

What Is the TOEFL Test?

The Test of English as a Foreign Language™ (TOEFL®) measures the ability of nonnative speakers of English to use and understand English as it is spoken, written, and heard in college and university settings.

The TOEFL test is offered in different formats depending on a test taker's location.

The Internet-based TOEFL Test

The TOEFL Internet-based Test (TOEFL iBT) tests all four language skills that are important for effective communication: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The test helps students demonstrate that they have the English skills needed for success.

What Is the Benefit of an Internet-based Test?

TOEFL iBT emphasizes integrated skills and provides better information to institutions about students' ability to communicate in an academic setting and their readiness for academic coursework. With Internet-based testing, ETS can capture speech and score responses in a standardized manner.

Online registration and online score reporting make it easier for students to register for TOEFL iBT and receive their test scores.

Test Delivery

How will the new test be administered?

The new test will be administered on fixed dates at secure 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 TOEFL iBT 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.

ETS will continue to utilize the current computer-based testing as well as paper-based testing until the Internet-based version is available in an area.

Test location information will be posted on this Web site and will be updated regularly. The *Information and Registration Bulletin* (PDF) for TOEFL Internet-based testing may be downloaded. These bulletins are also available at many educational advising centers, colleges, universities, and libraries.

Why is the TOEFL test changing?

The test is changing to 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.

Why use Internet-based testing (iBT)?

Internet-based testing makes it possible to capture and score test-taker speech in the most efficient, standardized, and objective manner. Internet-based testing will also make it possible to greatly increase the number of test centers, which is good for test takers.

What is the new test like?

The test includes four sections and takes about four hours to complete.

Section	Time Limit	No. of Questions
Reading	60-100 minutes	36-70
Listening	60-90 minutes	34-51
Break	10 minutes	-
Speaking	20 minutes	6 tasks
Writing	50 minutes	2 tasks

What's different about the new test?

- The TOEFL iBT has a new Speaking section, which includes independent and integrated tasks.
- There is no longer a Structure section. Grammar is tested on questions and tasks in each section.
- Lectures and conversations in the Listening section are longer, but note-taking is allowed. In fact, note-taking is allowed throughout the entire test.
- The speech in the listening material sounds more natural, and one lecture may use a British or Australian accent. Also, there are new questions that measure understanding of a speaker's attitude, degree of certainty, and purpose.
- The Reading section has new questions that ask test takers to categorize information and fill in a chart or complete a summary.
- The Writing section requires typing. There is an integrated task in addition to the current independent task, and the scoring guides (rubrics) used for rating are different from the current test.

Will it be possible to take just a specific section of the test?

No, the entire test must be taken to receive a score.

Test Scores

How will the Speaking section be scored?

- Each of the six tasks is rated from 0 to 4, and the average of these scores is converted to a scaled score of 0 to 30.
- Human scorers rate the responses. They evaluate the test-taker's ability in topic development, delivery, and language use.

How will the Writing section be scored?

- The two tasks are rated from 0 to 5, and the average of these scores is converted to a scaled score of 0 to 30.
- Human scorers rate the responses.
- Scorers evaluate the integrated writing task on the overall quality of the writing (development, organization, appropriate and precise use of grammar and vocabulary) and the completeness and accuracy of the content. Scorers rate the independent writing essay on the overall quality of the writing:

- Development
- Organization
- Appropriate and precise use of grammar and vocabulary.

Will the TOEFL score scale change?

Yes. The new score scale is shown here.

Section	Score Scale
Listening	0-30
Reading	0-30
Speaking	0-30
Writing	0-30
Total Score	0-120

The total score is the sum of the four skill scores.

What happens to scores from previous tests?

ETS will report previous scores for two years after the original test date.

Will institutions still accept previous scores?

Requirements vary from institution to institution. Test takers should check with their prospective institutions or agencies to determine specific requirements.

Registration

When will the new test be given?

The new test will be administered on fixed dates.

Where will the new test be given?

It will be given in a network of Internet-based test centers.

How do test takers register?

Registration opens two months in advance of the first administration in each country. Test takers will be able to register:

- online www.ets.org
- by phone
- by mail.

How much does the test cost?

The test costs U.S. \$185.

Kontakt/Anmeldung: Sprachenakademie Aachen GmbH
 Sprachenzentrum an der Fachhochschule Aachen
 Kockerellstr. 9, 52062 Aachen
 Tel.: 0241 - 3 99 99, Fax: 0241 - 40 76 41
 Web: www.spraachen.de

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