



Teacher Frequently Asked Questions for TOEFL iBT® Enhancements

Student Experience



1

How many questions will be in each section? How much time will each section take?

Test Section	Task Types	Number of items ¹	Estimated Time ²
Reading (multistage)	Complete the Words Read in Daily Life Read an Academic Passage	35–48	About 27 minutes
Listening (multistage)	Listen and Choose a Response Listen to a Conversation Listen to an Announcement Listen to an Academic Talk	35–45	About 27 minutes
Writing	Build a Sentence Write an Email Write for an Academic Discussion	12	About 23 minutes
Speaking	Listen and Repeat Take an Interview	11	About 8 minutes

¹ The number of items may change before January 21, 2026 due to optimization.

The number of Reading and Listening items depends on whether a test taker receives pretest items. All test takers will receive either Reading or Listening pretest items.

² The estimated time does not include the time taken for tasks like adjusting audio volume or reading introductory instructions.

2

Will all test takers receive pretest questions? Will an individual test taker receive pretest in both the Reading and Listening sections?

Pretest questions are unscored and designed solely for research purposes. All test takers will encounter these questions embedded within either the Reading or Listening section.

3

Why does the time vary so much for Reading and Listening? How much time will the entire test take?

All test takers will encounter pretest items embedded within either the Reading or Listening section. Overall, it will take about 2 hours to complete the test, including steps like adjusting the headphone volume.

4

What will be the test sequence?

Test takers will receive the Reading section first, followed by the Listening section, Writing section and Speaking section.

5

How has the content changed?

The enhanced TOEFL iBT covers English used in modern academic environments. Tasks are drawn from both academic and campus life contexts.

- Reading passages from academic sources as well as newspapers, magazines, websites and social media
- Listening to academic talks as well as campus announcements and social interactions
- Writing for common situations such as emails and online discussions
- Speaking during a simulated interview

In addition, there are tasks that measure foundational aspects of language proficiency, such as Complete the Words, Build a Sentence, and Listen and Repeat.

6

What upgraded audio equipment will be used in test centers?

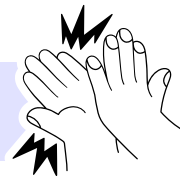
All test center headphones worldwide are being replaced with state-of-the-art custom “stereophones” developed in collaboration with renowned audio brand Koss.

7

Will notetaking be allowed?

Yes, notetaking will still be allowed. At test centers, test takers will be provided with scratch paper and pencils. Test takers are not allowed to take personal scratch paper, pens, or pencils into the testing room. For the Home Edition, test takers must use an erasable marker and write on either a whiteboard or a blank sheet of paper inside a transparent sheet protector.

Multistage Adaptive Testing



8

Which sections of the TOEFL iBT are multistage adaptive?

The Reading and Listening Sections are multistage adaptive.

9

How is multistage adaptive testing implemented?

Test takers will take one stage or module of the Reading or Listening test section. Based on their performance on the first module, test takers will get a second module where the difficulty of the test tasks matches their ability level.

- Test takers can't skip or go back between stages.
- All test takers get a fair chance to show what they know.
- The final score is based on both stages and reflects an individuals' true proficiency level.

Scoring



10

How will the Reading and Listening scores be calculated?

The score for the Reading and Listening sections takes into consideration the total number of questions answered correctly across the two stages or modules as well as the difficulty level of questions.

11

How is the reported scale score calculated?

Test takers are awarded one point when they answer a test question correctly. The total score points that a test taker earns in each section – Reading and Listening – known as the raw score, are converted to a reporting scale through a statistical process called equating. The Item Response Theory (IRT) method is used for score equating in the Reading and Listening sections. Briefly, for both Reading and Listening sections, all test questions are calibrated and placed on the same difficulty scale based on previously collected data and stored in an item pool. Different versions of the Reading and Listening test sections, referred to as “test forms” are assembled by selecting questions from the item pool according to detailed content and statistical specifications. The raw-to-scale conversions are first established for a base test form. For each new test form, IRT true score equating is conducted to convert the raw scores on the new test form to equated raw scores, which correspond to the raw scores on the base form. These equated raw scores are then converted to scaled scores by applying the raw-to-scale conversion of the base test form.

This equating process helps ensure fairness and score comparability in two important ways. First, the equated score for both Reading and Listening adjusts for any differences in difficulty caused by multistage test adaptation. Second, the equating process accounts for slight variations in difficulty across different test forms. Consequently, for both Reading and Listening sections, a reported score reflects the same level of language ability, regardless of which second stage was taken, or which test form was administered.

The total writing and speaking raw score points are converted to a scaled score through innovative weighted equipercentile linking procedures that account for minor variations in difficulty among the different test versions. This type of linking ensures that a given scaled score reflects the same level of language ability, regardless of when the test was taken, or which specific tasks were completed.

12

How will Speaking and Writing responses be scored?

The Speaking and Writing responses will be scored by the ETS proprietary AI scoring engine according to the criteria outlined in the scoring guides. These engines integrate the most advanced natural language processing (NLP) techniques, combining cutting-edge research with extensive operational expertise for enhanced performance.

Human rating remains a critical component of the overall scoring process of TOEFL's Writing and Speaking tasks because the automated scoring engines are trained on human ratings. Human ratings not only set the standard for machine learning but also provide oversight to ensure the accuracy and reliability of our scoring.

13

Where can I find the Speaking and Writing scoring guides?

Scoring guides are available on www.ets.org/toefl.

14

Where can I find Speaking and Writing sample responses?

Sample Responses will be soon made available on www.ets.org/toefl.

15

How has the score scale changed?

Performance on each of the four sections and the overall test are reported in the form of band scores from 1 to 6 in increments of .5.

The updated TOEFL iBT scores were designed to intuitively map to the CEFR levels. The following table shows the mapping of TOEFL iBT scores to CEFR levels:

CEER Level	Reading	Listening	Writing	Speaking	Overall
C2	6	6	6	6	6
C1	5-5.5	5-5.5	5-5.5	5-5.5	5-5.5
B2	4-4.5	4-4.5	4-4.5	4-4.5	4-4.5
B1	3-3.5	3-3.5	3-3.5	3-3.5	3-3.5
A2	2-2.5	2-2.5	2-2.5	2-2.5	2-2.5
A1	1-1.5	1-1.5	1-1.5	1-1.5	1-1.5

A 1 – 6 score and comparable 0 – 120 total score will be provided on each report for two years after Jan. 21

16

Are the current TOEFL iBT score/performance descriptors being revised?

Updated performance descriptors will be made available soon on www.ets.org/toefl to help interpret the 1-6 score scale.



Test Prep Materials/Resources

17

What sample materials are available?

Sample questions, Full length interactive tests and other Test prep resources to help students prepare for the enhanced TOEFL iBT are available on www.ets.org/toefl.

18

Where can I find the new test prep resources? When will they be available?

Test prep resources to help students prepare for the enhanced TOEFL iBT are available on www.ets.org/toefl.

19

Who do I contact for questions about test prep materials resources?

For test prep related questions, email toefltestprep@ets.org.