

CHAPTER
2

About the TOEFL iBT® Test

The TOEFL iBT® test measures the English language skills important for effective communication in an academic setting. It consists of four sections: Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing. The entire test is about four hours long, and all sections are taken on the same day.

The TOEFL iBT test uses integrated tasks that require test takers to combine skills just as they would in a real academic setting. The integrated questions 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

Test Format

The following chart shows the possible number of questions and the timing for each section of the test. The time limit for each section varies according to the number of questions. Every test contains either a longer Reading section or a longer Listening section.

Test Section	Number of Questions	Timing
Reading	3–4 passages, 12–14 questions each	60–90 minutes
Listening	4–6 lectures, 6 questions each 2–3 conversations, 5 questions each	60–90 minutes
BREAK		10 minutes
Speaking	6 tasks: 2 independent and 4 integrated	20 minutes
Writing	1 integrated task 1 independent task	20 minutes 30 minutes

Test Administration

- The TOEFL iBT® test is administered via computer from a secure Internet-based network.
- Instructions for answering questions are given with each section. Test takers can take notes throughout the entire test. At the end of testing, all notes are collected and destroyed to ensure test security.
- For the Speaking section, test takers wear headphones and speak into a microphone. Responses are digitally recorded and sent to the ETS Online Scoring Network where three to six human raters score the responses.
- For the Writing section, test takers type their responses. Responses are sent to the ETS Online Scoring Network, where they are rated by four raters—two human raters for the integrated task, one human rater and one *e-rater*® for the independent task. (With *e-rater*, your responses are scored by the computer.)
- All human raters are trained and certified by ETS and are continuously monitored throughout the day each time they rate.
- Scores are reported both online and by mail.

About Test Scores

Score Scales

The TOEFL iBT test provides scores in four skill areas:

Reading	0–30
Listening	0–30
Speaking	0–30
Writing	0–30

Total Score 0–120 (The total score is the sum of the four section scores.)

Score Reports

The score reports provide information about your readiness to participate and succeed in academic studies in an English-speaking setting. Score reports include:

- four skill scores
- total score

Scores are reported online approximately ten days after the test. You can view your scores online free of charge. Paper copies are mailed shortly after the scores are posted online if you opted to receive a hard copy. Please see Appendix 2 for a sample examinee score report.

Colleges, universities and agencies also can view your scores online and/or receive paper score reports when you have selected them as score recipients. You can do this free of charge for up to four score recipients when you register, or you can do it after the test for a small fee. See Chapter 7 for more information.

Score Requirements

Each institution sets its own requirements for TOEFL iBT® scores. These minimums depend 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.

ETS has collected the score requirements of many TOEFL® Destination institutions. For your convenience, these are included in the **TOEFL Destinations Directory** at www.toeflgoanywhere.org. However, we advise you to check with your particular program or department at your target destination to find out if they have any special score requirements.