

International English Assessment Tests

TOEFL test (Test Of English as a Foreign Language)

TOEFL measures the ability of non-native speakers of English to use and understand North American English as it is spoken, written and heard in college and university settings Academic language.



The essential exam for entry to universities in the United States.

The test comes in two formats:

- paper-based test (PBT)
- next generation computer-based test (iBT)

1) TOEFL Reading

The TOEFL test includes three basic categories of academic texts:

Exposition

Argumentation

Historical biographical/event narrative

Length of passage (700 words)

Number of passages and questions (3-5 passages, 12-14 questions per passage)

Timing approximately (60-100 minutes)

2) TOEFL listening

Listening materials include academic lectures and long conversations in which the speech sounds very natural.

Listening Material	Number of questions	Timing
4–6 lectures, 3–5 minutes long each, about 500 words	6 questions per lecture	60-90 minutes
2–3 conversations, about 3 minutes long, about 12–25 exchanges	5 questions per conversation	

3) TOEFL speaking

The TOEFL speaking section takes 20 minutes to complete and contains 6 sections. It is done on a computer and the answers are recorded for marking. The TOEFL speaking tests contain academic situations set both inside and outside the classroom.

In classrooms, there are situations where you must:

- respond to questions
- contribute to class discussions
- read or listen to something and then summarize it
- give your opinion of topics under discussion

In situations outside the classroom, you need to:

- take part in conversations with administrative staff, such as at the library
- take part in casual conversations with other students
- give your opinion about something

4) TOEFL structure: You have 20 minutes to do 20 questions.

Examples:

1. There are 4 underlined sections in the text below. Select the one which is **wrong**.
 - After a muscle fiber has worked intensely for while, it begins to lose potassium, and that dampens the fiber's ability to contract.
2. Choose the correct answer

_____ are poor observers of their child's behavior so deviant behavior reaches unmanageable proportions.

- Parents that
- Parents
- When parents
- If parents

IELTS test

- The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) assesses the English language proficiency of people who want to study or work where English is used as the language of communication.
- IELTS scores are accepted by over 9,000 organisations worldwide, including universities, employers, immigration authorities and professional bodies.
- IELTS tests all four language skills – listening, reading, writing and speaking.
- The IELTS Speaking test is a face-to-face interview with a certified Examiner. It is interactive and as close to a real-life situation as a test can get ...

International English

- IELTS recognises both British and American English in terms of spelling, grammar and choice of words.
- It also incorporates a mix of native speaker accents from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK and US in the Listening component.

IELTS versions

- There exist two versions of the test – Academic or General Training – depending on the academic or professional aims, or visa requirements of the test takers.
- All candidates take the same Listening and Speaking components but different Reading and Writing components...

1) IELTS listening (30 minutes)

You will listen to four recorded texts, monologues and conversations by a range of native speakers, and write your answers to a series of questions. Each section is heard only once.

- **Section 1:** A conversation between two people set in an everyday social context.
- **Section 2:** A monologue set in an everyday social context e.g. a speech about local facilities.
- **Section 3:** A conversation between up to four people set in an educational or training context, e.g. a university tutor and a student discussing an assignment.
- **Section 4:** A monologue on an academic subject e.g. a university lecture.

2) IELTS reading (60 minutes)

The Reading component consists of 40 questions.

The **General Training** version requires candidates to read extracts from books, magazines, newspapers, notices etc. These are materials you are likely to encounter on a daily basis in an English speaking environment.

The **Academic version** includes three long texts which range from the descriptive and factual to the discursive and analytical. The texts are authentic and are taken from books, journals, magazines and newspapers.

1) IELTS writing (60 minutes, 2 tasks)

The Writing component of **IELTS General Training** includes two tasks which are based on topics of general interest e.g. a letter requesting information or explaining a situation. The writing style can be personal or semi-formal.

IELTS academic writing

Task 1: You will be presented with a graph, table, chart or diagram and asked to describe, summarise or explain the information in your own words. You may be asked to describe and explain data, describe the stages of a process, how something works or describe an object or event.

Task 2: You will be asked to write an essay in response to a point of view, argument or problem.

Responses to both tasks must be in a **formal style**.

2) IELTS speaking (11 to 14 minutes, every test is recorded)

The Speaking component is delivered in such a way that it does not allow candidates to rehearse set responses beforehand.

Part 1 (4-5 mins)

The Examiner will ask you general questions about yourself and a range of familiar topics, such as home, family, work, studies and interests.

Part 2

You will be given a card which asks you to talk about a particular topic. You will have one minute to prepare before speaking for up to two minutes. The examiner will then ask one or two questions on the same topic to finish this part of the test.

Part 3 (4-5 mins)

You will be asked further questions connected to the topic in Part 2 (discussion).

Academic Word List

- The Academic Word List (AWL) was developed by Averil Coxhead at the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.
- The list contains 570 word families which were selected because they appear with great frequency in a broad range of academic texts.
- The list does not include words that are in the most frequent 2000 words of English (the General Service List), thus making it specific to academic contexts.
- Divided into 10 groups of word families.