Introduction

About the TOEFL iBT® Test

The TOEFL iBT® test measures your ability to use and understand the English language as it is read, heard, spoken, and written in the university classroom. More than 8,500 universities, agencies, and other institutions in more than 130 countries accept TOEFL® scores as part of their admissions criteria, making the TOEFL iBT test the most accepted English-language test in the world.

Each TOEFL iBT test contains four sections: Reading, Listening, Speaking, and Writing. The questions in these sections measure how well you **read, listen, speak, and write in English**. They also measure how well you use these skills together, so in some cases you will be asked to integrate your skills. For example, you may read a passage or listen to a lecture, and then write or speak about what you learned. Here are brief descriptions of each section, including what the section measures and the types of questions it contains.

Reading Section

This section measures your ability to understand academic passages in English. The passages are excerpts from university-level textbooks and similar academic materials.

You do not need any background knowledge about the topics contained in the passages in order to successfully answer the questions. All the information you need to answer the questions can be found in the passages. The questions cover your ability to find and understand basic information, make inferences, and read to learn.

Here are the types of Reading questions, with an explanation of each type:

Factual Information Questions	These questions ask you to identify factual information that was explicitly stated in the passage.
Negative Factual Information Questions	These questions ask you to distinguish information that is true from information that is not true or not included in the passage.
Inference Questions	These questions ask about information that is implied but not explicitly stated in the passage.
Rhetorical Purpose Questions	These questions ask about the rhetorical function of specific information presented in a passage. These questions ask *why* the author mentioned or included a specific piece of information in the passage.
Vocabulary Questions	These questions ask you to identify the meanings of individual words or phrases *as they are used in the passage*.

Reference Questions	These questions measure your ability to identify relationships between ideas mentioned in the passage and expressions that refer to the ideas. For example, an idea could be presented and another sentence could refer to "This idea." A question might ask what the phrase "This idea" refers to.
Sentence Simplification Questions	These questions ask you to choose a sentence that has the same essential meaning as a particular sentence from the passage.
Insert Text Questions	These questions provide a new sentence and ask you to place that sentence into the passage where it would best fit.
Prose Summary Questions	These questions ask you to identify major ideas from the passage and distinguish them from minor ideas or from ideas that were not presented in the passage. To select the correct answers, you need to both understand the relative importance of various pieces of information from the passage and identify the combination of answer choices that covers the major ideas presented in the passage.
Fill in a Table Questions	These questions ask you to select which answer choices belong in a table containing two or three categories. You will need to organize or categorize major ideas or points from the passage into the correct categories.

Listening Section

This section measures your ability to understand conversations and academic lectures in English.

You will listen to two conversations. One conversation takes place in a professor's office and may include discussion of academic material or course requirements. The other conversation takes place on a university campus and includes discussion of nonacademic content that is related to university life. Each conversation is followed by five questions.

You will also listen to four lectures on a variety of topics. In two lectures, only the professor speaks. In the other two lectures, students contribute to the discussion; the professor may ask students questions about the topic being discussed or may answer students' questions. Each lecture is followed by six questions.

Each conversation and lecture is heard only once. Each contains a context photograph depicting the speaker(s). Some conversations and lectures contain other visuals, such as blackboards that present technical vocabulary or uncommon names.

Here are the types of Listening questions, with an explanation of each type:

Basic Comprehension Questions	These questions ask about the main idea or main purpose of a conversation or lecture, or they ask about important details that were discussed.
Connecting Information Questions	These questions ask you to identify the organization of information in a conversation or lecture, to make connections between important points that were discussed, or to make inferences based on important points that were discussed.
Pragmatic Understanding Questions	These questions ask you to identify a speaker's purpose in making a statement or asking a question or to identify a speaker's attitude, opinion, or degree of certainty.

Most questions are multiple choice with one correct answer. Some questions require more than one answer. You may also encounter questions that ask you to place the steps of a process in order, place checkmarks in a grid, or listen again to a portion of a conversation or lecture.

Speaking Section

This section measures your ability to speak in English about a variety of topics.

For each question, you will be given a short time to prepare your response. When the preparation time is up, answer the question as completely as possible in the time indicated for that question. For the tests in this book, you should record your responses on a recording device. That way, you can review them later and compare them with the answer key and rubrics.

For Speaking question 1, you will speak about a familiar topic, such as a person you know, a favorite place, an important object, or an enjoyable event. You should base your response on personal experience or what you know about the familiar topic.

For Speaking question 2, you will give your opinion about a familiar topic. You will need to explain what your opinion is and explain the reasons you have for holding that opinion.

For Speaking question 3, you will first read a short passage and then listen to or read a transcript of a conversation on the same topic. You will then be asked a question about both. You will need to combine appropriate information from the passage and the conversation to provide a complete answer to the question. Your response is scored on your ability to speak clearly and coherently and on your ability to accurately convey information about the passage and the conversation.

For Speaking question 4, you will first read a short passage on an academic subject and then listen to or read a transcript of a talk on the same subject. You will then be asked a question about both. Your response is scored on your ability to speak clearly and coherently and on your ability to integrate and convey key information from the passage and the talk.

For Speaking question 5, you will listen to or read a transcript of a conversation about a campus-related problem. Your response is scored on your ability to briefly summarize the problem, state which solution from the conversation you prefer, and explain the reasons for your preference.

For Speaking question 6, you will listen to or read a transcript of part of a lecture. You will then be asked a question about it. Your response is scored on your ability to speak clearly and coherently and on your ability to accurately convey information from the lecture.

Speaking responses are scored in terms of three important dimensions: delivery, language use, and topic development. When raters evaluate responses, they consider all three dimensions equally. No one dimension is weighted more heavily than another.

Writing Section

This section measures your ability to write in English to communicate in an academic environment.

For Writing question 1, you will read a passage and listen to or read a transcript of a lecture. Then you will respond to a question that asks you about the relationship between the reading passage and the lecture. Try to answer as completely as possible using information from both the reading passage and the lecture. The question does *not* ask you to express your personal opinion. You may consult the reading passage again when it is time for you to write. Typically, an effective response will be 150 to 225 words. Your response is judged on the quality of your writing and on the completeness and accuracy of the content.

For Writing question 2, you will write an essay in response to a question that asks you to state, explain, and support your opinion on an issue. Typically, an effective essay will contain a minimum of 300 words. Your essay is judged on the quality of your writing. This includes the development of your ideas, the organization of your essay, and the quality and accuracy of the language you use to express your ideas.

How to Use This Book

Official TOEFL iBT® Tests with Audio can help you prepare for the test. It includes five complete actual TOEFL iBT tests. All the test questions are real TOEFL iBT questions given to test takers at worldwide test administrations, but some questions are presented differently than on the real test. The audio portions of the Listening, Speaking, and Writing sections are provided on the audio disc that accompanies this book.

In the Reading and Listening sections of each test, you may mark your answers in the spaces provided. In the Writing section of each test, spaces are provided for you to write your responses.

Audio Portions

In the Listening, Speaking, and Writing sections, whenever you need to listen to an audio portion, you will see the headphones icon: 🎧.

Each audio track is numbered. Click on the number on the disc main menu to hear that audio track.

Written transcripts of the audio portions are located in Appendix B. If you do not have access to the audio files, but do have access to people with good English pronunciation, ask them to read the transcripts aloud to you. Listening to the transcripts is better practice than reading them to yourself. If someone reads the transcripts to you, make sure you see the pictures.

Listen to each audio track only *one* time. As in the real test, you may take notes while you listen and use your notes to help you answer the questions.

Answers

An Answers section for each test is provided immediately following the end of the test.

For the Reading and Listening sections, Answer Keys are provided.

For the Speaking and Writing sections, there is no single correct answer for each question. The Answers section has descriptions of what you need to do to get a high score. You can also evaluate your responses using the scoring rubrics provided in Appendix A.

In the Speaking section, if you have recorded your responses on a recording device, you can compare them with the descriptions in the Answers section and with the rubrics.

Rubrics

Rubrics are used to guide raters in evaluating Speaking and Writing section responses. All TOEFL iBT rubrics can be found in Appendix A.

Speaking scores represent an overall judgment of how well a response communicates its intended message. **Delivery** and **language use** are two key characteristics that raters consider when scoring responses to Independent Speaking questions (questions 1–2) and Integrated Speaking questions (questions 3–6). **Topic development** is a third key characteristic. For Independent Speaking questions, topic development is characterized by the *fullness* of the content provided in the response as well as its overall *coherence*. For Integrated Speaking questions, topic development is characterized by the *accuracy* and *completeness* of the content provided in the response as well as its overall *coherence*.

Writing scores also represent an overall judgment of how well a response communicates its intended message. The **quality of the writing** is a key characteristic that raters consider when scoring responses to the Integrated Writing question (question 1) and the Independent Writing question (question 2). High-quality writing is characterized by *good organization*, as well as *appropriate and precise use of grammar and vocabulary*. For an Independent Writing question, high-quality writing also *effectively addresses the topic and task* and is *well developed*.

The **completeness and accuracy of the content** is another key characteristic of responses that raters consider when scoring responses to an Integrated Writing question. A complete and accurate response presents the relevant main points from both the lecture and the reading, demonstrates the relationship between each of these main points, includes supporting details, and does not include information from sources other than the lecture and the reading.

The TOEFL® Test Prep Planner

Included with this book is the *TOEFL® Test Prep Planner*. This concise guide is designed to help you understand how to prepare for the test effectively and how to build the English skills you need to succeed. It includes general information about the test and the different question types, as well as a test-preparation plan to use in the eight weeks leading up to your test date. You will also find skill-building activities, sample TOEFL iBT test questions, and information on what to do on and after test day.

More Official Resources

ETS has many official resources to help you prepare for the TOEFL iBT test, including:

- *The Official Guide to the TOEFL® Test*
- TOEFL® Practice Online
- The *TOEFL Journey®* Program
- "Inside the TOEFL Test" Videos

For information about these resources and more, and to register for the test, visit **www.toeflgoanywhere.org**.