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The People Who Make the test!

官方指南

THE
Official Guide
TO THE
NEW TOEFL® **iBT**



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新托福考试

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— TO THE —
NEW TOEFL[®] iBT

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Introducing the TOEFL iBT

READ THIS CHAPTER TO FIND OUT

- ▶ **what's new about the TOEFL iBT**
- ▶ **what kinds of questions are on the new test**
- ▶ **how you can use this book to help you get a better score**

This *Official Guide* has been created to help English language learners understand the TOEFL® Internet-based test (iBT) and prepare for it. By preparing for the new test, you will also be building the skills you need to communicate with confidence and succeed in an academic setting.

All About the TOEFL Test

Start your preparation for the TOEFL iBT by reading the following important information about the test, testing requirements, and your TOEFL scores.

WHAT IS TOEFL?

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is used to measure English language proficiency. If you are applying to a college or university where English is the language of instruction, your TOEFL scores will help admissions staff determine if your skills in English are adequate for enrollment into the program of study you have selected. The TOEFL test is administered in more than 180 countries, making it the most accessible test in the world. Internet-based testing makes it possible to expand greatly the number of test centers and increase access. The TOEFL test is also the most accepted test in the world. More than 5,000 colleges, universities, and licensing agencies in 90 countries accept TOEFL scores. So, for example, students can use the test to study in the United Kingdom and other European countries, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, and Korea, in addition to the United States and Canada.

WHO CREATES THE TOEFL TEST?

The TOEFL is created by ETS (“Educational Testing Service”). ETS also created this book as the official guide to the test.

WHAT IS THE TOEFL iBT?

The TOEFL iBT is a new version of the TOEFL test. It is an Internet-based test (iBT) delivered in secure testing centers around the world. The new TOEFL iBT test is scheduled to be phased in from September 2005 through June 2006. The phase-in date for the United States is September 2005; for Canada, France, Germany, and Italy, it is October 2005. The test will be introduced in the rest of the world on a rolling basis. To find out when it will be available in your country, visit www.ets.org/toefl.

The TOEFL iBT replaces the TOEFL computer-based test (CBT) and the paper-and-pencil (PBT) version of the test. Information comparing scores from TOEFL iBT to TOEFL CBT and TOEFL PBT is available on pages 350 to 359.

WHO IS REQUIRED TO TAKE THE TOEFL TEST?

If your first or native language is NOT English, it is likely that the college or university that you wish to attend will require you to take this test. However, you should check with each institution to which you are applying for admission.

HOW IS THE TOEFL TEST USED IN THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS?

Your test scores will be considered together with other information you supply to the institution to determine if you have the appropriate academic and language background to be admitted to a regular or modified program of study. Often your field of study and whether you are applying as a graduate or undergraduate student will determine what TOEFL scores you need.

IS THERE A MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE SCORE?

Each institution that uses TOEFL scores sets its own minimum level of acceptable performance. These minimums vary from one institution to another, depending on factors such as the applicant’s field of study, the level of study (undergraduate or graduate), whether the applicant will be a teaching assistant, and whether the institution offers English as a Second Language support for its students.

How to Use This Book

This book gives you instruction, practice, and advice on strategies for performing well on the TOEFL iBT.

- ▶ Chapter 1 provides an overview of the test, information about test scores, an introduction to the on-screen appearance of the different parts of the TOEFL iBT, along with general test-taking suggestions.
- ▶ Chapters 2, 3, 4, and 5 provide in-depth discussions of the kinds of questions that appear in each part of the TOEFL iBT. Each chapter also includes practice questions and explanations of correct answers so that you will understand the

actual communicative skills that are being tested in each section. Finally, Chapters 2 to 5 provide you with sample test sections that will give you an estimate of how you would perform on the actual TOEFL test.

- ▶ Chapter 6 is a brief writing handbook that helps you identify errors in your writing and presents strategies for academic writing, both for tests like the TOEFL iBT and for other kinds of writing that occurs in college and graduate school.

You can use this book to familiarize yourself with the appearance, length, and format of the TOEFL iBT. You can also experience a free, online practice version of the TOEFL iBT at the TOEFL online practice community, called **TOEFL® Practice Online**, at toeflpractice.ets.org. Members have access to the following:

- ▶ Sample Speaking questions and responses
- ▶ Sample Writing questions
- ▶ Reading and Listening questions
- ▶ Discussion boards where learners and teachers can exchange ideas
- ▶ Daily study tips

TOEFL Practice Online can help you become familiar with the tools available in the TOEFL iBT and what it is like to answer the questions under timed conditions. This *Official Guide* will help you understand language skills you will need to succeed on the test and in the classroom.

Use the practice tests in this book and the free online practice at toeflpractice.ets.org to determine which of your skills are the weakest. Then follow the advice in each skill chapter to improve those skills. You should use other materials to supplement the practice test questions in this book.

Because the TOEFL iBT is designed to assess the actual skills you will need to be successful in your studies, the very best way to develop the skills being measured on the TOEFL iBT test is to study in an English program that focuses on

- ▶ communication using all four skills, especially speaking
- ▶ integrated skills (e.g., listening/reading/speaking, listening/reading/writing)

However, even students who are not enrolled in an English program should practice the underlying skills that are assessed on the TOEFL iBT. In other words, the best way to improve performance is to improve your skills. Each chapter of this book gives you explicit advice on how to connect your learning activities to the kinds of questions you will be asked on the test. Perhaps you want to improve your reading score on the TOEFL iBT. The best way to improve reading skills is to read frequently and to read many different types of texts in various subject areas (sciences, social sciences, arts, business, etc.). The Internet is one of the best resources for this, but any books, magazines, or journals are very helpful as well. It is best to progress to reading texts that are more academic in style, the kind that would be found in university courses.

In addition, you might try these activities:

- ▶ Scan the passages to find and highlight key facts (dates, numbers, terms) and information.
- ▶ Increase vocabulary knowledge, perhaps by using flashcards.

-
- ▶ Rather than carefully reading each word and each sentence, practice skimming a passage quickly to get a general impression of the main idea.
 - ▶ Choose some unfamiliar words in the passage and guess the meaning from the context (surrounding sentences).
 - ▶ Select all the pronouns (*he, him, they, them, etc.*) and identify which nouns each one refers to in the passage.
 - ▶ Practice making inferences and drawing conclusions based on what is implied in the passage as a whole.

All About the TOEFL iBT

The new TOEFL iBT differs in important ways from previous versions of the test. Read the following to learn about those differences and about the important features of the new test.

WHY IS THE TOEFL TEST CHANGING?

- ▶ *To measure the ability to communicate successfully in an academic setting.* The new test will better measure what colleges and universities need to know: a prospective student's ability to use English in an academic setting. The new Speaking section evaluates a person's ability to use spoken English, and the new integrated Writing and Speaking tasks measure the ability to combine and communicate about information from more than one source.
- ▶ *To reflect how language is really used.* The new integrated tasks that combine more than one skill are designed to reflect how people really use language. By preparing for the new TOEFL test, you will be building the skills you need to use language in an academic setting and communicate with confidence.
- ▶ *To keep up with the best practices in language learning and teaching.* In the past, language learning focused on learning *about* the language (especially grammar), and students would receive high scores on tests without having the ability to communicate. Now teachers and learners understand the importance of learning to *use English to communicate*, and activities that focus on communication and integrating (combining) skills are very popular in many English language programs.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE TOEFL iBT?

- ▶ *It tests all four language skills that are important for effective communication: speaking, listening, reading, and writing.* The TOEFL iBT emphasizes the student's ability to use English effectively in academic settings.
- ▶ *It will be delivered via the Internet in secure test centers around the world.* The "iBT" in the title of the test stands for "Internet-based testing." Once the new test is introduced in an area, the computer-based and paper-based tests will no longer be offered there.
- ▶ *Some tasks require test takers to combine more than one skill.* To succeed academically in English-speaking colleges and universities, students need to be able to

combine their language skills in the classroom. Integrated questions, or “tasks,” in the new test help learners build the confidence needed to communicate in the academic environments they plan to enter. The new integrated tasks ask test takers to

- ◆ read, listen, and then speak in response to a question
 - ◆ listen and then speak in response to a question
 - ◆ read, listen, and then write in response to a question
- *The new TOEFL test includes a Speaking section.* This section includes six tasks, and test takers wear headphones and speak into a microphone when they respond. The responses are digitally recorded and transmitted to ETS’s Online Scoring Network, where human scorers, trained and certified by ETS, rate them. The scorers are carefully monitored for accuracy, so test takers and score recipients can be assured of the reliability of the Speaking scores.
- *The Writing section has been expanded.* The new test requires test takers to type a response to material they have heard and read, and to compose an essay in support of an opinion. Trained and certified human scorers also rate the responses to the Writing tasks via ETS’s Online Scoring Network.
- *The new test is about 4 hours long.* All test sections will be completed in one day, so there is no need to travel to the test center twice.
- *Note taking is allowed.* Test takers can take notes on any section of the test, and they can use those notes when answering the questions. Test takers’ notes are shredded before they leave the test center for security purposes.
- *The new scores help to explain test takers’ English language ability.* ETS provides comprehensive scoring information that includes scores for four skills and a total score. Competency descriptors for each skill and level can be found on pages 365–373 and are available at www.ets.org/toefl. These descriptors help to explain what the new scores mean. In addition, test takers will receive helpful performance feedback on their score reports.
- *The new scores are reported online.* Test takers can view scores online fifteen business days after the test, as well as receive a copy of their score report by mail. Colleges and universities will be able to view online scores starting in 2006, but they will also continue to receive scores via their current method of delivery.

FORMAT OF THE TOEFL iBT

The new TOEFL iBT consists of four sections: Reading, Listening, Speaking, and Writing. All sections are taken on the same day, and the entire test is about four hours long. The test is not computer-adaptive. Each test taker receives the same range of questions. Instructions for answering questions are given within each section. There is no computer tutorial.

The following chart shows the range of questions and the timing for each section. The time limit for each section varies according to the number of questions.

The New Test Format

Test Section	Number of Questions	Timing
Reading	3–5 passages, 12–14 questions each	60–100 minutes
Listening	4–6 lectures, 6 questions each 2–3 conversations, 5 questions each	60–90 minutes
BREAK		5 minutes
Speaking	6 tasks: 2 independent and 4 integrated	20 minutes
Writing	1 integrated task	20 minutes
	1 independent task	30 minutes

QUESTION TYPES

The TOEFL iBT features many of the question types used on the computer-based test. However, the new questions that ask you to integrate (combine) two or more skills are probably the most distinguishing feature of the new test. Questions that assess integrated skills require you to

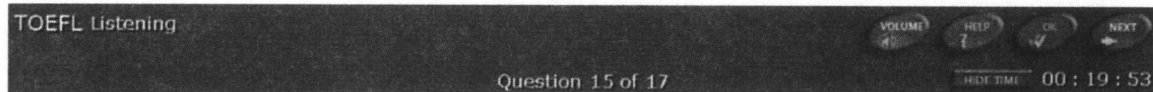
- ▶ read, listen, and then speak in response to a question
- ▶ listen and then speak in response to a question
- ▶ read, listen, and then write in response to a question

These new questions measure your ability to use English to communicate effectively and succeed in an English-speaking academic environment.

TOOL BAR

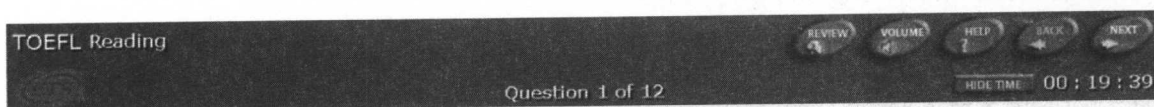
The tool bar in each section allows you to navigate through the test with ease. Following are examples of testing tools from the Listening and Reading sections of the new test. The section is always listed in the upper left-hand corner of the tool bar.

This is what the tool bar looks like on the Listening section.



- ▶ You will always know what question you are on and how much time is remaining in the section. It is possible to hide the clock at any time by clicking on **Hide Time**.
- ▶ **Volume** allows you to adjust the volume of the Listening.
- ▶ **Help** allows you to get relevant help. When you use the **Help** feature, the clock does not stop.
- ▶ **Next** allows you to proceed to the next question.
- ▶ Once you click on **Next**, you can confirm your answers by clicking on **OK**. In the Listening section, you cannot see a question again once you click on **OK**.

The tool bar for the Reading section has some different features.



- ▶ You can view the entire passage when answering questions. For some questions, you need to click on **View Text** to see the entire passage.
- ▶ You can view all your answers by clicking on **Review**. This allows you to return to any other question and change your answers. You can also see which questions you have skipped and still need to answer.
- ▶ In the Reading section you can also click **Back** at any time to return the previous question.

OVERVIEW OF THE TOEFL® iBT READING SECTION

Length of Each Passage	Number of Passages and Questions	Timing
Approximately 700 words	3–5 passages, 12–14 questions per passage	60–100 minutes

Reading Passages

You must read through or scroll to the end of each passage before receiving questions on that passage. Once the questions appear, the passage is located on the right side of the computer screen, and the questions are on the left. (See the illustration that follows.)

You do *not* need any special background knowledge to answer the questions in the Reading section correctly; all the information needed to answer the questions is contained in the passages. A definition may be provided for difficult words or phrases in the passage. If you click on the word, a definition will appear in the lower left part of the screen. This is how the reading passage and a question look on the computer screen:

In paragraph 1, the author explains the concept of energy expenditure by

- identifying types of organisms that became extinct
- comparing the scientific concept to a familiar human experience
- arguing that most organisms conserve rather than expend energy
- describing the processes of growth, reproduction, and metabolism

Paragraph 1 is marked with an arrow [⇒].

Opportunists and Competitors

→ Growth, reproduction, and daily metabolism all require an organism to expend energy. The expenditure of energy is essentially a process of budgeting, just as finances are budgeted. If all of one's money is spent on clothes, there may be none left to buy food or go to the movies. Similarly, a plant or animal cannot squander all its energy on growing a big body if none would be left over for reproduction, for this is the surest way to extinction. All organisms, therefore, allocate energy to growth, reproduction, maintenance, and storage. No choice is involved, this allocation comes as part of the genetic package from the parents. Maintenance for a given body design of an organism is relatively constant. Storage is important, but ultimately that energy will be used for maintenance, reproduction, or growth. Therefore the principal differences in energy allocation are likely to be between growth and reproduction.

Almost all of an organism's energy can be diverted to reproduction, with very little allocated to building the body. Organisms at this extreme are "opportunists." At the other extreme are "competitors," almost all of whose resources are invested in building a huge body, with a bare minimum allocated to reproduction.

Dandelions are good examples of opportunists. Their seedheads raised just high enough above the ground to catch the wind, the plants are no bigger than they need be, their stems are hollow, and all the rigidity comes from their water content. Thus, a minimum investment has been made in the body that becomes a platform for seed dispersal. These very short-lived plants reproduce prolifically, that is to say they provide a constant rain of seed in the neighborhood of parent plants. A new plant will spring up wherever a seed falls on a suitable soil surface, but because they do not build big bodies, they cannot compete with other plants for space, water, or sunlight. These plants are termed opportunists.

The 60 to 100 minutes allotted for this section include the time spent reading the passages and answering the questions.

OVERVIEW OF THE TOEFL® iBT LISTENING SECTION

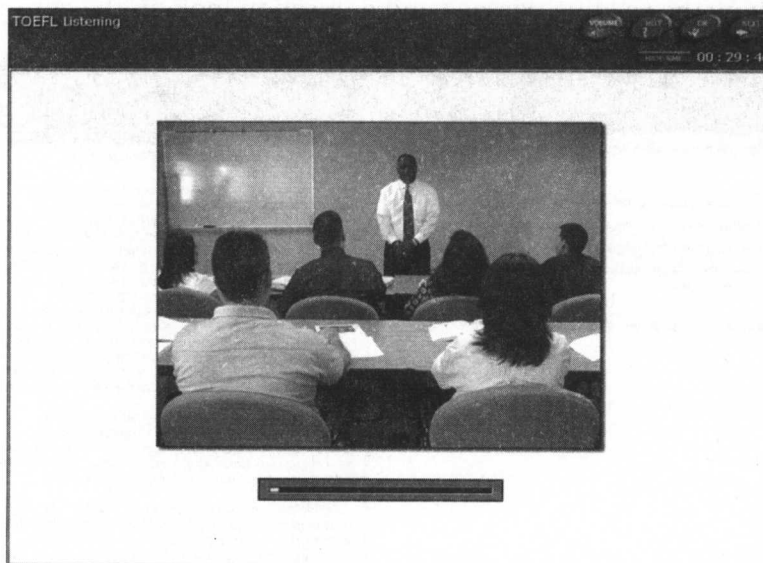
Listening Material	Number of Questions	Timing
4–6 lectures, 3–5 minutes long each, about 500–800 words	6 questions per lecture	60–90 minutes
2–3 conversations, about 3 minutes long, about 12–25 exchanges	5 questions per conversation	

The Listening section measures your ability to understand spoken English from North America and other English-speaking parts of the world. In academic environments students need to listen to lectures and conversations. Listening materials in the new test include academic lectures and long conversations in which the speech sounds very natural. You can take notes on any listening material throughout the entire test.

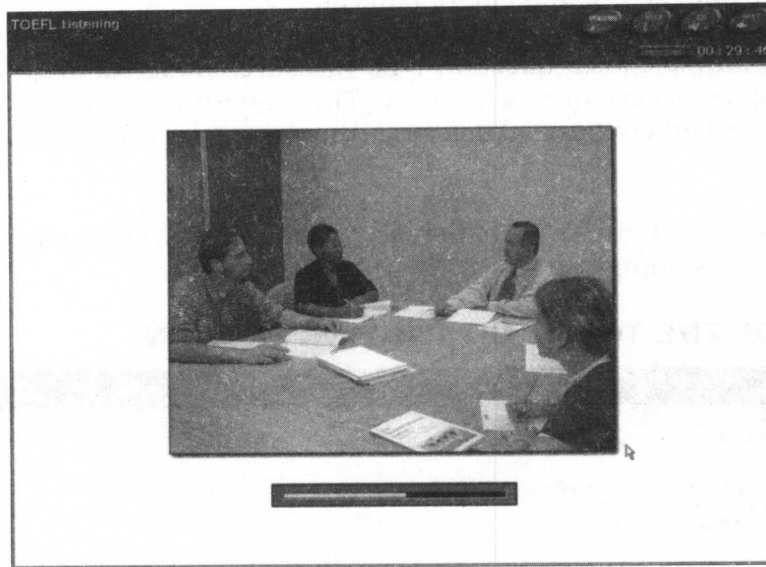
Academic Lectures

The lectures in the TOEFL iBT reflect the kind of listening and speaking that goes on in the classroom. In some of the lectures, the professor does all or almost all the talking, with an occasional question or comment by a student. In other lectures, the professor may engage the students in discussion by asking questions and getting the students to speak. The pictures that accompany the lecture help you know whether one or several people will be speaking.

A lecture where the professor is the only speaker



A lecture where the professor and students will speak

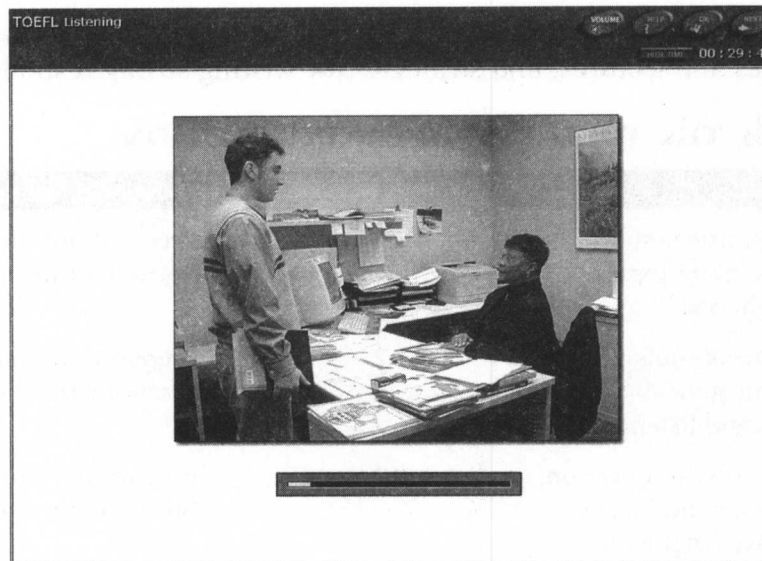


Conversations in an Academic Setting

The conversations on the TOEFL iBT may take place during an office hour with a professor or teaching assistant, or they may be with the person in charge of student housing, a librarian, a bookstore employee, a departmental secretary, or the like.

Pictures on the computer screen help you imagine the setting and the roles of the speakers.

Conversation example



Other Important Features of the TOEFL iBT Listening Section

- Note taking is allowed. After testing, notes are collected and shredded before you leave the test center.

- ▶ Conversations and lectures are longer than on previous versions of the TOEFL test, and the language sounds more natural.
- ▶ One lecture may be spoken with a British or Australian accent.
- ▶ One new multiple-choice question type measures understanding of a speaker's attitude, degree of certainty, or purpose. These questions require you to listen for voice tones and other cues and determine how speakers feel about the topic being discussed.

Chapter 3 gives you detailed information about the lectures, conversations, and question types in the Listening section.

OVERVIEW OF THE TOEFL® iBT WRITING SECTION

Task	Number of Tasks	Timing
Read/Listen/Write	1	20 minutes
Independent—answer based on personal knowledge and experience	1	30 minutes

There are two different writing tasks in the TOEFL iBT Writing section:

- ▶ An integrated task in which you read a short passage for 3 minutes (about 230 to 300 words), you listen to a short lecture that directly addresses the points made in the reading (2 minutes), and you write a summary of what the speaker said about the reading passage.
- ▶ An independent writing task in which you are asked to give an opinion about a general topic or a topic of interest to students. You are asked to support your opinion with specific reasons and examples. This task is very similar to the essay on the TOEFL CBT and the paper-and-pencil Test of Written English (TWE).

Chapter 5 gives you detailed information about both writing tasks, the topics of the reading passages and lectures, and strategies for writing strong responses.

OVERVIEW OF THE TOEFL® iBT SPEAKING SECTION

Tasks	Number of Tasks	Timing of Each Response
Independent—answer short questions on general topics about your opinions	2	Preparation time: 15 seconds Speaking time: 45 seconds
Read/Listen/Speak—answer questions about information you have read and listened to	2	Preparation time: 30 seconds Speaking time: 60 seconds
Listen/Speak—answer questions about a discussion and a short lecture you have listened to	2	Preparation time: 30 seconds Speaking time: 60 seconds

The Speaking section is approximately 20 minutes long, including questions and answers. It includes six tasks.