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# Cracking the TOEFL® iBT

**2016 Edition**

Douglas Pierce, Sean Kinsell,  
and the Staff of The Princeton Review

PrincetonReview.com



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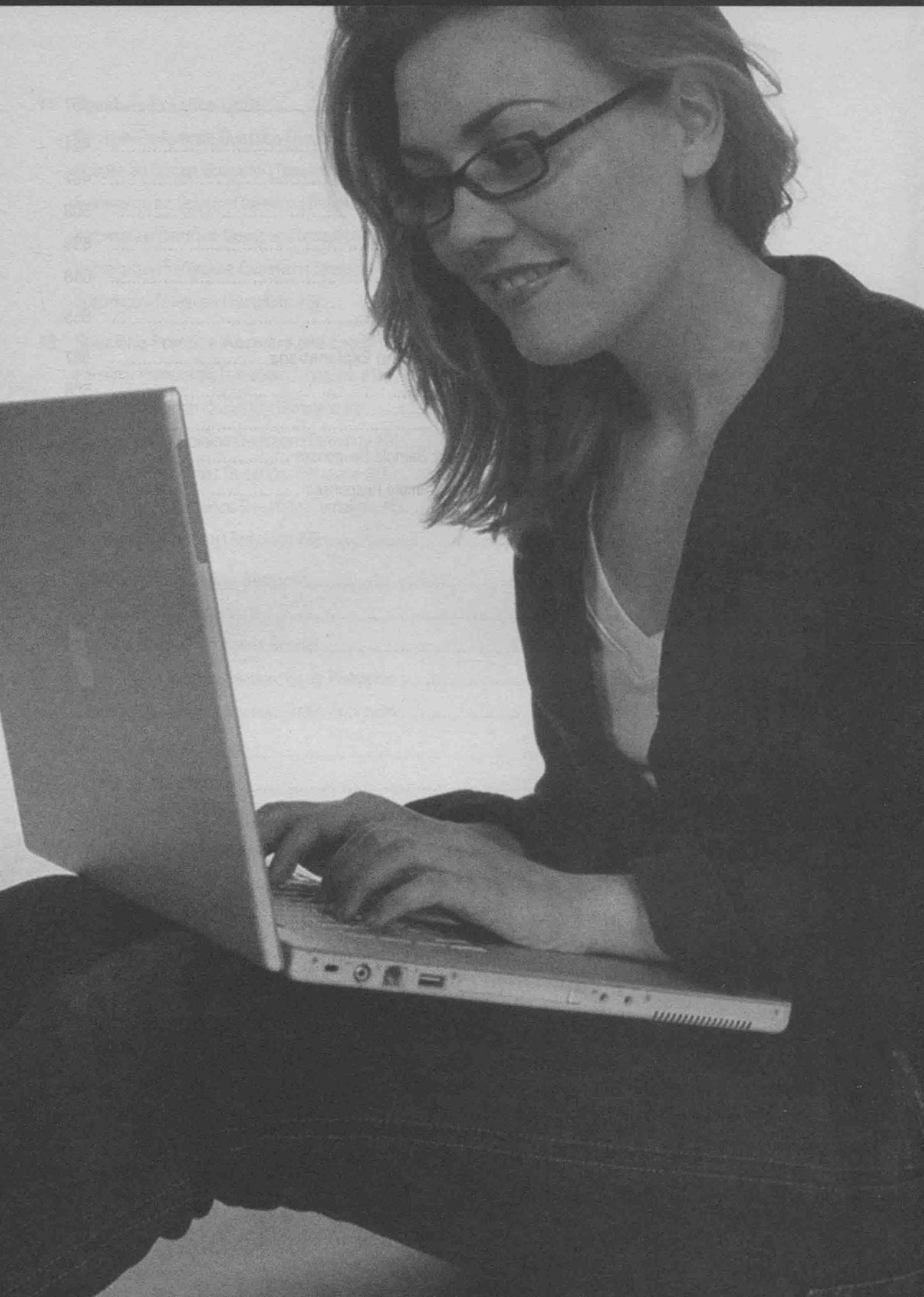
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- Now you're good to go! You can access the audio files for *Cracking the TOEFL iBT* directly from your Student Tools here. (They audio files are also on the CD that comes with this book.)



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# Part I Orientation

## 1 Introduction



# Chapter 1

## Introduction

## WELCOME!

Welcome to The Princeton Review's thorough test preparation guide for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). In this book, you will find everything you need to prepare for the TOEFL—information on the test format, test-taking strategies, practice drills, and, of course, a full-length practice exam.

Part I of this book gives a brief outline of how the test is organized. Part II helps you familiarize yourself with the basic concepts tested on the TOEFL. Part III presents you with strategies and tips for the questions and tasks on the test. Part IV provides you with a full-length practice exam with corresponding answers and explanations.

## WHAT IS THE TOEFL?

The TOEFL is a test that assesses your proficiency in the type of English used in an academic environment. The test is administered on the Internet, which we'll explain in more detail on page 7.

The exam takes about four hours to complete and integrates four essential skills: reading, listening, writing, and speaking. This means that any given question or task may require you to use one or more of these skills. For example, before attempting a writing task on the TOEFL, you may have to first read a passage and listen to a lecture on the topic.

Fortunately, the TOEFL is not as daunting as it may seem because it tests each of the four skills in a fairly specific way. By working through this book in its entirety, you'll become comfortable with the type of writing, speaking, reading, and listening skills that are required to get a good score on the exam.

## STOP!

If it is difficult for you to understand the material on this page, it's best that you continue your study of basic English before taking the TOEFL. This book is intended to prepare students who already have knowledge of basic English, and our recommendation is that you should feel very comfortable with the language before you attempt to take the TOEFL.

## The Structure of the Test

The TOEFL is broken down into four distinct sections, one each for the skills listed. However, each section may require you to use more than one of the above four skills. The structure of the test is as follows:



- One **Reading** section, consisting of three to four passages that are roughly 700 words each. Each passage will be followed by 12 to 14 multiple-choice questions about the content of the passage. Most of these questions will be worth one point each, though a few toward the end of the section may be worth more. You will have either 60 or 100 minutes to complete the entire section.
- One **Listening** section, consisting of six to nine audio selections, each of which are three to five minutes long. Each selection will be either an academic lecture or a casual conversation. After each selection, there will be five or six multiple-choice questions about the content of the lecture or conversation. You will have 60 to 90 minutes to complete the entire section.
- One **Speaking** section, consisting of six speaking tasks. Most speaking tasks will also require some listening and some reading. Each task will ask you to speak for 45 or 60 seconds, depending on the task, and you will have 20 minutes to complete the entire section.
- One **Writing** section, consisting of two writing assignments. The Writing section, like the Speaking section, also requires listening and reading. You will have 50 minutes to complete the entire section.

## Which Test Should You Take?

As you may know, there are two versions of the TOEFL: the paper-based test and the newer Internet-based test. Most students will take the Internet-based test, which is offered over 50 times a year at centers that have Internet access. However, some centers do not have Internet access; therefore, a paper version is offered 4 times a year. Because they are administered less frequently, paper-based tests tend to fill up very quickly. Also, the paper-based test is not available at any centers in many parts of the world. Internet-based tests have many more spots available and are a more complete assessment of your level of English. Because the Internet-based test assesses all four areas of communication, it is the preferred test at most universities. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you take the Internet-based test. If you are interested in finding out more about the paper-based test, visit the ETS website at [www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl) and click on the paper-based test link. If you do not have Internet access, you can call ETS at 1-877-863-3546 or 1-609-771-7100. The paper-based test is different from the Internet-based test (iBT) in both structure and scoring. It is important to remember that this book is designed help you study for the Internet-based TOEFL test. All information on format and scoring applies to the iBT.