

TOEFL® iBT At A Glance

from ETS®

What is
everybody

speaking

listening

reading

writing

about?



Communicate with Confidence

ETS
TOEFL

Listening.
Learning.
Leading.

- **A new, Internet-based version of the TOEFL® test will be phased in beginning September 2005.** It will be introduced in the United States in September, followed by administrations in Canada, France, Germany, and Italy in October. It will be offered in the rest of the world in 2006. To find out when the test will be available in your country, visit www.ets.org/toefl/nextgen/timeline.html.
- **It tests all four language skills** that are important for effective communication: speaking, listening, reading, and writing.
- **Some questions 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 will help learners build the skills and confidence needed to communicate effectively in the academic environments they plan to enter. The new integrated tasks will 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 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 write a response to material they have heard and read, and to compose an essay in support of an opinion. 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 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 throughout the test.
- **The new scores help to explain the test taker’s English language ability.** ETS provides comprehensive scoring information that will include scores for four skills and a total score. Competency descriptors for each skill and level are available at www.ets.org/toefl and in our publications. 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 will be reported online.** Beginning in September 2005, test takers will be able to view scores online 15 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 continue to receive scores via their current method of delivery.

How does the new Internet-based TOEFL compare with the computer-based and paper-based versions of the test?

	INTERNET-BASED NEXT GENERATION TOEFL	COMPUTER-BASED TOEFL	PAPER-BASED TOEFL
SKILLS TESTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listening Speaking Reading Writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listening Structure (Grammar) Reading Writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listening Structure (Grammar) Reading Writing
TEST TIME	4 hours	3.5 hours	3 hours
INTEGRATED TASKS	Yes	No	No
NOTE TAKING	Yes	No	No
COMPUTER TUTORIALS	Instructions for answering questions are given within each section; there is no computer tutorial.	A computer tutorial and instructions for answering questions are provided before the test.	Not applicable
COMPUTER ADAPTIVE	Not computer adaptive. Each test taker receives the same range of questions in any given form of the test.	Listening and Structure are computer adaptive. Reading and Writing are not.	Not applicable
LISTENING	<p>4 – 6 lectures, some with classroom discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> each 3 – 5 minutes long, 6 questions each <p>2 – 3 conversations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> each 3 minutes long, 5 questions each <p>Introduction of additional native English accents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time: 60 – 90 minutes Score scale: 0 – 30 <p>What's different?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longer, more authentic conversations and lectures Note taking allowed New questions that measure understanding of a speaker's attitude, degree of certainty, purpose, or motivation 	<p>11 – 17 dialogues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 question each <p>2 – 3 short conversations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> each up to 1 minute long, 2 – 3 questions each <p>4 – 6 mini-lectures and discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> each up to 2 minutes long, 3 – 6 questions each <p>Time: 40 – 60 minutes</p> <p>Score scale: 0 – 30</p>	<p>3 – 4 mini-talks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> each 60 – 90 seconds long, 3 – 5 questions each <p>2 – 3 extended conversations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> each 60 – 90 seconds long, 3 – 5 questions each <p>30 – 40 dialogues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> each 5 – 15 seconds long, 1 question each <p>Time: 30 – 40 minutes</p> <p>Score scale: 31 – 68</p>
SPEAKING	<p>6 tasks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 independent tasks – express an opinion on a familiar topic 4 integrated tasks – speak based on what is read and heard <p>Up to 30 seconds to prepare the response</p> <p>Up to 1 minute to respond</p> <p>Time: 20 minutes</p> <p>Score scale: 0 – 4 points; total of ratings converted to 0 – 30 score scale</p> <p>What's different? Everything – it's a brand new section!</p>	None	None
READING	<p>3 – 5 passages from academic texts</p> <p>Approximately 700 words long</p> <p>Includes multiple-focus passages (compare/contrast, cause/effect)</p> <p>12 – 14 questions for each passage</p> <p>Time: 60 – 100 minutes</p> <p>Score scale: 0 – 30</p> <p>What's different?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glossary to define key words; easy-to-use review feature New task – categorize information and fill in chart/complete summary 	<p>4 – 5 passages from academic texts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 250 – 350 words long <p>11 questions per passage</p> <p>Time: 70 – 90 minutes</p> <p>Score scale: 0 – 30</p>	<p>5 passages from academic texts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 250 – 350 words long <p>10 questions per passage</p> <p>Time: 55 minutes</p> <p>Score scale: 31 – 67</p>
WRITING	<p>2 tasks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 integrated task – write based on what is read and heard 1 independent task – support an opinion on a topic <p>Time: 50 minutes (20 minutes for integrated task and 30 minutes for independent task)</p> <p>Score scale: 0 – 5 points; total of ratings converted to 0 – 30 score scale</p> <p>What's different?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated task 0 – 5 points Typing required 	<p>1 independent task – support an opinion on a topic</p> <p>Time: 30 minutes</p> <p>Score scale: 0 – 6 points; combined with Structure and converted to score scale of 0 – 30</p> <p>Typing optional</p>	<p>1 independent task (Test of Written English)</p> <p>Rating: 0 – 6 points, reported separately on score report</p> <p>Time: 30 minutes</p> <p>Handwriting only</p>
STRUCTURE (GRAMMAR)	No grammar section, although grammar is evaluated in Speaking and Writing responses.	<p>20 – 25 questions</p> <p>Time: 15 – 20 minutes</p> <p>Score scale: score combined with Writing section score (see above)</p>	<p>40 questions</p> <p>Time: 25 minutes</p> <p>Score scale: 31 – 68</p>
TOTAL SCORE	0 – 120	0 – 300	310 – 677
COMPETENCY DESCRIPTORS	Yes. They describe performance at major score points.	No	No

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the test changing?

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 information from more than one source and communicate about it.

Is a sample test available?

Yes, a complete test can be seen free of charge at www.ets.org/toefl.

Is it possible to take a practice test and get a score?

Yes, a practice test is available at **TOEFL Practice Online** at www.ets.org/toeflpractice. Join the online community for free and get access to Speaking samples, discussion boards, and daily study tips. Use a credit card to take the practice test for US\$20 and receive instant scores for the Reading, Listening, and Writing sections of the test. Additional Listening and Reading questions are available for US\$40.

Those wishing to receive a practice Speaking score can take the TOEFL Academic Speaking Test (TAST) for an additional US\$30. Visit www.ets.org/tast for more information.

How will the new Speaking section be scored?

Each of the six tasks will be rated from 0 to 4, and the sum of these scores will be converted to a scaled score of 0 to 30. Human scorers will rate the responses.

How will the Writing section be scored?

The two tasks will be rated from 0 to 5, and the sum of these scores will be converted to a scaled score of 0 to 30. Human scorers will rate the responses.

Scoring guides and sample responses for both the Writing and Speaking sections are available at www.ets.org/toefl.

Where will the test be administered?

The new test will be administered on fixed dates in a network of Internet-based test centers. Internet-based testing makes it possible to greatly expand the number of test centers in what is already the world's largest testing network. Most areas where the new test is offered will have 30 to 40 administrations a year, but the number will vary based on the number of test takers and test center capacity.

Test center information will be posted at www.ets.org/toefl in April 2005 and will be updated regularly. Registration bulletins will be available at many educational advising centers, colleges, universities, and libraries.

How can test takers register?

Registration begins in July 2005. Test takers can register online, by phone, or by mail.

Which colleges, universities, and licensing agencies accept TOEFL scores?

More than 5,000 colleges, universities, and licensing agencies in more than 90 countries accept TOEFL scores, making TOEFL the most accepted English-proficiency test in the world. For a list of approved score recipients, please visit www.ets.org/toefl.

What will the fee for the new test be?

The fee in 2005 will be US\$140.

For the latest information about the next generation TOEFL test, visit www.ets.org/toefl/nextgen.

Test takers can e-mail toefl@ets.org or call 1-877-863-3546 (toll free in the United States, U.S. territories, and Canada) or 1-609-771-7100.

English programs, educational advisers, guidance counselors, colleges, and universities can e-mail toeflnews@ets.org or call 1-609-683-2008.



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