

The Next generation TOEFL Test Details:

TOEFL iBT Tasks Integrate All Four Language Skills

The TOEFL® Internet-based test is unique because it is the only large-scale, standardized test that integrates, or combines, four basic communication skills. For example, you might read a passage of text and listen to a lecture, and then write or speak about it in response.

These integrated tasks are excellent measures of your ability to communicate in English because they more closely reflect how we use real language. These practical, everyday tasks allow ETS to obtain a more realistic measure of how well you will be able to communicate in an academic setting.

This approach also helps you prepare for success in the real academic environments you will face once you begin coursework.

The new test consists of four sections. It is approximately four hours long. Information about each section is provided below.

All four sections can be taken on one day. Note-taking is allowed throughout the test to help test takers answer the questions.

Reading

- Three academic reading passages followed by comprehension questions that measure the ability to understand and analyze the meaning of the passages
- New question types in which test takers
 - demonstrate they have learned what they have read, either by filling out a table or completing a narrative summary
 - choose a correct paraphrase of a reading
- New features that make the testing experience easier for test takers, including a glossary and review feature.

Listening

- Two conversations that include two or more speakers in each
- Four lectures, which include classroom dialogue
- Opportunity to take notes while listening
- New question types that measure test takers' ability to understand a speaker's attitude or meaning.

Speaking

- Two independent tasks about familiar topics. .
 - Test takers state, explain, and support their response using personal knowledge and experience.
- Two tasks based on Reading and Listening material.
 - Tasks include a short reading passage and a short talk (These are shorter than those in the Reading and Listening sections.)
 - Questions require test takers to combine information from both the reading and the listening material in the responses
 - One task is based on a campus-related situation, and the other is based on academic classroom material.
 - Test takers can take notes and use them to respond.
- Two tasks based on Listening material, including a short lecture or conversation.
 - Questions require test takers to summarize key ideas from the talks in the responses
 - One task is based on a campus-related situation, and the other is based on academic classroom material.
 - Test takers can take notes and use them to respond.
- Trained raters evaluate test takers' ability in:
 - Topic development - show they understand and can make connections, and convey relevant information
 - Delivery - use clear, smooth, sustained speech for overall intelligibility
 - Language use - demonstrate control of grammar and word choice, and respond coherently

Writing

- One Reading/Listening/Writing task
 - Academic reading and lecture
 - Test takers must answer a question discussing the key points in the lecture and explaining how they relate to those in the reading passage.
 - Reading passage appears first, then is removed from the screen during the lecture. Test takers can view the passage again while responding the question.
 - Test takers can take notes and use them to respond
- One independent task about a familiar topic
 - Test takers state, explain and support their response using personal knowledge and experience.
- Trained raters evaluate test takers' ability to demonstrate an understanding of the material, as well as write clearly, accurately, and in a well-organized manner.