oxfordenglishtesting.com

Information for students for online TOEFL® iBT practice tests from www.oxfordenglishtesting.com

What is oxfordenglishtesting.com?

- It is a website that gives students and teachers of English access to interactive practice tests.

- It is where students who have bought OUP materials can access online practice tests via a MultiROM, and buy more.

What is the TOEFL exam?

The TOEFL iBT, or Test of English as a Foreign Language (Internet-based test), assesses your ability to communicate in English in colleges and universities. You can visit www.ets.org/toefl/ibt for more information about the TOEFL iBT exam, and why it might benefit you.

What do the online TOEFL iBT practice tests consist of?

The TOEFL iBT online practice tests reflect the content of the actual test. Each online practice test covers every section in the exam. The practice tests are all full length. For a guide to the content of the TOEFL iBT, see pages 2–4.

You do not print the tests in order to do them. Instead you take them online and the Reading and Listening sections can be marked automatically. In addition, there is a range of help features that you can use during the test. These include dictionary look-up, exam tips, audio scripts, the ability to mark and change individual answers, and get feedback on answers. See page 6 for more details on these features.

The combination of online marking and help features makes the practice tests ideal for self-study.

TOEFL® iBT: Content and overview

READING SECTION – Academic Reading Skills

The Reading section measures the test taker's ability to understand university-level academic texts and passages. In many academic settings around the world, students are expected to read and understand information from textbooks and other academic material written in English.

Test section, format, and duration	Question formats
READING • 3–5 passages, 12–14 questions each • 60–100 minutes	• questions with four choices and a single answer in traditional multiple-choice format • questions with four choices and a single answer that ask test takers to "insert a sentence" where it fits best in a passage. • "reading to learn" questions with more than four choices and more than one possible correct answer.

LISTENING SECTION – Academic Listening Skills

The Listening section measures the test taker's ability to understand spoken English. In academic settings, students must be able to listen to lectures and conversations. Listening material in the test includes academic lectures and long conversations in which the speech sounds very natural. Test takers can take notes on any listening material throughout the entire test.

Test section, format, and duration	Question formats
LISTENING • 4–6 lectures, 6 questions each • 2–3 conversations, 5 questions each • 60–90 minutes	• traditional multiple-choice questions with four answer choices and a single correct answer • multiple-choice questions with more than one answer (e.g. two answers out of four or more choices) • questions that require test takers to order events or steps in a process • questions that require test takers to match objects or text to categories in a chart

SPEAKING SECTION – Academic Speaking Skills

Students should be able to speak successfully in and outside the classroom. The Speaking section measures the test taker's ability to speak effectively in academic settings.

Task Type	Task Description	Timing
Independent Tasks		
1 Personal Preference	This question asks the test taker to express and defend a personal choice from a given category – for example, important people, places, events, or activities that the test taker enjoys.	Preparation time: 15 seconds Response time: 45 seconds
2 Choice	This question asks the test taker to make and defend a personal choice between two contrasting behaviors or courses of action.	Preparation time: 15 seconds Response time: 45 seconds
Integrated Tasks		
Read/Listen/Speak		
3 Campus Situation Topic: Fit and Explain	• A reading passage (75–100 words) presents a campus-related issue. • A listening passage (60–80 seconds; 150–180 words) comments on the issue in the reading passage. • The question asks the test taker to summarize the speaker's opinion within the context of the reading passage.	Preparation time: 30 seconds Response time: 60 seconds
4 Academic Course Topic: General/ Specific	• A reading passage (75–100 words) broadly defines a term, process, or idea from an academic subject. • An excerpt from a lecture (60–90 seconds; 150–220 words) provides examples and specific information to illustrate the term, process, or idea from the reading passage. • The question asks the test taker to combine and convey important information from the reading passage and the lecture excerpt.	Preparation time: 30 seconds Response time: 60 seconds
Listen/Speak		
5 Campus Situation Topic: Problem/ Solution	• The listening passage (60–90 seconds; 180–220 words) is a conversation about a student-related problem and two possible solutions. • The question asks the test taker to demonstrate an understanding of the problem and to express an opinion about solving the problem.	Preparation time: 20 seconds Response time: 60 seconds
6 Academic Course Topic: Summary	• The listening passage is an excerpt from a lecture (90–120 seconds; 230–280 words) that explains a term or concept and gives concrete examples to illustrate that term or concept. • The question asks the test taker to summarize the lecture and demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the examples and the overall topic.	Preparation time: 20 seconds Response time: 60 seconds

WRITING SECTION – Academic Writing Skills

In all academic situations where writing in English is required, students must be able to present their ideas in a clear, well-organized manner. The Writing section measures the test taker's ability to write in an academic setting.

Task Type	Task Description
Task 1: Integrated Writing Task Read/Listen/Write Time: 20 minutes	• Test takers read a short text of about 230–300 words (reading time, 3 minutes) on an academic topic. • Test takers may take notes on the reading passage. • Test takers listen to a speaker discuss the same topic from a different perspective. • The listening passage is about 230–300 words long (listening time, 2 minutes). • The listening passage provides additional information that relates to points made in the reading passage. Test takers may take notes on the listening passage. • Test takers write a summary in connected English prose of important points made in the listening passage, and explain how these relate to the key points of the reading passage. Suggested response length is 150–225 words; however, there is no penalty for writing more, as long as it is in response to the task presented.
Task 2: Independent Writing Writing from Experience and Knowledge Time: 30 minutes	• Test takers write an essay that states, explains, and supports their opinion on an issue. An effective essay will usually contain a minimum of 300 words; however, test takers may write more if they wish. • Test takers must support their opinions or choices, rather than simply list personal preferences or choices. • Typical essay questions begin with statements such as: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Use reasons and specific details to support your answer. Some people believe X. Other people believe Y. Which of these two positions do you prefer/agree with? Give reasons and specific details.

How do I do a practice test?

You can do a practice test wherever you have access to a computer and the Internet. You will need an e-mail address and to be online when you do the tests. There is a demo about the practice tests on the homepage. Instructions on how to take a test can be found in the Quick-start guide for students on your **My study space** screen. For further details about system requirements, see page 7. You have access to the test for 365 days from the time you pay, or put your MultiROM into the computer and register. After 365 days you will have to submit the test for final marking.

You do not have to do the whole test at one time. You can answer and then mark a question, a set, a section, or the whole test. All your answers are automatically saved when you leave the site, and you can come back to the test at any time. You can also skip questions and come back to them later.

You can monitor your progress via the **Test Overview**, which records questions not attempted, attempted but not marked, right and wrong answers, and questions that cannot be marked automatically. You can also print the **Test Overview** and **Results** page.

When doing the Listening section, you can start, stop, and repeat the audio as many times as you like. If you still find it difficult to understand the audio, you can read or print an audio script after you have attempted the questions. If you need to control the volume of the audio please use the controls on your computer to do so.

The testing site has a **Dictionary look-up facility**. Just double-click on any word in the test and get a definition from the *Oxford ESL Dictionary*.

Marking the practice test

The system can automatically mark the Reading and Listening sections. You can read and print **Feedback** for answers, if you mark the questions as you go. The **Feedback** gives explanations of the correct and incorrect answers.

The system cannot automatically mark the Speaking section. You can see all parts of the Speaking section online and to help you practice, we have included **Useful language** on the website for each task. Ask a fellow student to practice with you. If your teacher would like to do a Speaking section with you, you can download and print the entire Speaking section via the link from the **Learning resources** section of the **My Tests** page. You can enter your marks for the Speaking test on your **Results** page.

The Writing tasks also cannot be marked automatically. You have the choice of printing them or e-mailing them for your teacher to mark. You can then enter the marks on your **Results** page. You can do this after you have submitted all your answers for final marking. You can read or print off a **Sample answer** for each writing task to help you understand what is expected of you.

If you do not enter Writing or Speaking marks, the marking scheme will take this into account.

The test result you see includes scores for the separate skills and a total score. Go to the **Resources** tab to see a score conversion chart.

It is very important to remember that these are practice tests, not the real exam, and so your final mark will only be an indication of how you might perform in the real exam.

What help is available while I do the test?

Test tips	You can see a **Tip** on how to answer every type of question.
Dictionary look-up	You can look up the meaning of any English word in the practice test. Just double click it and a definition will pop up from the *Oxford ESL Dictionary*. You will need to have pop-up windows enabled.
Instant marking and feedback	When you have answered a question in the Reading or Listening sections, you can mark it immediately to see whether you got it right. You can then get **Feedback** to find out why it was right or wrong. You can print the feedback if you wish. Understanding why you answered a question incorrectly helps you think more clearly about a similar question next time.
Change your answer	You can go back and try to answer the question again as many times as you like.
Save and come back later	You do not have to complete a section or test at one time. Your answers are saved as you take the test and kept when you log out. You can come back to it at any time. You have 365 days before you have to submit the practice test for final marking. The **My tests** page tells you when the test expires.
Mark individual answers, a set, a section, or the whole test	However much you have done of the practice test, you can mark it and see how well you are doing. The Reading and Listening sections are marked automatically.
Audio scripts	These are available for all parts of the Listening section and for the integrated tasks in the Speaking and Writing sections. Reading the **Audio script** will help you understand anything you did not understand when you were listening to them. You can also print the audio scripts.
Sample answers for questions in the Writing section	You can see **Sample answers** after you have written your own response. The sample answers have been written by real students, and will give you a good idea of what is expected. The answers contain incorrectly spelt words that can't be found in the dictionary look-up.
	What you write will not be marked automatically. If you would like your teacher to mark it, you can print it off to give to them or e-mail it to them. When they have marked it, you can enter the mark on your **Results** page. It does not matter if you do not enter a mark. The final marks will be adjusted to take that into account.
Useful language for the Speaking section	There is guidance and support to help you practice the Speaking section. You can print the Speaking section from the **Resources** page, and ask your teacher to do the Speaking section with you. As with the Writing section, you can enter the mark your teacher gives you. However, even if you do not, your final marks will be adjusted to take that into account.
Results page	You will see your score by section and set and as a percentage. Remember this is a practice test and you will only get an indication of what your score may be in the actual TOEFL test.
Try sample questions first	You can try out a short version of a practice test before you do a real one. The sample questions allow you to find out how to use a test before you start. The samples are available in the **Online shop**, or by clicking the link to **Try a free sample** on the homepage.

Buying tests

You can buy tests online by clicking on the link to the **Online shop**. You will be asked to fill in a **Registration form** before you buy the test. You may already have access to a test with an OUP coursebook, workbook, dictionary or grammar book. The tests that you can buy online are different from the ones available via the MultiROM.

Where can I find more about oxfordenglishtesting.com?

There is a demo on the individual site that will give you a clear understanding of the site and the practice tests. You can access it via the **Online shop** or the **My study space** screen.

For more help, click on the **Support** tab on www.oxfordenglishtesting.com. You'll find a comprehensive list of **Frequently Asked Questions** (FAQs) covering technical issues, registering, buying tests, doing tests and other topics. You can also contact us at customerservice.eltonline@oup.com.

System requirements

Browsers

Internet Explorer® 7 or later

Firefox® 3 or later

Safari® 3 or later

The test delivery software requires JavaScript™ and pop-up windows to be enabled on your browser.

Hardware

128 MB RAM

Monitor capable of 1024 x 768 resolution

Sound card with headphones or speakers

You will need to be online to access tests.

You need an email address to register and get access to the tests.

You will need to have Adobe® Reader® in order to download PDF documents (available from www.adobe.com).

Audio

To play audio for the listening parts of the tests, you will require Adobe® Flash® Player 9 or higher (available from www.adobe.com).

Display

You will need a colour display.

The test delivery software has been optimized to appear in a browser window sized at 1024 x 768 pixels. You therefore need a monitor that can have the display set to a resolution of at least 1024 x 768 pixels.

Bandwidth

The audio files in the tests are between one and three megabytes and will be slow at dial-up speeds. Because of this we recommend you have a broadband connection to take the tests.