The TOEFL® Test: Your Passport to Study Abroad

ETS (Educational Testing Service)
July 2011
What is the TOEFL® Test?

• The TOEFL test measures the ability of nonnative speakers to use and understand English as it is spoken, written, and heard in college and university settings

• Used primarily for admission into universities where English is the language of instruction
  – Accepted at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels

• Also used for immigration, licensing, scholarships, and placement
The TOEFL® Test Advantage

• **Most accepted**: 8,000+ institutions in 130 countries, including the top 100 Universities in the US*

• **Most respected**: Admissions officers surveyed say that it provides more accurate scores to differentiate between applicants

• **Most preferred**: 4 out of 5 US admissions officers who were surveyed and stated a preference prefer the TOEFL test over other English-language tests**

• **Most taken**: More than 25 million people have taken the test

• **Most diverse applicant pool**: Students who take the TOEFL test come from more than 180 countries

** Source: Survey of 263 admissions officers at U.S. universities, of which 212 accept both the TOEFL test and the IELTS™ test and 152 state a preference.
The TOEFL® Test Advantage

• **Most fair and unbiased:**
  – Uses multiple raters, not just one
  – Scoring is done separately from the test center for maximum fairness

• **Most testing sites:** 4,500 locations in 165 countries worldwide, making it easy to find a test site near you

• **Emphasizes communicative English:** Shows universities how well you *use* English, not just what you *know* about it

• **Uses integrated questions:** The test reflects the kinds of English you will experience at university
## The TOEFL iBT® Test Format

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

Note taking is allowed in all sections.
• 3 to 4 reading passages
  – Reading passages approximately 700 words long
  – Followed by 12 to 14 questions for each reading passage
  – Includes multiple-focus passages (e.g., cause/effect, compare/contrast)
• Glossary feature to define words not commonly used
• 60 to 80 minutes
• Easy-to-use review feature
TOEFL® iBT Listening Section

• 4 to 6 lectures; 2 or 3 with classroom dialogue
  – 3 to 5 minutes long
  – Each has 6 questions

• 2 or 3 conversations with 2 speakers (1 is a student)
  – 2 to 3 minutes long
  – Each has 5 questions

• Note taking allowed

• 60 to 90 minutes
The kind of academic speaking you’ll need to do at university

• Six different questions
  – Independent speaking
    • Speaking about familiar topics
  – Integrated speaking
    • Speaking about campus situations
    • Speaking about academic course content
• Responses scored by 3-6 anonymous, objective raters
TOEFL® iBT Writing Section

2 Writing tasks

• 1 integrated task
  – Reading/Listening/Writing
  – Short academic listening and reading material
  – 20 minutes

• 1 independent essay
  – Response based on personal experience or opinion
  – Similar to current essay for the TOEFL® computer-based test or the Test of Written English™ (TWE®)
  – 30 minutes

• Typing is required
Student FAQs about Testing

• How do test takers register for the TOEFL® test?
  – Online
  – Phone
  – Mail
  – In person at a TOEFL iBT® Test Resource Centre

• What do test takers bring on the day of the test?
  – Their registration confirmation (found in their online profile)
  – Their valid, acceptable identification document

• The name on your registration MUST match the name on your identification document or you may not be permitted to test or your test will be cancelled
Student FAQs about Testing

• How long is the test?
  – Test takers have about 4 hours to complete the test
  – If test takers finish early they may leave the test center

• How do I find a test center?
  – Go to www.toeflgoanywhere.org, select “register now” and you will be directed to a page where you can select the country where you plan to test. You will then see a list of cities and dates that the test is available
  – When you register, you will be able to see the exact location of the available test centers
Student FAQs about Testing

• When will the scores be available?
  – *TOEFL iBT®* scores are usually available online in 10 Calendar days
  – E-mail notification will be sent to the test taker when their score are available
  – *TOEFL®* paper-based test scores are mailed within 4-5 weeks of the test date

• What is the passing score for TOEFL?
  – There is no passing score for TOEFL.
  – Each university sets their own score requirements
  – Test takers need to check with the university where they are applying for their TOEFL score requirements
TOEFL® Go Anywhere Website
www.toeflgoanywhere.org

- Website contents include:
  - TOEFL Journey program
  - TOEFL Institutions search
  - How to register; Test center locations and available dates
  - Test prep resources
  - Video tips
TOEFL Journey™ Program

- TOEFL Journey program
  - Provides relevant and helpful information for each stage of your test-taking journey
  - Sends automatic notifications by email or SMS
  - Includes a customizable TOEFL Journey dashboard
  - Join today at www.toeflgoanywhere.org
TOEFL Institutions Search

• TOEFL Institutions Advanced Search
  – Now you can input a TOEFL iBT test score and find out where you can go with that score.
• Planner contents:
  • An actual eight-week plan
  • Tips and activities to build each of the four skills
  • Sample questions
  • Sample responses and rater annotations (on website)
• [INSERT INFO ABOUT HOW TO GET PLANNERS LOCALLY]
• Includes video tips from teachers and students
• Learn about TOEFL Destinations
• Features four “Meet the Study Group” videos
• 4,100+ subscribers, 676,000+ video views
Videos for Students

• Welcome to the TOEFL iBT Test Site
  www.ets.org/toefl/testsitevideo
  – See what it’s like at a real TOEFL iBT testing site

• The TOEFL Test:
  Your Passport to the World
  – Learn how the TOEFL test can take you anywhere you want to go
Videos for Students

• The TOEFL Test Advantage
  http://www.ets.org/s/toefl/flash/15019_testtaker.html
  – Find out why more admissions officers prefer the TOEFL Test

• TOEFL® Resources: An Overview for Students
  http://www.ets.org/s/toefl/flash/17494/TOEFL_Resources_Web_Video.htm
  – Learn about the tools from ETS that can help you prepare for the TOEFL test
Free TOEFL iBT® Test Prep

• Free Sample Questions
  – Download: http://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/prepare/sample_questions/
  – Print-only format: http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/TOEFL/pdf/SampleQuestions.pdf

• TOEFL Test Sampler
  – Free with registration

• TOEFL Tips:
TOEFL iBT Test Prep

- **The Official Guide to the TOEFL® Test**
  - Test prep handbook from ETS

- **TOEFL® Practice Online**
  - Real, complete practice tests

- **TOEFL Value Packs**
  - Save up to 35% on official prep and other resources
The Official Guide to the TOEFL® Test

- TOEFL iBT™ test preparation handbook for students
- Includes actual TOEFL iBT sample questions and 2 full-length practice tests
- Scoring information with ETS raters’ comments on sample responses for the Speaking and Writing sections
- Two formats:
  - eBook
  - Paper book with interactive CD-ROM
TOEFL® Practice Online

- Simulates the real TOEFL iBT™ test
- Anytime, anywhere access
- Instant scores and feedback on all four skills
- Multiple complete practice tests available
- New versions released regularly
TOEFL Value Packs:

*Save big on essential TOEFL products when you register for the test*

- Prep  $64 – Save 20%
  - The Official Guide to the TOEFL® Test
  - TOEFL® Practice Online

- Plus  $99 – Save 30%
  - The Official Guide to the TOEFL® Test
  - TOEFL® Practice Online
  - Engaging English™ Service

- Premium  $199 – Save 35%
  - The Official Guide to the TOEFL® Test
  - TOEFL® Practice Online
  - Engaging English™ Service
  - 8 Additional Score Reports
  - US$35 Next Test Discount
Skill-building Tools

Engaging English™ Service

• Provides targeted online reading practice matched to your level and interests
• Helps you set reading goals and monitor your progress in real time using Lexile® measures
• Available as part of the TOEFL Value Packs. Also sold separately.
Skill-building Tools

• English Skills Series (powered by AmEnglish.com)
  • Three web-based, interactive programs that can help you improve your English skills
Making Your Journey Easier

• Scores available online within 2 weeks
  – Email notification sent when your scores are ready
• Local TOEFL Service Centers
  – Local hours, toll-free calls
  – Now available in:
    • Australia
    • France
    • Germany
    • Hong Kong
    • India
    • Japan
    • Korea
    • Taiwan
    • Turkey
TOEFL Scholarship Program

• Available for students in China, India, Korea, Japan, and Taiwan
• Recognizes students who have:
  – Exelled academically
  – Demonstrated leadership skills
  – Participated in extracurricular activities
  – Achieved English-language proficiency
• Universities that 2010 winners will attend include:
  – University of Toronto, University of Oxford, London School of Economics, Harvard University, Cornell University, Stanford University
The TOEFL test:
Advantages that make your journey easier.

www.toeflgoanywhere.org