

The TOEFL test is fair and accurate, as all test takers have a similar test-taking experience, which eliminates the inconsistency of interviews that could negatively impact your scores. The scores are objective and unbiased, as tests are scored anonymously by ETS-certified experts.

How is TOEFL structured?

So, as you know what to expect in this four-and-a-half-hour-long test, here is a breakdown of the content and time allowed.

Section	Description	Time	Questions	Score Scale
Reading	3-5 passages from academic texts; approximately 700 words long; 12-14 questions per passage.	60-100 minutes	36-70 questions	0-30
Listening	4-6 lectures, some with classroom discussion; each 3-5 minutes long; 6 questions each. 2-3 conversations; each 3 minutes long; 5 questions each.	60-90 minutes	34-51 questions	0-30
Break		10 minutes		
Speaking	2 tasks to express an opinion on a familiar topic; 4 tasks to speak based on what is read and listened to.	20 minutes	6 tasks	0-4 points converted to 0-30 score scale
Writing	1 task to write based on what is read and listened to; 1 task to support an opinion on a topic.	50 minutes	2 tasks	0-5 points converted to 0-30 score scale
Total		Between 3 hours 20 minutes and 4 hours 30 minutes		0-120

How is the TOEFL iBT scored?

Your overall score will lie somewhere between 0-120, with the Reading, Listening, Speaking, and Writing Section scores graded on a scale of 0 to 30. As Reading and Listening still use the multiple-choice format, answers are graded and scores calculated by the computer. For the Speaking Section, responses are scored by human graders. These graders evaluate the test taker's ability to develop the topic, convey the meaning with clarity and precision, and use the language. Each of the six tasks is rated from 0 to 4; the raw score is then converted to the 0-30 scale for scoring purposes. The two essays of the Writing Section are also scored by human graders, who evaluate the writing as a whole, as well as assess the comprehensiveness and precision of the content, rated from 0 to 5, with the average of these scores then converted to a score of 0 to 30.

There is no passing or failing score on the TOEFL. You get what you get, and it is up to you to find out the scores required for admission at colleges and universities where you are sending your scores. Check with the schools you intend applying to and find out their minimum or average score before you take the test.