



The *TOEFL iBT*[®] Test



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The *TOEFL iBT*® Test

- 96% of all TOEFL® testing
- Covers all four language skills: Reading, Listening, Speaking, Writing
- Has a reliability coefficient of 0.95

- Content is 100% academic
- Test design emphasizes communicative English
- Uses integrated questions
- Note taking is allowed in all sections



TOEFL iBT® Test Format

Section	Description	Testing Time	Score Scale
Reading	3-4 passages from academic texts; 12-14 questions per passage	60-80 min.	0-30
Listening	4-6 lectures, some with classroom discussion, 6 questions each; 2-3 conversations, 5 questions each	60-90 min.	0-30
Break	-	10 min.	-
Speaking	2 tasks to express an opinion; 4 tasks to speak based on reading and listening passages	20 min.	0-30
Writing	1 integrated task (write based on what is read and listened to); 1 independent task (support an opinion on a topic)	50 min.	0-30
Total Score	-	-	0-120



TOEFL iBT® Reading Section

- 3 – 4 passages from academic texts
 - Approximately 700 words long
 - Followed by 12 to 14 questions for each reading passage
- 3 categories of readings based on author purpose
 - Exposition
 - Argumentation
 - Historical biographical narrative
- Task design measures
 - Reading for basic comprehension
 - Reading to learn



TOEFL iBT® Listening Section

- Academic lectures
 - 4 – 6 lectures, some with classroom discussion
 - 3 – 5 minutes long
 - Each lecture followed by six questions
- Informal campus conversations
 - 2 – 3 conversations
 - 3 minutes long
 - Each conversation followed by five questions
- Task design measures
 - Basic understanding
 - Pragmatic understanding
 - Connecting information



TOEFL iBT® Speaking Section

- 6 tasks
 - 2 independent
 - 4 integrated (based on listening and reading passages)
- 3 types of speaking
 - Familiar topics
 - Campus situations
 - Academic course content
- Responses are scored on 3 dimensions
 - Delivery
 - Language use
 - Topic development



TOEFL iBT® Writing Section

- 2 tasks
 - 1 integrated (based on listening and reading passages)
 - 1 independent (based on personal experience or opinion)
- The integrated task is scored on
 - development, organization, grammar, vocabulary, accuracy and completeness
- The independent task is scored on
 - overall writing quality, including development, organization, grammar and vocabulary



TOEFL iBT® Scoring

- The TOEFL test separates the testing site from the scoring process to maintain score integrity
 - Raters see and hear worldwide responses, not just from one country
 - Raters do not know the examinee
- TOEFL uses multiple raters for speaking and writing
 - Increases test reliability
 - Speaking section: 6 tasks
 - 3-6 human raters
 - Writing section: 2 tasks
 - 2 human raters
 - 2 automated ratings



Score Means by Test-Taker Purpose 2010

Group	Reading	Listening	Speaking	Writing	Total
Undergraduate Mean	18.5	19.3	20.3	20.3	78.0
Graduate Mean	21.3	20.7	20.7	21.4	84.0
Professional Mean	20.4	20.7	21.5	20.8	83.0



TOEFL® Resources for Students

- TOEFL® Go Anywhere Website includes
 - TOEFL Journey program
 - TOEFL Institutions Advanced Search
 - Registration information
 - Test prep resources
 - Video tips

www.toeflgoanywhere.org

- TOEFL® TV Channel on YouTube®



TOEFL® Test Prep

- Free
 - Sample questions on TOEFL website
 - TOEFL Tips (download from TOEFL website)
 - TOEFL Test Prep Planner (available to advisors/teachers)
 - TOEFL test sampler (free with registration)
- For a fee
 - *The Official Guide to the TOEFL® Test* (handbook)
 - TOEFL® Practice Online (complete practice tests)



Tips for Teachers

- Skill-building activities
 - Use academic materials (first year of university)
 - Textbooks; campus newspapers; audio/video lectures
 - Assign tasks that integrate several skills
 - Use an English textbook on a familiar subject that has study questions at the end of each chapter. Practice answering the questions orally.
 - Read an editorial in the student newspaper. Interview a classmate on the same topic. Write a short summary of the similarities and/or differences in the two points of view.



Tips for Teachers

- Practice in the classroom
 - Note taking
 - Reading to learn
 - Pragmatic understanding in Listening
 - Paraphrasing in Writing and Speaking
 - Writing coherent **drafts**
 - Timed Writing and Speaking exercises
 - Speaking at a normal pace
- Match TOEFL iBT Reading score with a Lexile measure at www.lexile.com/toefl.



Tips for Teachers

- Test preparation
 - Encourage students to become familiar with format, tasks, and scoring rubrics
 - Encourage students not to “sweat the small stuff” (e.g. technical vocabulary, minor pronunciation or spelling errors, occasional misplaced commas)
- Using *TOEFL*® scores
 - Total score can help student identify progress against institutional requirements
 - Section scores can help to develop customized learning plans



Global Client Relations Contact

Marian N. Crandall
mcrandall@ets.org
1.609.683.2668

