-Advanced Level:** Now the writing section has just 4 questions. There are 2 short answer questions where you don't have any options to choose the answer from; you have to write the phrase or sentence. Then you have two essay questions. One essay will be related to everyday life topics and will be easier to write while the other essay will be a logical one where you will have to write your opinion on some issue or something like that. The first essay will be shorter (200-300 characters) and they will provide you some content as well in the form of hints/points. The second essay will be a long one (600-700 characters) and will be almost similar to the essays you are asked in the current format.

- How will they decide the levels? What will be the passing score for different Levels? That is a major change that they have introduced. Now there is no fixed passing score for particular levels (unlike in the old format where we had

passing score criteria of 50% & 70% average score). Now they will disclose the cutoff marks on their website after the test is over and these cutoff marks for different levels may vary every time. It seems like they are planning to introduce the concept of relative evaluation to TOPIK test. They are not very clear and specific about it yet but they have said that probably the minimum passing mark for TOPIK I will be 100 out of 200 and for TOPIK II it will be 120 out of 300. But actual passing cutoff will be disclosed only after the test is over.

- **Any Specific changes to question pattern? Will they get difficult?**

**No.** The Question pattern will be very much the same. It will not get any more difficult.

- **Validity of TOPIK Certificate: 2 years.**

- **Is there any Sample Paper to understand and practice the New TOPIK Format?**

**Yes, there is.** You will find the sample paper (pdf) in this Package. You can also check [The Official TOPIK Notification](#) about these changes.

- **Who should I call if I have any query?**

( ☎ 02-3668-1331 or e-mail: [topik@moe.go.kr](mailto:topik@moe.go.kr)) or you can ask TOPIK GUIDE ([admin@topikguide.com](mailto:admin@topikguide.com)).

### Chapter 3. Guide to TOPIK Reading

The Reading Section measures your ability to read and understand diverse types of texts (passages) in Korean. Reading is a critical skill in both academic and commercial environments. Whether you work with a Korean company or study at a Korean university you will have to read a lot and comprehend the information presented in their textbooks or other reading materials. Three main types of reading skills that TOPIK tests are:

1. Reading to find information
2. Basic comprehension
3. Reading to learn

The Reading Section in TOPIK has short texts, pictures and paragraphs where you have to find certain information. Towards the end of the paper paragraphs get longer and the topic and content of the text get difficult and less interesting. So, most of the test takers start losing concentration and interest after 70% of the paper. Most people also find the time not enough to finish all the question. What generally happens is people read the texts in the beginning part very carefully and spend more time on them than they should and in the later part when they find longer and more difficult paragraphs and less time to solve them they lose hope. Some people get so hopeless that even when they have 5-10 minutes in hand they just give up and mark random answers for remaining questions. Therefore, you must be not only good at reading but also very fast. To the end of this document we will provide some important guidelines on how to prepare for the TOPIK Reading and how to handle the reading test in order to improve your final score.

The main types of questions in the TOPIK reading section are following. To understand them better you should watch the video instructions.

1. Read the text/notice/advertisement/other information and find the topic/subject of the text

영수 씨는 노래를 좋아합니다. 그래서 노래를 자주 부릅니다.

- ① 시간      ② 친구      ③ 직업      ④ 취미

8월 15일 전국 개봉

“엄마는 어디에”

아무리 걸어도 대답 없는 엄마의 전화 잃어버린 엄마를 통해서 알게 되는 사랑 이야기

- ① 책      ② 영화      ③ 전화      ④ 연극

2. Fill in the blanks with correct particle/noun/adjective/verb etc.

방이 (      ). 그래서 창문을 열었습니다.

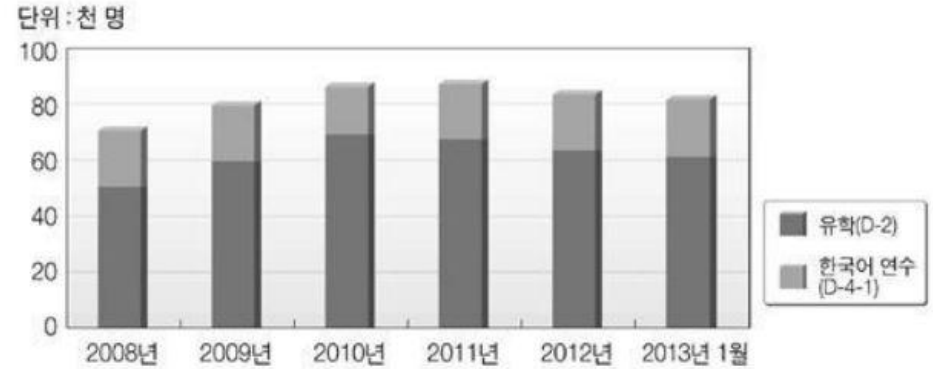
- ① 좋습니다      ② 밝습니다      ③ 넓습니다      ④ 덥습니다

3. Read the text/notice/chart/instruction/event information etc. and find the true/false statement

상가 안내도	
3F	코리아 극장
2F	조아 서점
1F	행복 은행
B1	주차장

- ① 일 층에서 편지를 보낼 수 있습니다.
- ② 자동차는 지하 일 층으로 들어갑니다.
- ③ 사람들은 영화를 보러 삼 층에 갑니다.
- ④ 책을 사고 싶으면 이 층으로 가야 합니다.

연도별 외국인 학생 수 변화 추이



- ① 외국인 학생 수는 이미 10만 명을 넘어섰다.
- ② 2010년에 비해 2013년에 외국인 학생 수가 늘어났다.
- ③ 2012년에는 전년에 비해 외국인 학생 수가 감소하였다.
- ④ 해마다 한국어연수생 수가 유학생 수보다 훨씬 많다.

4. Fill in the blank space in the text with the most appropriate word/phrase/sentence.



텔레비전을 좋아하는 아이들은 집에서 책을 잘 읽지 않습니다. 그래서 어떤 부모들은 거실에 텔레비전 대신 책상과 책장을 놓습니다. 그리고 시간이 있을 때마다 거기에서 함께 책을 읽습니다. 그러면 ( ) 아이들도 책을 읽습니다.

( )에 알맞은 말을 고르십시오. (2점)

- ① 부모를 따라서                      ② 밥을 먹지 않고
- ③ 친구들과 놀지 않고                ④ 텔레비전을 보면서

디지털 기계 덕분에 우리의 생활은 전보다 많이 편해졌다. 모르는 것이 있어도 컴퓨터에서 바로 찾아 볼 수 있고 힘들게 전화번호를 외울 필요도 없다. ( ) 디지털 기계사용이 지나치게 늘어나면서 뇌를 사용하지 않는 부작용도 생겼다. 뇌를 자주 사용하지 않으면 기억력이나 계산 능력이 점점 떨어지게 된다. 마치 높은 건물을 오를 때 계단 대신 엘리베이터를 이용하기 때문에 다리가 약해지는 것과 같다.

( )에 들어갈 알맞은 것을 고르십시오.

- ① 하필                      ② 사실                      ③ 반면                      ④ 마침

5. Put the sentence in the most appropriate order so that they make a meaningful and coherent paragraph

(가) 저는 등산을 좋아해서 주말마다 산에 갑니다.  
 (나) 하지만 겨울에는 눈이 많이 와서 산길이 위험합니다.  
 (다) 등산 지도도 볼 수 있어서 산에 올라갈 때 아주 편합니다.  
 (라) 그런데 요즘은 휴대전화로 안전한 산길을 안내 받을 수 있습니다.

- ① (가)-(나)-(다)-(라)                ② (가)-(나)-(라)-(다)
- ③ (가)-(다)-(라)-(나)                ④ (가)-(라)-(나)-(다)

(가) 그런데 오늘날에는 사막을 건널 때 자동차와 비행기를 타기도 한다.  
 (나) 낙타는 모래바람이 불고 물이 적은 사막에서 잘 적응한 동물이다.  
 (다) 이러한 사람들을 대상이라고 부른다.  
 (라) 그래서 옛날에는 사람들이 낙타에 짐을 싣고 사막을 건너 장사를 하러 다녔다.

- ① (다)-(나)-(가)-(라)                ② (나)-(다)-(라)-(가)
- ③ (다)-(라)-(나)-(가)                ④ (나)-(라)-(다)-(가)

6. Find the most appropriate position in the text where the given word/phrase/sentence will fit in

지난 주말에 우리 가족은 강릉으로 여행을 갔습니다. (㉠) 강릉에서 바다 관광 기차를 탔습니다. (㉡) 그 기차는 의자의 방향이 다른 기차와 달랐습니다. (㉢) 그리고 창문이 다른 기차보다 더 크고 넓었습니다. (㉣) 그래서 아름다운 동해 바다의 경치를 잘 구경할 수 있었습니다.

다음 문장이 들어갈 곳을 고르십시오. (2점)

의자에 앉으면 창문 밖을 편하게 볼 수 있었습니다.

- ① ㉠                      ② ㉡                      ③ ㉢                      ④ ㉣

폭우가 쏟아지면 모기는 25초에 한 번꼴로 빗방울을 맞는다. (㉠) 이때 모기는 빗방울에 떨어지면서 중력 가속도의 100배에서 300배나 되는 큰 충격을 받게 된다. (㉡) 하지만 모기는 무게가 매우 가벼워 공기에 대한 저항력이 거의 없기 때문에 아무런 외상도 입지 않는다. (㉢) 공중에 떠 있는 풍선을 손으로 아무리 쳐도 터지지 않는 것과 유사한 원리이다. (㉣)

— <보 기> —

무게로 따지면 사람을 뺀 자동차와 거의 다른 없는 것이다.

- ① ㉠                      ② ㉡                      ③ ㉢                      ④ ㉣

7. Read the News headline and choose a sentence that describes it the best (Intermediate-Advanced)

인터넷 만화 전성시대, 영화 제작마다 '대성공'

- ① 영화로 제작된 인터넷 만화들은 영화보다 더 큰 인기를 끌고 있다.
- ② 영화 회사마다 인기가 많은 인터넷 만화를 영화로 제작하려 준비 중이다.
- ③ 인기가 많은 인터넷 만화들이 영화로 제작될 때마다 크게 호응을 얻고 있다.
- ④ 인터넷 만화를 좋아하는 사람들은 그것이 영화로 제작될 때마다 꼭 보러 간다.

#### READING SECTION PREPARATION STRATEGIES

1. Read, Read, Read. Read Korean texts a lot. Read paragraphs from Korean

language textbooks, short passages about Korean culture and general topics and also practice with the reading section of past papers.

2. Find the purpose of the passage. Knowing the purpose of the reading you may easily find what the writer is trying to accomplish. Most of the passages in TOPIK will try to do the following:

- To Explain - to present the information on a specific topic in explanatory manner. These texts contain mostly factual information.
- To Resolve - it aims at finding solution for some sort of dilemmas or questions that need answers. Usually there would be a debate.
- To convince - to persuade the reader of the validity of certain viewpoint or idea. There would be opinions and support with evidence in those type of passages.

3. Increase vocabulary. When reading wide variety of texts on different subjects you should make a word list. Organize your list in topics for better results. Make flash-cards to help you learn those word lists. Use the words learned in your writings and speaking.

4. Take notes. During all sections of TOPIK note taking is allowed. It is a crucial component for success. It is difficult to remember all facts and details from a reading text in order to answer the questions. You also don't have enough time to search for those again in the text. So, the solution is called note taking. When skimming and reading the texts you should write down all important facts and details in order to find them fast and easily when you need them.

5. Learn how to skim the text. Skimming means reading the text quickly to obtain very first general impression on what the text is about, what its main idea is.

Skimming corresponds with Reading to find information objective in TOPIK. You should develop your ability to skim quickly but at the same time to identify all major points in the passage. Take notes.

6. Read after skimming. A good strategy is to skim the text one, then read the question and answer options and then to read the passage again. This time read it more carefully, but don't forget that you have limited time. Take notes. Identify the passage type - classification, cause/effect, compare/contrast, problem/solution, etc.

7. Try to guess the meaning of unfamiliar words in the passages, the context can help to do that. Guessing the words from the context brings great advantages - you save time and it doesn't disturb your comprehension of the texts.

8. Practice making general inferences and conclusions based on what is implied in the text.

9. Read the options before seeing the chart In TOPIK reading section, some questions have charts and tables. You are asked questions based on the data presented in them. If you see the chart without knowing what is being ask, the data will not make any sense. And there is so much data in the chart that you can't handle it in that short time. So read the options one by one and check if that statement is correct or not according to chart.

\*\*\*\*\*



## Chapter 4. Guide to TOPIK Listening

The Listening section of TOPIK measures your ability to understand spoken Korean in various situations. Listening is the most difficult section of TOPIK for some people, especially for those who are learning Korean outside Korea and don't have the opportunity to listen to natural Korean. The listening is done mainly for 3 major purposes:

1. Listening for basic comprehension.
2. Listening for pragmatic understanding.
3. To connect and combine ideas presented in multiple information sources.

The conversations and dialogues may be related to day to day situations; like – conversation between friends/ strangers, conversation in shops, classroom, hospital etc. or news, lecture, talk, debate, announcement, interview. Following are the most common type of questions. To understand them better you should watch the video instructions.

1. Asking for information given in the conversation (like finding true or false statement).

여자: 안녕하세요. 여기서 자전거 빌릴 수 있죠?

남자: 네. 어떤 자전거를 빌려 드릴까요?

여자: 어린이 자전거 한 대랑 어른 자전거 한 대를 빌리려고 하는데요. 한 시간에 얼마예요?

남자: 어른용은 한 시간에 팔천 원이고 어린이용은 한 시간에 삼천 원이에요. 다 타시고 여기로 오셔서 돌려주시면 됩니다.

- ① 남자는 자전거를 사러 왔습니다.
- ② 남자는 자전거를 돌려주고 있습니다.
- ③ 여자는 한 시간 동안 자전거를 탈 겁니다.
- ④ 여자는 어른용 자전거를 두 대 빌렸습니다.

2. Asking for the expression (the most appropriate response) that would come next in the conversation.

가: 맛있게 드세요.

나: \_\_\_\_\_

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| ① 좋겠습니다.   | ② 모르겠습니다.  |
| ③ 잘 지냈습니다. | ④ 잘 먹겠습니다. |

남자: 이제 거의 정리가 된 것 같다.

여자: 많이 힘들었지? 너무 고마워. 아마 나 혼자 이 많은 짐을 정리하려면 며칠은 걸렸을 거야.

남자: \_\_\_\_\_

- ① 난 언제든지 괜찮아. 도와줄게.
- ② 바쁘면 못 도와줄 수도 있지. 뭐.
- ③ 미안해. 바빠서 못 도와줄 것 같아.
- ④ 고맙기는. 친구 사이에 서로 도와야지.

3. Finding the topic/subject/context/place of the conversation.

가: 누구예요?

나: 이 사람은 형이고, 이 사람은 동생이에요.

- ① 가족            ② 이름            ③ 고향            ④ 소포

남자 : (딩동댕) 지금부터 1부 공연에 이어 2부 공연을 시작하겠습니다. 밖에 계신 관객 여러분께서는 들어오셔서 자리에 앉아 주시기 바랍니다. 계속해서 공연이 끝날 때까지 휴대 전화는 꺼 주시고, 공연 중에는 사진을 찍지 마시기 바랍니다. 감사합니다.

25. 어떤 이야기를 하고 있는지 고르십시오.

- ① 감사            ② 초대            ③ 부탁            ④ 인사

4. Asking what the Man/Woman is thinking/doing/will do now. The conversations are generally between a boy and a girl and you have to be very careful about who is saying what.

여자: 실례합니다. 서울역에 가려고 하는데 몇 번 버스를 타야 돼요?

남자: 버스보다 지하철이 더 빨라요. 저쪽에서 지하철 1호선을 타세요.

여자: 네, 감사합니다.

- ① 남자는 여자를 기다리고 있습니다.
- ② 남자는 지하철역을 물어보고 있습니다.
- ③ 여자는 서울역에 가는 버스를 탔습니다.
- ④ 여자는 지금 서울역에 가고 싶어합니다.

여자: 조셉 씨, 조금 전에 선생님께 한 손으로 공책을 드렸지요?

남자: 네. 그런데 왜요?

여자: 한국에서는 어른들께 물건을 드릴 때 꼭 두 손으로 드려야 해요.

남자: 그렇군요. 몰랐어요. 다음에는 꼭 두 손으로 드릴게요.

- ① 여자는 선생님께 공책을 받았습니다.
- ② 여자는 한 손으로 물건을 받았습니다.
- ③ 남자는 두 손으로 공책을 드렸습니다.
- ④ 남자는 한국 예절을 잘 알지 못합니다.

What will the girl do right after the following conversation?

남자: 어서 와. 집 찾기는 힘들지 않았어?

여자: 아니. 지하철역에서 가까워서 찾기 쉬웠어. 이렇게 많은 음식을 혼자 준비하려면 바빴겠다. 내가 뭐 도와줄 일 없어?

남자: 괜찮아. 거의 준비 끝났어. 근데 음식 냄새가 좀 나지 않아? 창문 좀 열까?

여자: 알았어. 환기 좀 시킬게.

- ① 창문을 연다.
- ② 상을 차린다.
- ③ 음식을 준비한다.
- ④ 친구를 도와준다.

5. Choosing the correct picture that describes the situation/context/location of the conversation.

남자: 이 꽃병은 어디에 놓을까요?

여자: 저쪽 텔레비전 옆에 놓으세요.





남자: 오랜만이다. 그 동안 잘 지냈어?

여자: 응. 우리 졸업하고 나서 처음 보는 거지? 반갑다. 근데 다른 친구들은 아직 안 왔어?

남자: 응. 우리가 제일 먼저 온 것 같아. 다들 금방 올 테니까 여기 같이 앉아서 기다리자.



6. Finding the opinion/central idea of what the man/woman is saying.

여자: 요즘은 회사일 끝나고 자기계발을 위해 공부하는 직장인이 많아진 것 같아요.

남자: 그렇죠. 퇴근 후의 시간을 얼마나 잘 활용하느냐에 따라 미래가 달라질 수 있으니까요.

여자: 하지만 퇴근 후에 또 다른 공부는 휴식 시간을 빼앗는 거라고도 할 수 있지 않아요? 요즘 직장인들은 회사일도 하고 퇴근 후에는 학원에 다니고 너무 피곤한 하루하루를 보내는 것 같아요.

남자: 저 같은 경우에는 오히려 퇴근 후 무슨 일을 하면서 바쁘게 지낼 때가 아무 것도 안할 때보다 시간이 더 많다고 느껴요. 피곤하다고 집에만 누워 있다 보면 시간이 정말 빨리 가는 것처럼 느껴지거든요.

남자의 중심 생각으로 맞는 것을 고르십시오.

- ① 요즘 직장인들의 생활은 너무 피곤하다.
- ② 퇴근 후에는 충분한 휴식을 갖는 것이 좋다.
- ③ 퇴근 후의 시간을 계획성 있게 보내야 한다.
- ④ 바쁜 생활로 시간이 너무 빨리 가는 것 같다.

#### LISTENING SECTION STRATEGIES

Listen to spoken Korean from multiple sources as much as possible. Listen to Korean movies, drama, TV channels, radio and as many other listening sources as you may find. If you have a native Korean friend converse with him/her in Korean about day to day topics. The more you practice listening, the better listener you will become.

Listen for the main idea. It is usually found at the beginning of the listening passages, while the details are dispersed throughout the dialogue. The main idea will give you understanding of what the conversation is about. Then you may listen for details.

Learn to find how the ideas are presented in the listening passage. Some of the main relations between ideas include cause/effect, compare/contrast, and steps in a process.

Learn to listen for signal/hint words that indicate different part of the passage - introduction, major steps, examples, conclusions, etc.

Build your vocabulary. While listening, try to guess the meaning of unfamiliar words from context. It is very important since there is a big chance to come across words you don't know at the real test. Then, you should guess their meaning.

Practice note-taking. Note-taking is allowed during all sections of TOPIK. Effective note-taking may highly improve your performance. It is almost impossible to memorize all clues and details provided in the Listening section. Therefore, to answer the questions you have to rely on what you remember from the passage and your notes.

Summarize in writing what you have heard, using your notes. Thus, you will learn to find the purpose and main idea of the listening, and also the most important details. Learning to take and use notes will also help in improving your writing skills.

Familiarize yourself with the type of questions in TOPIK. Make sure that during the preparation you learn what answers are required by the different types of question. If you are familiar with the question types, you may save important time.

#### AT THE EXAM STRATEGIES

Forget about previous sections. Do not think about how you did in the other section and how you could have done better. Now it is time to fully concentrate on the Listening section.

The clock is ticking only when you are answering the questions and not when you are listening to the passages. So, when you listen, forget about the clock.

Do not be distracted by the speaker's accent, speaking style and delivery. Focus on the content and flow of information the speaker(s) deliver.

Listen to find clues that will help you understand what the speaker's purpose, attitude and degree of certainty is. Listen for words that show relationship between ideas.

Try to understand the overall context and meaning of the conversation. Do not attempt to understand every single word and grammar pattern.

In the later part of the listening section, two questions are based on one conversation. Many test takers forget that and keep waiting for the next audio after answering just one question. So be careful about that.

Take a guess. There is no penalty for an incorrect answer in TOPIK. It doesn't bring any points. If you see you are running out of time, just take a guess and mark answers for all remaining questions. There is 25 % chance to guess the right answer.

\*\*\*\*\*



## Chapter 5. Guide to TOPIK Writing

Writing section is one of the most important component in TOPIK. It measures your ability to write in standard Korean. From the July test they have removed writing section from Beginner level but it will still be there in the Intermediate-Advanced level. The April test will have writing section in all three levels. There are 3 types of questions in TOPIK Writing section –

1. Multiple type questions (This type of questions will not be there from July test) – In these questions you are asked to select correct/incorrect phrase/sentence from the four options.
2. Short Answer questions – In these questions you don't have any options to choose the answer from. You have tasks like writing the phrase/sentence that fits in the blank space appropriately, connecting the given phrases to make a meaningful sentence have to make sentence etc.
3. Essay Writing task - Within the Essay Writing task you are asked to write an essay on a given general question. The purpose of this Writing task is to measure your ability to state your opinions or express your comments on topics which are based on your personal knowledge and experience. You should also support your ideas and opinions with examples or details.

### WRITING PREPARATION STRATEGIES

Build your vocabulary systematically. Develop a wordlist with new words and devote time to learning these words, try to include them in your speaking and writing practice systematically.

When you practice writing try to use a wide range of vocabulary and grammatical

structures. Do not fear to use new words and grammar patterns. That is a way to learn them and use them appropriately. Using rich vocabulary and variety of grammar is looked upon favorably by the raters.

Learn the essay structure very well and follow this structure closely in your practice and in your real exam. The essay is comprised of three components: Introduction, body and conclusion. Each component has its important features.

Practice organizing your writing. Before starting your written response allow 2-3 minutes to make an outline of your essay. Do not worry that the time is running, a good outline will save you lots of troubles and time while writing. The essay outline should include the major ideas for the paragraphs in 2-3 main phrases per paragraph, as well as some examples and supporting details. Do not write complete sentences, but some words and phrases that may help you follow that outline and add additional information to develop a well-organized and coherent essay.

Learn to use transition (linking) words to switch between different ideas, add information, provide examples, compare points, etc. Such words are: furthermore, in addition, for example, for instance, on the other hand, to sum up, first, second, etc.

Be time effective. At the beginning of your practice you may not comply with the time for the particular writing task. However, each other time you write, try to get closer to the time requirement for this task.

Monitor your own progress. Ask your tutor to evaluate your writings in accordance with the appropriate TOPIK Writing Rubrics. For best accuracy, take TOPIK GUIDE writing classes by professional TOPIK Teachers. You will be provided with



accurate and constructive feedback with guidelines on how to improve your writing and how to continue your TOPIK preparation.

For the independent writing task you will have to write on familiar topics. Make a list with familiar topics and practice writing on each of them. Do not forget the essay structure. Make an outline and follow it closely. State your opinion or preference and support it with examples and details.

#### AT THE EXAM STRATEGIES

Do not forget to allot some time before you start your response to organize your writing - the outline. It will save you time and trouble. Follow it closely.

Pay attention to the time. Do not forget that you have limited time for both tasks. If you have a minute left, do not move to the next section. Make a quick review on what you have done. You may find errors and correct them.

Do not extend your writing well above 300 words for the independent task. For the integrated task it is important that you write between 150 and 225 words.

Use appropriate signal and linking words to switch between ideas, to add information, etc. That helps the reader to follow your writing easily.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Chapter 6. Guide to TOPIK Essay Writing**

Most of the questions in TOPIK are multiple choice and objective type where there is, clearly, only one correct answer. They don't even need a human to check if the answers are right or wrong. Mostly OMR recognition software do the job. The difficult part for the test takers is answering the subjective type questions. In these questions there is no 'one correct answer'. Different persons can give different answers and they all may be correct. Sometimes it is difficult to even say whether the answer is right or wrong because it may be partially right and partially wrong.

This type of questions generally appear in the Writing section of TOPIK. And believe me, these are not difficult only for you. Evaluating this type of questions is a difficult task for Examiners as well. As these questions are evaluated by real examiners and not the machines, there are high chances of variation in evaluation process depending upon the personality and mental status of the evaluator. And that's why it confuses the test takers on what and how to write when answering such questions so that it looks correct to the evaluator. Particularly, the Essay writing part is the most difficult of these subjective questions.

Most of the test takers have very little idea about what and how exactly the examiners expect them to write in the essay. Do they want to check your grammar, vocabulary or spelling? Do they want to test your writing skills, like - how beautifully and logically you put your thoughts? Will using difficult words and complex sentences get you more marks? Does your handwriting have any impact on your score? There are many such questions that confuse the test takers, especially when they appear in the test for the first time. Many people find themselves in a very

difficult situation when the topic of the essay is related to Korea. There are many people who think writing anything wrong about Korea or Koreans will fetch them poor marks. In this chapter, we will try to answer all these questions about TOPIK essay section.

NIIED, the organization that conducts the TOPIK test, has a fixed 'model guideline' for the evaluation and marking of the essay section of TOPIK. In this chapter, we will explain that evaluation model. Here, we have taken the essay question of 25th TOPIK test (Q. No. 46) as an example and we will explain the evaluation system by giving detailed marking pattern of three model essays for all three levels- Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced.

Following is the model guideline that all the TOPIK evaluators have to follow, according to NIIED:-

Division	Basis of Marking		Marking Division		
			High	Mid	Low
Content and Task Completion (9 Marks)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has S/he understood the given task?</li> <li>2. Does the essay content have all the points asked?</li> <li>3. Is the essay content coherent?</li> </ol>		9-7	6-4	3-1
Essay Development & Structure (6 Marks)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is the essay development natural/smooth?</li> <li>2. Is the beginning and end proper?</li> <li>3. Are the sentences structured in a proper and natural way?</li> </ol>		9-7	6-4	3-1
Language Use (15 Marks)	Vocabulary (6 Marks)	Has S/he used beginner level vocabulary correctly?	9-7	6-4	3-1
	Grammar (6 Marks)	Has S/he written grammatically correct sentences?	9-7	6-4	3-1
	Spelling (3 Marks)	Are spelling, spacing etc correct?	9-7	6-4	3-1
<b>Total Marks</b>					

I think all the points are pretty clear. Still I will try to explain a little more. In the first part they expect 3 things from you;

First, you have to understand what exactly they are asking you to write. It seems quite obvious but many people do a mistake here. They just read the first line and



think they have got the question and start writing. Sometimes we don't know certain words in the question and just try to guess the topic. That's better than not writing at all but reading the question a few times always makes your answer better. Second, always make an outline of what you will be writing. Where you have a choice to choose the subject of your essay always choose one that you know enough about and avoid essay topics that may need difficult grammar and vocabulary to write about. Think in advance which words and grammar patterns you will need to write about that TOPIK. For example, let's see the essay question of 25<sup>th</sup> TOPIK:

**Q46. 다음을 읽고 150 ~ 300자로 글을 쓰십시오. (30점)**

여러분은 누구를 만나고 싶습니까? 그 사람을 왜 만나고 싶습니까? 그 사람을 만나서 무엇을 하고 싶습니까? 여러분이 만나고 싶은 사람에 대해 쓰십시오.

Here, you have to write about 'Someone you want to meet'. You can definitely write that 'I want to meet some nuclear scientist from my country' or 'I want to meet Jesus Christ' but these topics would most probably demand difficult vocabulary and grammar patterns that you might not know. So it's always better to choose something simple like 'I want to meet an old friend/ my girlfriend/ my grandma'. You know a lot about these people and it would not be difficult to write 10 simple sentences about them.

Thirdly, if you read the question properly you will find that they always ask the question in 2 or more parts and they want you to write something about all those

points in your essay; even a single sentence will do. For example, in this question they ask you- 1) who is the person you want to meet? 2) Why do you want to meet him/her? 3) What do you want to do when you meet him/her? It's very easy to forget one or more points when writing. So, always cross check whether you have included all of them or not. You don't need to equally cover all of them. You may answer any two points in just one or two sentences each and write the rest of the essay about the other one point.

You must already be knowing the importance of coherence in a writing. Just try to keep all your sentences connected and relevant, don't jump to a new topic suddenly. Make the transition between sentences and paragraphs smooth.

In the second part (Essay Development and Structure) they see whether the essay, as a whole, looks natural or not. Here, the thing we want to emphasize is 'Focus on the beginning and closing of the essay'. Many a times, we are short of time and we have to leave the essay in the middle; abruptly. That's not a good practice and can cost you some good marks. When you know you don't have time to write more, instead of elaborating and giving details just write one or two finishing sentences and stop. Those 1-2 sentences can get you 3-4 or more marks. For example a simple and good finishing sentence for this essay may be like:

그 친구(or whoever)를 빨리 만날 수 있었으면 좋겠다. or 그 사람을 정말 보고 싶다. or 내가 좋아하는 그 사람 만날 수 있을까?

Another important thing is - Don't try to make your sentences too complex by putting a number of grammar sentences. Most of language learners think long



sentences with many grammar patterns and difficult words will put a good impression on the examiner. But most of the times it's just opposite. Small and simple sentences are natural and pleasant to read. For example:

제가 만나고 싶은 사람이 제 할머니입니다. 할머니를 만난 지 정말 오래 됐습니다. 그래서 보고 싶습니다. **is much better than** 제가 만나고 싶은 사람이 제 할머니이고 할머니를 만난 지 정말 오래 돼서 보고 싶습니다.

In the third part, they check your real Korean language ability - the use of grammar, vocabulary etc. Here again, don't think difficult words and grammar mean more marks. The evaluation of TOPIK papers is not relative. So it does not influence your marks if someone else has written a really great essay with native Korean level grammar and words. If you have written a good essay with proper use of beginner level vocabulary and grammar, you can get full 30 marks. But yes, the sentences should not be **unnaturally simple and short**. For example:

제 친구는 A입니다. A는 미국에 삽니다. 저는 A를 만나고 싶습니다. A가 좋은 사람입니다. 같이 영화 보고 싶습니다.

This type of unnaturally simple writing will probably not get you 30 marks even if it has no mistakes.

## 1. TOPIK Essay Evaluation - Beginner Level

In [the previous](#) chapter, we looked at the evaluation system of TOPIK essay section. Now it's time to understand it with real examples. We will start with the Beginner Level. Here we have the essay question from beginner level of 25th TOPIK and three model essays which were written by three different students. In this chapter, we will see how the examiners evaluated and graded those papers. Analyze the evaluation charts properly and try to find why one essay got more marks than others. It will help you score better in TOPIK essay section.

Here is the essay question that came in beginner level of 25th TOPIK:

Q46. 다음을 읽고 150~300자로 글을 쓰십시오. (30점)

여러분은 누구를 만나고 싶습니까? 그 사람을 왜 만나고 싶습니까? 그 사람을 만나서 무엇을 하고 싶습니까? 여러분이 만나고 싶은 사람에 대해 쓰십시오.

BELOW IS THE FIRST MODEL ESSAY:

제 제일 친한 친구가 지금 미국에 살고 있어서 일년쯤 못 만났습니다. 그 친구하고 자주 인터넷으로 이야기하는데, 꼭꼭 만나고 싶습니다. 그 친구는 크리스티나라고 합니다. 크리스티나하고 아무거나 할 수 있으니까 보고 싶습니다. 그녀를 한국에서 만나서 같이 이야기하고 쇼핑하고 한국 음식을 먹고 유명한 관광지까지 가고 싶습니다. 그 친구는 전에 일본에 저를 만나러 가서 저와 함께 즐거운 보냈는데, 이번에는 한국의 문화하고 특별한 것을 소개하고 싶습니다. 유명한 사람을 만나는 것 보다 제일 친한 친구를 만나면 아주 좋겠습니다.

And here is how the TOPIK examiners evaluated it:

Division	Basis of Marking	Marking Division		
		High	Mid	Low
Content and Task Completion (9 Marks)		9-7	6-4	3-1
		<b>9</b>		
Essay Development & Structure (6 Marks)		6-5	4-3	2-1
		<b>5</b>		
Language Use (15 Marks)	Vocabulary (6 Marks)	6-5	4-3	2-1
		<b>6</b>		
	Grammar (6 Marks)	6-5	4-3	2-1
		<b>5</b>		
	Spelling (3 Marks)	3	2	1
			<b>2</b>	
Total Marks	<b>27 Marks</b>			

SECOND MODEL ESSAY

저는 제 제일 좋아하는 친구 만나고 싶습니다. 그 친구 이름은 카타라고 합니다. 러시아에서 우리 항상 같이 있었습니다. 저는 카타에게 비밀들을 다 말했습니다. 카타가 제 비밀들은 절 지킵니다. 그리고 우리 같은 귀미 많습니다. 지금 카타가 오므스크에서 살고있습니다. 우리 만날수 없어서 저는 많이 그립습니다. 하지만 우리 지금 만나면 저는 너무 행복해집니다. 우리가 맛있는 자를 마실집니다. 이야기 더 오래동안 할집니다. 그리고 그 다음에 영화관에 갈집니다. 재미있는 영화 볼집니다. 저는 제 친구 너무 보고 싶어서 빨리 러시아에 가거 싶습니다.

And here is how the TOPIK examiners evaluated it:

Division	Basis of Marking	Marking Division		
		High	Mid	Low
Content and Task Completion (9 Marks)		9-7	6-4	3-1
		<b>7</b>		
Essay Development & Structure (6 Marks)		6-5	4-3	2-1
			<b>4</b>	
Language Use (15 Marks)	Vocabulary (6 Marks)	6-5	4-3	2-1
			<b>4</b>	
	Grammar (6 Marks)	6-5	4-3	2-1
			<b>3</b>	
	Spelling (3 Marks)	3	2	1
				<b>1</b>
Total Marks	<b>19 Marks</b>			

THIRD MODEL ESSAY:



저는 프랑스 사람입니다. 체 워미 축구입니다. 그래서 저는 치네디느 치 다느 만나고 싶어요. 이 사람이 세계에서 진짜 유명해요. 마드리드하고 프 랑스 축구팀 축구를 했어요. 이 사람이 만나면 만이 하기가고 싶어요. 그리 고 이 사람한테 축구를 배우고 싶어요. 나중에 아마 저는도 유명 축구사람 됩니다. 만나면 아주 좋아합니다! 우리 집에 초대할고예요. 우리 아버지께 서도 정말 좋아요.

And here is how the TOPIK examiners evaluated it:

Division	Basis of Marking	Marking Division		
		High	Mid	Low
Content and Task Completion (9 Marks)		9-7	6-4	3-1
			4	
Essay Development & Structure (6 Marks)		6-5	4-3	2-1
			3	
Language Use (15 Marks)	Vocabulary (6 Marks)	6-5	4-3	2-1
				2
	Grammar (6 Marks)	6-5	4-3	2-1
				2
	Spelling (3 Marks)	3	2	1
				1
Total Marks	<b>12 Marks</b>			

## 2. TOPIK Essay Evaluation - Intermediate Level

In this chapter, we have 3 sample INTERMEDIATE level ( **중급** ) essays and we will see how they are evaluated and marked by examiners. Analyze the evaluation charts properly and try to find why one essay got more marks than the other two. It will help you make your TOPIK essay better and get a better score.

Here is the essay question that came in the Intermediate level of 25th TOPIK:

### ※ [45] 다음을 읽고 400 ~ 600자로 글을 쓰십시오. (30점)

45. 여러분은 어떤 집에서 살고 싶습니까? 그 이유는 무엇입니까? '내가 살고 싶은 집'이라는 제목으로 글을 쓰십시오. 단, 아래에 제시한 내용이 모두 포함되어야 합니다.

살고 싶은 집은 어떤 집인가?  
왜 그런 집에서 살고 싶은가?

And below is the first model essay:

## 제25회 한국어능력시험 (중급) 작문형 주관식 채점 예시

학생답안	<p>내가 살고 싶은 집은 나의 나이와 임급에 맞는 작은 주택이다. 청소하기가 힘들 정도의 방은 필요없고 가족과 편안하게 잘 만한 방이 있으면 좋다. 그리고 집은 나무나 흙이 많이 쓰이고 지었으면 좋겠고 작은 마당도 있어야 한다.</p> <p>나는 아주 비싸고 큰 집은 필요없다고 생각한다. 돈도 없는데 큰 집을 사는 것보다 작은 집이라도 예쁘게 잘 꾸며주면 충분히 살 만한 집이 되기 때문이다. 또 나무나 흙으로 만들어진 집은 맑은 공기를 내줄 뿐만 아니라 사는 사람의 마음을 편하게 해주는 역할도 하기 때문에 필수조건이다. 사람의 삶에 꼭 필요한 건강을 지키고 현대의 사회생활에 지쳤을 때 편하게 쉴 수 있는 그런 집에 살고 싶다. 그리고 마당도 나에게 빼면 안 되는 조건이다. 나는 강아지와 꽃을 아주 좋아한다. 마당이 있으면 강아지와 마음껏 놀 수 있고 꽃이나 과일을 키우는 즐거움도 느낄 수 있다.</p> <p>집은 마음과 몸을 편하게 하는 중요한 곳이니 내가 원하는 조건을 가진 곳에 꼭 살고 싶다. 집을 짓는 것은 쉬운 일이 아니겠지만 앞으로 열심히 일해서 나만의 집을 지어야겠다는 생각이 들었다.</p>				
	구분	채점 근거	점수 구분		
내용 및 과제 수행 (9점)	1) 글의 주제에 맞게 글을 완성하였는가? 2) 제시된 내용을 모두 포함하고 있는가? 3) 내용을 풍부하고 다양하게 표현하였는가?	상	중	하	
		9-6점	5-3점	2-1점	
글의 전개 구조 (6점)	1) 글의 시작과 마무리를 적절하게 구성하였는가? 2) 내용의 전환에 따라 문단을 적절히 구성하였는가? 3) 각 문단의 분량을 적절히 배분하였는가? 4) 단락 간의 연결이 긴밀하며 자연스러운가?	6-5점	4-3점	2-1점	
		5점			
언어 사용 (12점)	어휘 (4점)	중급 수준의 어휘를 다양하고 적절하게 사용하고 있는가?	4점	3-2점	1점
	문법 (5점)	문법적으로 올바른 문장으로 글을 구성하였는가?	5-4점	3-2점	1점
		맞춤법 (3점)	맞춤법, 띄어쓰기 등이 어법에 맞는가?	5점	
사회언어학적 기능 (3점)	구어적 특징이 드러나는 어휘나 문법 표현(구어체 종결어미, 구어 어휘, 조사 생략, 단문 나열)들을 사용하지 않고 문어에 적절한 어휘나 문법 표현들을 구사하였는가?	3점	2점	1점	
		3점			
총점			25점		

And here is the third and last model essay:

제25회 한국어능력시험 (중급) 작문형 주관식 채점 예시

학생답안	<p>내가 살고 싶은 집이 조용하고 따뜻한 집이다. 집에는 시끄럽게 떠들지 않다. 집에 부근은 생활이 편하다.</p> <p>피곤할 때 집에 있으면 조용하게 환경은 편하다. 집에서 화사까지 말지 않아서 걸어서 20분쯤 걸린다. 매일 출근하고 퇴근할 때 버스 안 타서 교통이 북성을 걱정하지 않다.</p> <p>4개월은 전 한국에 왔습니다. 한국생활은 편하고 한국사람은 정말 착하다. 한국생활 재미있었다. 그래서 나는 앞으로 한국에 살고 싶다. 한국은 좋아한다.</p> <p>내가 집에 크라 깨끗한다. 주말에는 친구들이 같이 집에 와서 음식을 만들 수 있다. 우리 집에 강아지는 우릴 수 있다. 내가 아주 청소하게 받인다.</p> <p>내가 살고 싶은 집이 한국에 있다. 방에는 햇빛은 있고 방안에는 깨끗하다. 침들 때 집에 쉬는 때 집에서 조용하다.</p>		
	구분	채점 근거	점수 구분
내용 및 과제 수행 (9점)	1) 글의 주제에 맞게 글을 완성하였는가? 2) 제시된 내용을 모두 포함하고 있는가? 3) 내용을 풍부하고 다양하게 표현하였는가?	상	9-6점
		중	5-3점
		하	2-1점
글의 전개 구조 (6점)	1) 글의 시작과 마무리를 적절하게 구성하였는가? 2) 내용의 전환에 따라 문단을 적절히 구성하였는가? 3) 각 문단의 분량을 적절히 배분하였는가? 4) 단락 간의 연결이 건밀하며 자연스러운가?	상	6-5점
		중	4-3점
		하	2-1점
			1점
언어 사용 (12점)	어휘 (4점)	중급 수준의 어휘를 다양하고 적절하게 사용하였는가?	4점
	문법 (5점)	문법적으로 올바른 문장으로 글을 구성하였는가?	5-4점
	맞춤법 (3점)	맞춤법, 띄어쓰기 등이 어법에 맞는가?	3점
사회언어학적 기능 (3점)	구어적 특징이 드러나는 어휘나 문법 표현(구어체 종결어미, 구어 어휘, 조사 생략, 단문 나열)들을 사용하지 않고 문어에 적절한 어휘나 문법 표현들을 구사하였는가?	상	3점
		중	2점
총점			7점



### 3. TOPIK Essay Evaluation - Advanced Level

In this chapter, we have 3 TOPIK Advanced level sample essays and the complete break-up of their evaluation and marking. Analyze the evaluation charts properly and try to find why one essay got more marks than the other two. It will help you make your TOPIK essay better and get a better score.

Here is the essay question that came in the Advanced level of 25th TOPIK:

[44] 다음을 읽고 700~800자로 글을 쓰십시오. (30점)

44. 여러분은 성공이 무엇이라고 생각하십니까? 그리고 그러한 성공을 이루기 위해 필요한 것이 무엇이라고 생각하십니까? 이와 관련된 자신의 견해를 서술하십시오. 단, 아래에 제시한 내용이 모두 포함되어야 합니다.

<내가 생각하는 성공의 기준>

- (1) 내가 생각하는 성공이란 무엇인가?
- (2) 그것을 이루기 위해 필요한 것은 무엇인가?
- (3) 그 이유는 무엇인가?

And below is the first model essay:

TOPIK Advanced Essay Evaluation 1

### 제25회 한국어능력시험 (고급) 작문형 주관식 채점 예시

※ 문항번호 44번

학생답한	사람들은 흔히 돈을 많이 모으거나 명성과 권력을 얻는 등 사회적으로 인정을 받고 보편적으로 받아들여지고있는 기준을 성공이라고 생각한다. 하지만 나는 성공이란 타인이나 사회에 의해 결정되는 것이 아닌 자신이 진정으로 이루고자하는 것, 즉 자기 만족이 성공이라고 생각한다. 자기가 좋아하는 일을 하고 자신의 삶의 목적을 이룬다면 더없는 보람을 느낄 것이며 그것이 곧 성공적인 인생이라고 생각한다.				
	내가 생각하는 성공을 이루기 위해서는 우선 자신이 진정 무엇을 할 때 가장 행복하지 않 맞는 직업이 무엇인지 찾아야 된다. 누군가에게 도움을 주면서 얻는 보람에서 즐거움을 느끼고 세계각지를 돌아다니는 일이 체질에 적합하다면 대기업의 사장자리보다 세계구호단체가 오히려 그 사람에게 성공한 인생이 될 것이다. 확실한 목표를 정하면 열정이 생기면서 마음이 즐거운 인생을 살 수 있다고 생각한다. 그리고 목표가 생겼으면 단지 생각으로만 머무를 것이 아니라 꾸준한 실천으로 옮겨져야만 꿈이 현실이 될 수 있으므로 나는 실천 또한 인생의 방향을 설정하는 일 만큼 중요한 것이라고 생각한다. 하루 하루 무의미하고 지루하기 짝이 없는 일을 하면서 자신만의 시간도 갖지 못하게 살아간다면 돈을 무한히 벌고 권보기에 남들이 다 부러워 할 지라도 도대체 무슨 행복이 있을지 모르겠다. 자신이 하는 일을 통해서 남에게 도움을 줄 수 있고 또는 나라 발전에 이바지 할 수 있으며 때 순간이 흥미로운 일로 가득차 있으며 정신적으로 한 단계 더 성숙해 질 수 있다면 그것이야말로 진정한 의미의 성공이라고 생각한다.				
구분	채점 근거		점수 구분		
			상	중	하
내용 및 과제 수행 (9점)	1) 글의 주제에 맞게 글을 완성하였으며 중심 내용이 선명하게 드러나는가		9-6점	5-3점	2-1점
	2) 적합한 사례를 구체적으로 제시하였는가		7점		
	3) 내용을 풍부하고 다양하게 표현하였는가				
글의 전개 구조 (6점)	1) 글의 시작과 마무리를 적절하게 구성하였는가		6-5점	4-3점	2-1점
	2) 내용의 전환에 따라 문단을 적절히 구성하였는가		5점		
	3) 단락 간의 연결이 긴밀하여 자연스러운가				
언어 사용 (12점)	어휘 (4점)	고급 수준의 어휘를 다양하고 적절하게 사용하였는가	4점	3-2점	1점
	문법 (5점)	문법적으로 올바른 문장으로 글을 구성하였는가	4점		
	맞춤법 (3점)	맞춤법, 띄어쓰기 등이 어법에 맞는가	3점	2점	1점
사회언어학적 기능 (3점)	1) 글의 장르에 맞는 문체를 구사하였는가		3점	2점	1점
	2) 구어적 특성이 드러나는 어휘나 문법 표현들(구어 어휘, 조사 생략, 단문 나열 등)을 사용하지 않고 문어에 적절한 어휘나 문법 표현들을 구사하였는가		3점		
총점			26		

Next is the second model essay and it's marking break-up:

학생답안	<p>세상에는 많은 사람이 있지만 사람들의 성공으로 생각하는 성공의 기준도 많다. 어떤 사람은 돈과 지위를 얻기를 성공이라고 생각하고 또 어떤 사람은 행복하게 살기를 성공이라고 생각한다. 그렇다면 성공이란 무엇인가? 내가 생각하는 성공은 자신이 하고싶은 일을 이룩하는 것이다. 남이 중요하는 좋은 직장을 갖고 있던, 남이 비천하는 그런 일을 하고 있던, 그것이 하고 싶었던 일이고 또한 그 일을 함으로서 즐거움을 느낀다면 그 사람은 인생의 성공자라고 할만하다. 성공이란 남한테 보여주기 위한 것이 아니고 자기인생을 충실하기 위한 것이라고 나는 생각한다.</p> <p>이러한 인생의 성공을 이루기 위해서는 정확한 목표와 결단력이 필요하다. 우선, 자기 자신이 하고 싶은 일은 무엇이고 지금 그 일을 하고 있는건지 한 번 생각해 보자. 자신은 마음이 없는데, 일을 하면서 즐거움도 느끼지 못한다. 부모님이 하라고 해서, 그냥 돈이 좋아서 맘을 포기한 것은 아닌지, 한 번 검토를 해 보시라. 그래서 정녕 내가 하고 싶은 일을 목표로 삼고 그것을 하려고 노력할 준비가 되어야한다. 그다음은 이러한 목표를 실천하기 위한 결단력이 필요하다. 사람들은 항상 안일한 생활이 습관에 젖기 마련이다. 지금 이렇게 사는 것도 나쁘지 않은데 왜 다른 생활을 하냐고 하기 쉽상이다. 또한, 새로운 것에 대한 두려움이나 미래에 대한 불확실감, 그리고 성공에 대한 지나친 집념 때문에 새로운 것을 시작하는 용기가 항상 부족하다. 때론 과감한 결단력은 인생의 역전을 가져다줄 수도 있는 것이다. 자기 자신이 하고싶었던 일이나 생각하고 있는 일이 있다면 지금 시작해 보시라. 당신은 당신 인생의 성공자가 될 것이다.</p>		
	구분	채점 근거	점수 구분 상    중    하
내용 및 과제 수행 (9점)	1) 글의 주제에 맞게 글을 완성하였으며 중심 내용이 선명하게 드러나는가		9-6점    5-3점    2-1점
	2) 적합한 사례를 구체적으로 제시하였는가		6점
	3) 내용을 풍부하고 다양하게 표현하였는가		
글의 전개 구조 (6점)	1) 글의 시작과 마무리를 적절하게 구성하였는가		6-5점    4-3점    2-1점
	2) 내용의 전환에 따라 문단을 적절히 구성하였는가		4점
	3) 단락 간의 연결이 건밀하며 자연스러운가		
언어 사용 (12점)	어휘 (4점)	고급 수준의 어휘를 다양하고 적절하게 사용하였는가	4점    3-2점    1점
	문법 (5점)	문법적으로 올바른 문장으로 글을 구성하였는가	5-4점    3-2점    1점
	맞춤법 (3점)	맞춤법, 띄어쓰기 등이 어법에 맞는가	3점    2점    1점
사회언어학적 기능 (3점)	1) 글의 강조에 맞는 문체를 구사하였는가		3점    2점    1점
	2) 구어적 특징이 드러나는 어휘나 문법 표현들(구어 어휘, 조사 생략, 단문 나열 등)을 사용하지 않고 문어에 적절한 어휘나 문법 표현들을 구사하였는가		2점
총점			18

And here is the third and last model essay:

학생답안	<p>사람마다 성공에 이해가 달라요. 내가 생각에 성공은 좋아하는 일을 하기예요. 물론 가족도 있고 건강하게 지내요. 어렸을 때 제 꿈이 잘라서 선생님이 되고 하고 싶어요. 그런데 나 성격이 별로 안 좋아요. 그 꿈을 포기요. 내가 너무 슬펐어요. 하지만 내가 지금 한국말을 배우요. 다시 꿈이 있어요. 한국어를 배우고 선생님이 꼭 되기가 아니예요.</p> <p>선생님이 되려고 싶으면 한국말을 잘해야 하지만 아니라 지식도 많고 참기도 필요있어요. 처음 한국어를 배울 때 내가 발음이 안 좋아요. 매일아침에 일어나서 읽었어요. 주말에 식당에 가서 아르바이트했고 한국친구 사겼어요. 점점 내가 발음이 좋아져요. 내가 성격이 내성이나까 낯선한 사람에서 말을 시부러요. 이 약점이 위해서 내가 낯선한 사람과 말을 걸려요. 몇 번에 다른사람이 내가 돌렸다고 생각해요. 처음에 혹시 찬피했지만 내가 성격이 외향이 변하져요. 그래서 내가 참기심이 없으면 내가 어떻게 지다고 생각하고 화가 나지 않았어요.</p> <p>그래서 지금은 내가 화가 나면마다 먼저 마음에 만약에 선생님어 나처럼 참기심이 없으면 내가 어떻게 지다고 생각하고 화가 나지 않아요. 선생님이 되기 위해서 내가 여러 변화를 했어요. 과정이 너무 힘들지만 꿈을 위해서 꼭 참아야 되요.</p>									
구분	채점 근거	점수 구분								
내용 및 과제 수행 (9점)	1) 글의 주제에 맞게 글을 완성하였으며 중심 내용이 선명하게 드러나는가 2) 적합한 사례를 구체적으로 제시하였는가 3) 내용을 풍부하고 다양하게 표현하였는가	상 9-6점	중 5-3점	하 2-1점						
글의 전개 구조 (6점)	1) 글의 시작과 마무리를 적절하게 구성하였는가 2) 내용의 전환에 따라 문단을 적절히 구성하였는가 3) 단락 간의 연결이 긴밀하며 자연스러운가	6-5점	4-3점	2-1점						
언어 사용 (12점)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">어휘 (4점)</td> <td style="width: 80%;">고급 수준의 어휘를 다양하고 적절하게 사용하였는가</td> </tr> <tr> <td>문법 (5점)</td> <td>문법적으로 올바른 문장으로 글을 구성하였는가</td> </tr> <tr> <td>맞춤법 (3점)</td> <td>맞춤법, 띄어쓰기 등이 어법에 맞는가</td> </tr> </table>	어휘 (4점)	고급 수준의 어휘를 다양하고 적절하게 사용하였는가	문법 (5점)	문법적으로 올바른 문장으로 글을 구성하였는가	맞춤법 (3점)	맞춤법, 띄어쓰기 등이 어법에 맞는가	4점	3-2점	1점
어휘 (4점)	고급 수준의 어휘를 다양하고 적절하게 사용하였는가									
문법 (5점)	문법적으로 올바른 문장으로 글을 구성하였는가									
맞춤법 (3점)	맞춤법, 띄어쓰기 등이 어법에 맞는가									
사회언어학적 기능 (3점)	1) 글의 장르에 맞는 문체를 구사하였는가 2) 구어적 특성이 드러나는 어휘나 문법 표현들(구어 어휘, 조사 생략, 단문 나열 등)을 사용하지 않고 문어에 적절한 어휘나 문법 표현들을 구사하였는가	5-4점	3-2점	1점						
총점		8								



## Chapter 7. TOPIK Grammar & Vocabulary

In grammar and vocabulary ( 어휘 & 문법 ) section, they test your understanding of important Korean grammar patterns, words and their usage. In the beginner level, most of the grammar patterns and words are the ones that you will need to communicate in day to day situations. So studying the grammar and vocabulary from the normal textbooks will also help beginner level test takers. But in Intermediate and Advanced levels some of the grammar patterns are of very high levels and they are used frequently, even by Koreans. You also need to memorize some advanced level vocabulary, idioms, proverbs etc. You won't find some of these grammar patterns and vocabulary in even your intermediate and advanced level textbooks. So you need to study them especially for TOPIK.

The most common types of questions in the TOPIK reading section are as following:

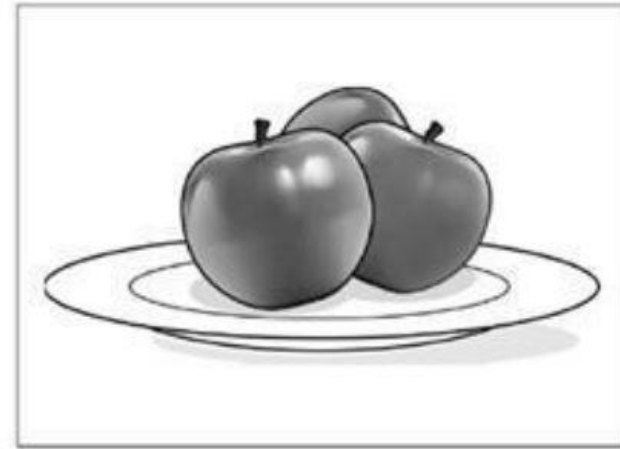
1. Fill the blank with appropriate vocabulary (noun, verb, adjective, adverb etc.).

집 근처에 지하철역이 있어서 교통이 (            ). (3점)

- ① 어렵다            ② 느리다            ③ 편리하다            ④ 안전하다

가: 이것은 무엇입니까?

나: (            )입니다.



- ① 우유  
② 사과  
③ 과자  
④ 주스

2. Finding the synonyms (similar words)

그 병원은 하루 전에 예약을 꼭 해야 한다. (4점)

- ① 재발            ② 물론            ③ 천천히            ④ 반드시

가: 이 컴퓨터 사용해도 돼요?

나: 그럼요, ( ) 돼요.

- ① 꺼도            ② 써도            ③ 바꿔도            ④ 닦아도

3. Finding the antonyms (opposite words)

오늘은 추워서 두꺼운 외투를 입고 나왔다. (3점)

- ① 넓은            ② 얇은            ③ 넉넉한            ④ 무거운

가: 오늘 회사에 일찍 나갑니까?

나: 아니요, ( ) 나갑니다.

- ① 잘            ② 또            ③ 늦게            ④ 가끔

4. Finding the appropriate grammatical particle ( 조사 )

갈비탕을 좋아합니다. 김치찌개( ) 좋아합니다.

- ① 만            ② 도            ③ 에서            ④ 하고

5. Choosing the phrase with most appropriate grammar pattern and fill in the blanks. In this type of questions you generally have to find the correct sentence

ending ( ) (았어요/≡시다/다고 하다 etc.) or connector ( ) (기 때문에, -면, -는데 etc.).

가: 도서관에 그냥 들어가도 돼요?

나: 학생증이 ( ) 들어갈 수 있습니다.

- ① 있어야            ② 있는데            ③ 있거든            ④ 있으나

가: 같이 쇼핑을 합시다.

나: 미안해요. 지금 숙제를 ( ) .

- ① 하십니다            ② 해야 돼요  
③ 해 주십시오            ④ 하지 않아요

가: 음식이 맛있습니까?

나: 네, ( ) 좀 맵습니다.

- ① 맛있지만            ② 맛있거나            ③ 맛있어서            ④ 맛있어야

6. Finding the incorrect word or grammar pattern. Here they generally test your understanding of honorifics [like adding -시 to the verb or using specific honorifics words ( 드시자, 주무시다 etc.) when talking with older people] and

words that change in irregular way (like 업다 - 더운; 룬다 - 물어, 길다 - 긴 etc.).

- ① 할아버지와 나는 같이 저녁을 드셨다.
  - ② 할머니는 올해 연세가 여든이시다.
  - ③ 선생님은 성함이 어떻게 되십니까?
  - ④ 아버지와 어머니는 다른 도시에 계신다.
- 
- ① 이번 시험이 매우 쉬웠습니다.
  - ② 저는 그 친구의 전화번호를 압니다.
  - ③ 이 문제는 선생님께 문어 보십시오.
  - ④ 길을 잘 몰라서 시간이 오래 걸렸습니다.

### Grammar Section Strategies

1. Make your own Grammar and Vocabulary list. Write the grammar patterns and vocabulary that you don't know. Make this notebook your bedtime book for at least 1 week before the test. Make sure to have a look at the list every day.
2. Don't just write the grammar patterns, words and their explanation. Write an example sentence in front of every entry. Take the help of Naver dictionary and other sites to find example sentences. You can also write one simple sentence that describes that word or grammar in your mother tongue.
3. Write similar grammar patterns together. Ex: 기 때문에 - This grammar pattern is used to describe reason (Similar patterns - 아서/어서, -니까 )
4. Similarly make a Synonyms & Antonyms list for words.
5. Some words often come together. Write them as a single phrase instead of writing as two separate words. (Ex: 미소를 짓다, 장갑을 끼다 )
6. Memorize counting units for different objects.
7. Make a list of Irregular words and understand how they change with various grammar patterns. ( 춥다 - 추워요, 들다 - 들어요 )
8. Memorize specific honorific words like 드리다, 주무시다, 드시다, 연세, 성함 etc.
9. For Intermediate-Advanced levels, you will also need to memorize common proverbs, idiomatic expression, onomatopoeia etc.



## How to Improve your Korean Vocabulary

In this chapter, we will learn some great methods to improve our Korean Vocabulary.

### 1. Make Word Lists

Word lists and Flash cards are most widely used Vocabulary learning methods. Either make a two column table with Korean words in one column and their meanings in the other (you can also add more columns like example sentence etc.) or make flash cards with Korean words on one side and their meanings on the other. Review these words regularly (at least once a week) and mark the words that you still haven't learned completely. While reviewing give special attention to these marked (difficult) words. With time these difficult words will also go to your permanent memory and then you can unmark them. Even if you think you have completely learned a list it's better to review it once in a while. Make a separate list of difficult words you often forget and review it more frequently. You can also consider making your own personal dictionary.

### 2. Look up Dictionary

Always keep a dictionary handy and look up for words you don't know. Try to get rid of the habit of finding an alternative way of expressing yourself when you don't know (or can't recall) the appropriate word. Looking up dictionary may be a boring task but it really helps in long term. Personally, I prefer online dictionaries of [Naver](#) and [Daum](#) over paper and electronic dictionaries as these online dictionaries give you much more information. Looking up dictionary is even better than asking a teacher or a Korean because when you see dictionary you don't learn only one word

but several related word and phrases as well.

### 3. Learn Words in Context

Words are rarely used alone. They are used in a context and with other words, phrases and grammar patterns. Just knowing the meaning of a word is not enough; you need to know 'who', 'where', 'when' and 'how' of the word. Otherwise there are good chances that you will use them incorrectly. There are words that are used with particular people, at particular time and situations and in a particular way. Using any of these aspects of the word in a wrong way may create an embarrassing situation for you. So when you learn words try to get as much information as you can about the context in which it's used.

### 4. Learn related words

When you learn a word, try to write/learn other words/phrases that are frequently used with it. For example, If you look up dictionary for the word '훨씬' you will find the meaning as '(very) much, far, a lot'. But you can't use '훨씬' for every 'far', 'much', or 'a lot'. if you read example entries you will find that this word is most frequently used with '보다', '더' and adjectives to show comparisons. Also learn various possible forms of a word. For example - 예쁘다 - 예쁩니다, 예뻐요, 예쁘죠 etc. This type of additional information will help you learn the appropriate use of the words.

### 5. Make Associations

Make associations and connections between the new words you learn and words/things you already know. For example, some word may sound like something different/funny/interesting in your mother tongue. Or, some words mind remind you of something. Funny and weird associations are OK. In fact, they are better. You

can also use Mnemonic (a memory trick used to remember things) to improve your vocabulary retention. Connect words with images, people or events around you, convert them into rhymes/poems etc.

#### **6. Review and Practice**

We need frequent exposure to a word, either by listening, speaking, reading or writing, to learn it permanently. Research says words need 20-30 repetitions/reviews to move to our permanent memory. Use the new words you learn as much as you can even if you are doubtful about its correct use. Just play with the words; use them in different combinations. Take risks. Mistakes and blunders are okay; they make us learn things. And in fact the funny mistakes are the most interesting thing about learning a foreign language. Aren't they?

#### **7. Mix Words with your Mother Tongue**

Using the foreign language words in sentences in one's mother tongue can also be a good technique to learn and practice words; and it's fun. For example you learned the word '예쁘다 (Beautiful)'. You can practice it with sentences like 'These Flowers are really 예쁘다'. It might sound weird but it can help you memorize some really difficult words.

#### **8. Read Extensively**

Reading a lot is the BEST way to enhance vocabulary in any language. Reading exposes us to a wide range of vocabulary in various contexts. The important thing here, is to select a reading material that interests you and suits your level otherwise you will give up very soon. No one likes to look up dictionary 10 times to understand a single sentence. There are plenty of reading material – newspapers, comics, stories, blogs - available in Korean language on internet. Read what you like to read

the most and note down the new and interesting words and phrases you come across. It's also a good method to read the English (or your mother tongue) version of a big news first and then read the Korean version. Now you already know the news story, you just have to focus on the language they use to convey it.

#### **9. And the most important method is to DEVELOP YOUR OWN BEST VOCABULARY LEARNING METHOD**



## Chapter 8. Ultimate Strategies for TOPIK Preparation

### STEP I: UNDERSTAND THE TEST

1. **Analyze Past TOPIK Papers** – It's the first and most important step to get familiar with the test. This self-study package includes last 10 TOPIK papers and their solutions. Pick any one paper and go through it; from start to end to see what the test is like. Check all the sections of the paper and try to understand what Korean language skills they are trying to test.

2. **Get deep into the Test structure** - Your success in TOPIK depends a lot on how well you understand the test structure. When going through past papers try to understand the pattern of the test, what kind of questions are being asked? What type of grammar and vocabulary is being tested? What type of essay topics are being given for writing? Are there grammar patterns, vocabulary and essay topics that are being repeated. These are the things you need to look for when analyzing the papers.

### STEP II: PREPARE YOURSELF

3. **Take Mock Tests** - Take a set of TOPIK papers and set the timer and take a real time mock TOPIK test. I can't stress this enough that taking mock TOPIK tests is the best way to prepare yourself for the TOPIK. Since you haven't just started preparing for the test yet you will find very difficult when taking the mock test. You might feel frustrated in the middle and may get an urge to give up and see the answers. But don't do that. Solve all the sections of the paper in the given time. If you are not able to finish all the questions of a section in the given time, just make

your best guess, mark all the remaining questions and move on to the next section. While doing the listening section, don't play the audio tape again if you don't understand something. Don't lose your confidence, keep solving the paper; you are not in the exam hall now. It's just the first step to prepare yourself for the real test.

4. **Analyze your strong and weak points** – After finishing the paper, take a little rest and then check your answers with the given answer sheet. See which sections were easy for you and which were difficult. What kind of questions did you find tricky or time consuming? What were the grammar patterns and vocabulary that you didn't know?

5. **Make a List of Grammar and Vocabulary you don't know** – Take a notebook and make a list of all the grammar patterns and vocabulary from the test you don't know. There will be many grammar patterns that you have studied but are a little confused about. Note all of them. This list will keep growing as you solve more papers. But then you will exactly know what you have to work on. Once your goal is clear, more than half of preparation is done.

### STEP III: STUDY FOR SUCCESS

6. **Work on your pace and time management** – Most of the students don't take this seriously and regret later. Maintaining a pace and managing the time between different sections of the test is very important. When solving the test paper, be aware of the time limit for each section and budget enough time for each question so you do not have to rush at the end. It is a good idea to check the clock periodically to monitor progress.



**7. Learn to Take Notes** – Taking notes of important points and information is very important in Listening and Reading section. In TOPIK test taking notes is allowed in all the sections. You can take notes in your own language and can use them when answering. Learn to take notes of information like numbers, time, central idea, speakers, place of conversation, context etc.

**8. Learn how to write a Korean Essay** - Practice the essay part as much as you can. Writing section is the most difficult part for many test takers. But actually this is a section where you can score really high. For practice what you should do is to write essays on various topics, including the ones from past TOPIK papers. When you start practicing the essay, don't worry about time. Begin by taking as long as necessary to write a good essay. Once you are able to write a good essay, start timing yourself and getting faster at it. Always make sure that your essays covers all the points asked in the questions and that it has 3 necessary elements of any good essay – A clear Introduction, The Body (A detailed supporting paragraph), and a good 'Conclusion' paragraph.

**9. Work on Grammar and Vocabulary** – This study package contains grammar and vocabulary lists for all the levels. Study them and practice by making new sentences using them. Remember that the lists are not exhaustive. So, always refer to 'The difficult Vocabulary & Grammar List' you made (Tip No. 5) and add them. Use [Naver Dictionary](#) and other [online resources](#) to find further explanation of a grammar pattern and example sentences.

**10. Build up your stamina** – TOPIK is a 3 hour long test and you need to have good level of concentration for 3 hours to score well. Most of the students have an attention span of about 60 or 90 Minutes. This is the maximum length of most

classes. After this amount of time performance starts to weaken. If you keep your study sessions to one or two hours, your brain will not be prepared to work for three. Start off with short study sessions, and work up to longer ones. It is absolutely necessary that you get a good night's sleep before this test. You cannot afford to be tired.

### STEP III: ASSESS YOURSELF

**11. Take Real TOPIK Test:** Even when you know that you are not well prepared for it, just for the sake of practice, take the TOPIK test. The real test will give you an opportunity to assess your progress. You will also be able to understand if you have any problem with a specific section of the test or if you are able to manage the time or not and you can work on those problems later.

And the most important thing is to Practice, Practice and Practice!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Chapter 9. Ultimate TOPIK Test Day Tips

In the previous chapter, we learnt how we can prepare for TOPIK test in an effective and efficient manner. In this part we will be discussing what kind of precautions you need to take in the exam hall and what is the right way to attempt the TOPIK papers.

**Don't bring anything to Exam Hall except your admit card and a pen** Many test takers bring colorful pencils, gel pens, sharpener, eraser, ruler and even books and dictionaries sometimes. But generally last time study of vocabulary and grammar don't make you any good, it will only stress you up; so leave those bulky books and notes behind in your book shelf and instead relax your brain when you are waiting to hear the start bell. Probably they will not allow any stationary into the exam hall. You have to color the OMR answer sheet with a special pen that they will provide you. If you make any mistake and want to change your answer, you just have to raise your hand and the invigilator will come to you and remove the wrong mark with whitener.

1. **Attempt Every Question** - Never leave a question un-attempted. As TOPIK has a multiple-choice question pattern and it has no negative marking scheme, you have nothing to lose even if you mark all the questions wrong. Eliminate all of the answers you know are wrong and then make an educated guess. If you see you are running out of time, just take a guess and mark answers for all remaining questions. There is 25 % chances to guess the right answer. Do not leave any question un-attempted.

2. **Concentrate on the Current Question Only** - When you finish a question or

section, try to put it out of your mind. Whether you are reading, listening, or answering a question, put all of your concentration on the task at hand. Do not think how you answered other questions. (This is a habit that can be learned through practice.)

3. **Don't spend too much time on difficult questions** - They intentionally put some difficult or tricky questions in the middle of the paper. Don't waste too much time on them, just make a smart guess and move on. If you have time remaining in the end you can come back to them.

4. **If possible, try to do the writing essay question first**- It is a good strategy in the writing section. If you write the essay in the beginning, you write it better because in the end you are in hurry and you can't get good ideas and you also make many mistakes. When you finish it in the beginning you feel relaxed that you have completed a big part of the paper and you can concentrate properly on rest of the paper. But even if you don't do it in the beginning, at least read the essay question and give 1-2 minutes to make an outline of the essay in your mind. Organize your ideas in points. It will make you feel relaxed that you have the ideas and in the end you just have to pen them down.

5. **Don't color the answer sheet after every question**- This is a very important tip. If you experiment while solving TOPIK papers, you will realize that you can save a few minutes if you color the answer sheets after solving every 8-10 questions rather than coloring it after solving every single question. So just mark the answer on the question paper itself and color the answer sheet when you have got a good no. of answers piled up. **Be carefull Make sure you are marking the circles of right answers.**



6. **Don't jump on conclusion after just reading the first option-** The answer options in the TOPIK papers are really tricky. Sometimes all of the answer seem correct. So make sure to read all the given options and choose the most appropriate one.

7. **Read the Instructions very carefully-** Especially for the questions with **“Choose the right/wrong.”** Sometimes students just see the first option, they finds it perfectly right and mark it while what they were supposed to do was to choose the wrong one.

8. **Don't think about your girlfriend/boyfriend during Listening Section** – Losing your concentration for only a few seconds may spoil a good part of your listening paper. So just close your eyes and concentrate on the sounds. It really helps to read the question and answer options before you hear the question text. All the question are repeated so if you finished a question early, utilize the remaining time to read the next question in advance. But if you have slightest doubt about your answer always listen the second time as well.

9. **Be careful about listening questions that have two or more questions** - In the later part of the listening section, sometimes more than one questions are based on one text. So be careful and read the instructions carefully.

10. **Take notes while listening the text-** Sometimes data and facts come in the listening conversations that you can't remember later while solving the questions. So keep taking small notes of them. You can also use this technique while solving the long paragraph questions in Reading Section.

11. **Always use the plain or formal/polite form of sentence ending-** In the essay writing section of Intermediate and Advanced level you should always write in Plain diary form ( 다/ㄴ다/는다 ). Beginner level test takers can use the formal polite

ending ( ㅂ니다/습니다 ). Never use the casual spoken form ( 아요/어요 ) or lower form ( 아/어 ) of language.

12. **Make a strategy in advance which section to attempt first** - There is no single strategy that works for everyone. While solving TOPIK papers during preparations, analyze which strategy works best for you. Some students prefer to solve a particular section or type of questions first.



## Chapter 10. TOPIK Instructional Video Content

You've reached the end of this title >

Click here to leave a rating and view related titles

Our Facebook Page - [www.facebook.com/topikguide](http://www.facebook.com/topikguide)  
Our YouTube Channel - [www.youtube.com/topikguide](http://www.youtube.com/topikguide)

Below are the exclusive access links to TOPIK instructional videos hosted on YouTube. You can go to the video lessons by clicking on these links. For your convenience we have categorized the videos into 6 playlists. If you don't have access to YouTube and need files for offline viewing, please let us know.

1. [New TOPIK Intermediate-Advanced Level - Introduction + Writing Section](#)
2. [New TOPIK Intermediate-Advanced Reading - Solution & Analysis](#)
3. [New TOPIK Intermediate-Advanced Listening - Solution & Analysis](#)
4. [New TOPIK Sample Paper Solution & Analysis - Beginner Listening](#)
5. [New TOPIK Sample Paper Solution & Analysis - Beginner Reading](#)
6. [33rd TOPIK Paper Solution & Analysis - Beginner Grammar & Vocabulary](#)

\*\* This book is a part of [Complete Guide to TOPIK - The Self-Study Package](#) which includes 20+ Video Lessons for all 3 levels - Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced as well as 15 Korean Language eBooks and 15+ PDF study materials for TOPIK Preparation and study. You can get more details about package here: <http://www.topikguide.com/complete-guide-to-topik>

Please Leave a Review on Your Retailer Site if you enjoyed the Book. Thank you!

ALL THE BEST

파이팅