

Acronym	TOEFL
Type	Internet-based or paper-based standardized test.
Developer / administrator	Educational Testing Service
Knowledge/skill(s) tested	Reading, listening, speaking and writing of the English language .
Purpose	Testing the English language proficiency of non-native English speakers for academic and other purposes.
Year started	1964
Duration	Internet-based test (iBT): 3 hours 10 minutes to 4 hours 20 minutes (excluding 10 minute break in-between). Paper-based test (PBT): 2 hours 20 minutes to 2 hours 30 minutes. ^[1]
Score/grade range	iBT: 0 to 30 (in 1 point increments) on each of the 4 sections. So total of 0 to 120. PBT: Listening: 31 to 68, Structure: 31 to 69, Reading: 31 to 67. Total of 310 to 677. Writing (separate): 0 to 6. (All in 1 point increments.)
Score/grade validity	2 years
Offered	iBT: More than 50 times a year. ^[2]
Restriction(s) on attempts	iBT: Can be taken only once in any 12-day period. ^[3]
Country(ies) / region(s)	4500 test centers in 165 countries. ^[2]
Language(s)	English
Test takers	(?)
Prerequisites / eligibility criteria	No official prerequisite. Intended for non-native English speakers.
Testing fee	iBT: US\$ 160 to US\$ 250, depending on the country. ^[2] PBT: US\$ 160. ^[1]
Scores/grades used by	Over 9000 universities, agencies and other institutions in over 130 countries. ^[4]
Website	www.ets.org/toefl

Acronym	IELTS
Type	Standardized test. Available in 2 versions: "Academic" and "General training".
Developer / administrator	Cambridge English Language Assessment , British Council , IDP Education .
Knowledge/skill(s) tested	Listening, reading, writing and speaking of the English language .
Purpose	To assess the English language proficiency of non-native English speakers.
Duration	Listening: 40 minutes, Reading: 60 minutes, Writing: 60 minutes, Speaking: 11–15 minutes. Total: about 3 hours.
Score/grade range	0 to 9, in 0.5 band increments.
Score/grade validity	2 years
Offered	Multiple times a year.
Country(ies) / region(s)	More than 900 test centers in over 130 countries. ^[1]
Language(s)	English
Test takers	▲ Over 2 million in 2012. ^[2]
Prerequisites / eligibility criteria	No official prerequisite. Intended for non-native English speakers.
Testing fee	May vary from centre-to-centre and time-to-time. May accept local currency. Example cost: ₹ 9300 (about US\$ 149) in Mumbai, India, in December 2013.
Scores/grades used by	More than 8000 education institutions, governments, professional registration bodies and employers worldwide. ^{[2][3]}
Website	www.ielts.org

FORMATS AND CONTENT

Internet-based test

Initially, the demand for test seats was higher than availability, and candidates had to wait for months. It is now possible to take the test within one to four weeks in most countries. The four-hour test consists of four sections, each measuring one of the basic language skills (while some tasks require integrating multiple skills), and all tasks focus on language used in an academic, higher-education environment. Note-taking is allowed during the TOEFL iBT test. The test cannot be taken more than once every 12 days.

Task	Description	Approximate time
Reading	3–5 passages, each containing 12–14 questions	60–100 minutes
Listening	6–9 passages, each containing 5–6 questions	60–90 minutes
Break	Mandatory break	10 minutes
Speaking	6 tasks	20 minutes
Writing	2 tasks	50 minutes

Paper-based Test

The TOEFL® paper-based Test (PBT) is available in limited areas. Scores are valid for two years after the test date, and test takers can have their scores sent to institutions or agencies during that time.

Listening (30 – 40 minutes)

The Listening section consists of 3 parts. The first one contains 30 questions about short conversations. The second part has 8 questions about longer conversations. The last part asks 12 questions about lectures or talks.

Structure and Written Expression (25 minutes)

The Structure and Written Expression section has 15 exercises of completing sentences correctly and 25 exercises of identifying errors.

Reading Comprehension (55 minutes)

The Reading Comprehension sections has 50 questions about reading passages.

Writing (30 minutes)

The TOEFL PBT administrations include a writing test called the Test of Written English (TWE). This is one essay question with 250–300 words in average.

All candidates must complete four Modules - Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking - to obtain a band score, which is shown on the IELTS Test Report Form (TRF). All candidates take the same Listening and Speaking Modules, while the Reading and Writing Modules differ depending on whether the candidate is taking the **Academic** or **General** Training Versions of the Test.

Listening (40 minutes, 30 minutes for which a recording is played centrally and additional 10 minutes for transferring answers onto the OMR answer sheet.)

Reading (60 minutes)

In the academic module the reading test comprises three sections, with 3 texts normally followed by 13 or 14 questions for a total of 40 questions overall. The General test also has 3 sections. However the texts are shorter, so there can be up to 5 texts to read.

Writing (60 minutes.)

In the Academic module, there are two tasks: in Task 1 candidates describe a diagram, graph, process or chart, and in Task 2 they respond to an argument. In the General Training module, there are also two tasks: in Task 1 candidates write a letter or explain a situation, and in Task 2 they write an essay.

Speaking (11–15 minutes)

The speaking test contains three sections. The first section takes the form of an interview during which candidates may be asked about their hobbies, interests, reasons for taking IELTS exam as well as other general topics such as clothing, free time, computers and the internet or family. In the second section candidates are given a topic card and then have one minute to prepare after which they must speak about the given topic. The third section involves a discussion between the examiner and the candidate, generally on questions relating to the theme which they have already spoken about in part 2. This last section is more abstract, and is usually considered the most difficult.

Linking TOEFL iBT Scores to IELTS Scores

IELTS Score	TOEFL Score
9	118-120
8.5	115-117
8	110-114
7.5	102-109
7	94-101
6.5	79-93
6	60-78
5.5	46-59
5	35-45
4.5	32-34
0-4	0-31