Choosing IELTS vs. TOEFL

1. Check your programme requirements

2. Ask yourself a few questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I am comfortable with computers.</th>
<th>🔄👍</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am comfortable having a detailed interview in-person.</td>
<td>🔄👎</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I prefer tests with many question types, including multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, true/false, and flowcharts.</td>
<td>🔄👍</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I prefer standard American English.</td>
<td>🔄👍</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IELTS – Introduction 1

● Very popular English language test.

● Accepted by academic, government and employment organisations worldwide.

● It assesses four language skills: writing, speaking, listening and reading.

● The speaking component is assessed by having a conversation with a real person.

● New computer-delivered test.
IELTS – Introduction 2

● You can take IELTS Academic or IELTS General Training, the first one being the most relevant to our situation.

● The test is valid for two years and there is no minimum waiting time to re-take the test.

● The test is scored 1 to 9 for each part of the test. The average produces an overall band score. You can score whole or half bands in each part of the test.
IELTS – Introduction 3

The test is scored 1 to 9 for each part of the test. The average produces an overall band score. You can score whole or half bands in each part of the test.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Band Description</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Expert user</td>
<td>Has fully operational command of the language: appropriate, accurate and fluent with complete understanding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Very good user</td>
<td>Has fully operational command of the language with only occasional unsystematic inaccuracies and inappropriate words. Misunderstandings may occur in unfamiliar situations. Handles complex detailed argumentation well.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Good user</td>
<td>Has operational command of the language, though with occasional inaccuracies, inappropriate words and misunderstandings in some situations. Generally handles complex language well and understands detailed reasoning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Competent user</td>
<td>Has generally effective command of the language despite some inaccuracies, inappropriate words and misunderstandings. Can use and understand fairly complex language particularly in familiar situations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Modest user</td>
<td>Has partial command of the language. Coping with overall meaning in most situations, though is likely to make many mistakes. Should be able to handle basic communication in own field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Limited user</td>
<td>Basic competence is limited to familiar situations. Has frequent problems in understanding and expression. Is not able to use complex language.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Extremely limited user</td>
<td>Conveys and understands only general meaning in very familiar situations. Frequent breakdowns in communication occur.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Intermittent user</td>
<td>No real communication is possible except for the most basic information using isolated words or short formulae in familiar situations and to meet immediate needs. Has great difficulty understanding spoken and written English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Non user</td>
<td>Essentially has no ability to use the language beyond possibly a few isolated words.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Did not attempt the test</td>
<td>No assessable information provided.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from: [https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/how-ielts-is-scored](https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/how-ielts-is-scored)
What’s in the test?

- IELTS has four parts – Listening (30’), Reading (60’), Writing (60’) and Speaking (11’–14’).
- The total test time is 2 hours and 45 minutes.
- The Listening, Reading and Writing tests are done in one sitting. The Speaking test may be on the same day or up to seven days before or after the other tests.
Listening (30’ + 10’ to transfer answers)

- You will listen to four recorded texts, monologues and conversations by a range of native speakers, and write answers to a series of questions.

- This section tests your ability to:
  - Understand main ideas and specific factual information.
  - Recognise the opinions, attitudes and purpose of a speaker.
  - Follow the development of an argument.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band score</th>
<th>Raw score out of 40</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from: https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/test-format
Question Types

- Multiple Choice
- Matching Information
- Summary/Sentence Completion
- Short Answers
- Form/Note/Table/Flow chart Completion
- Plan/Map/Diagram Labelling
Reading (60’)

- It includes three long texts and tasks that will test your ability to:
  - Read for the general sense of a passage
  - Read for the main ideas
  - Read for detail
  - Understand inferences and implied meaning
  - Recognise a writer’s opinions, attitudes and purpose
  - Follow the development of an argument

- The texts range from the descriptive and factual to the discursive and analytical.

- The texts are authentic and have been selected for a non-specialist audience.

- Read the instructions carefully. You will be presented with a variety of question types that will request for different information.

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<td>8</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from: [https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/test-format](https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/test-format)
Question types

- Multiple Choice
- True/False/Not Given
- Yes/No/Not Given
- Matching Information
- Matching Headings
- Matching Sentence Endings
- Short Answers
- Choosing a Title
- Image labeling
- Summary/Sentence Completion
- List Selection
Writing (60’)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task 1</th>
<th>Task 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20’ 150 words</td>
<td>40’ 250 words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You will be presented with a graph, table, chart or diagram and asked to describe, summarise or explain the information in your own words.</td>
<td>You will be asked to write an essay in response to a point of view, argument or problem.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Topics are of general interest.

- Responses to both tasks must be written in an academic style.

- You will be assessed based on task achievement/response, coherence and cohesion, lexical resource and grammar, all criterion weighing 25% each.

Adapted from: https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/test-format
Sample Questions

WRITING TASK 1
You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The chart below shows the number of men and women in further education in Britain in three periods and whether they were studying full-time or part-time. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

ACADEMIC WRITING SAMPLE TASK 2A
You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

The first car appeared on British roads in 1888. By the year 2000 there may be as many as 29 million vehicles on British roads.

Alternative forms of transport should be encouraged and international laws introduced to control car ownership and use.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Adapted from: https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/sample-test-questions
## Speaking (11’ – 14’)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part 1</td>
<td>You will answer general questions about yourself and a range of familiar topics, such as home, family, work, studies and interests. This part lasts between 4’ and 5’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 2</td>
<td>You will talk about a particular topic. You have one minute to prepare before speaking for up to 2’. The examiner may ask one or two questions on the same topic to finish this part of the test.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 3</td>
<td>You will be asked further questions which are connected to the topic in Part 2. These questions give you an opportunity to discuss more abstract issues and ideas. This part lasts between 4’ – 5’.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- You will be assessed based on your fluency and coherence, lexical resource, grammar and pronunciation, all criterion weighing 25% each.

Adapted from: [https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/test-format](https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/test-format)
Sample Questions

Part 1

Introduction +

Let’s talk about your hometown or village.

• What kind of place is it?
• What’s the most interesting part of your town/village?
• What kind of jobs do the people in your town/village do?
• Would you say it’s a good place to live? (Why?)

Part 2

Describe something you own which is very important to you.

You should say:
• where you got it from
• how long you have had it
• what you use it for and explain
• why it is important to you

Part 3

Let’s consider first of all how people’s values have changed.

• What kind of things give status to people in your country?
• Have things changed since your parents’ time? Finally, let’s talk about the role of advertising.

Adapted from: https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/sample-test-questions
Resources

- CSS Website ➔ Resources ➔ Online Resources ➔ IELTS/TOEFL
- Books and past papers in Zone R
- CSS Workshops
- Consultations with ETA’s
Online Resources

Online resources

- https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/

Free Online Courses

TOEFL – Introduction 1

● Very popular English language test.

● Accepted by universities, agencies and other institutions.

● It assesses four language skills: writing, speaking, listening and reading.

● The test is valid for two years. You cannot take it more than once in a 12-day period.

● The test is delivered via the Internet only.
The test is scored 0 to 30 for each part of the test – Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. The total score is the sum of the 4 skills scores 0-120.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>Score range</th>
<th>Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>0 – 30</td>
<td>Low (0-14) Intermediate (15-21) high (22-30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listening</td>
<td>0 – 30</td>
<td>Low (0-14) Intermediate (15-21) high (22-30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaking</td>
<td>0 – 4 points converted to a 0 – 30 scale</td>
<td>Weak (0-9) Limited (10-17) Fair (18-25) Good (26-30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>0 – 5 points converted to a 0 – 30 scale</td>
<td>Limited (1-16) Fair (17-23) Good (24-30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total score</td>
<td>0 – 120</td>
<td>IELTS Band 7 (94-101) 8 (110-114) 9 (118-120)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from: https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/scores/understand/
What’s in the test?

- TOEFL has four parts—Reading (60’ – 80’), Listening (60’ – 90’), Speaking (20’) and Writing (50’).

- The total test time may be 3 hours 10’ to 4 hours 20’ + 10’ break.

- During the Speaking test you will speak into the microphone on your headset and your responses will be recorded and sent to ETS, where they will be scored by certified human raters.
Reading (60’ – 80’, 36 – 56 questions)

- You will read 3 – 5 passages (approx. 700 words each) and answer 12 – 14 questions based on the passage.

- Expect to see university level passages from a range of subjects such as business, arts, or social sciences.

- Read questions carefully as they are not all the same kind. Expect formats such as:
  - Traditional multiple-choice format (four choices, one correct answer).
  - Four choices and one answer questions, requiring you to “insert a sentence” where it fits in the passage in the best way.
  - Summary/Table completion.

Adapted from: https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/about/content
Sample Questions – Multiple Choice

[passage]

1. The word “…” on line 2 is closest in meaning to …

2. In paragraph 2, why does the author include the information that …

3. Which of the following can be inferred from paragraph 3 about …

Adapted from: https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/prepare/test_questions
Sample Questions – Insert a Sentence

Look at the four letters (A, B, C, and D) that indicate where the following sentence could be added to the passage in paragraph 6.

[sentence]

Where would the sentence best fit?

[paragraph]

Adapted from: https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/prepare/test_questions
An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the THREE (3) answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage.

Write your answer choices in the spaces where they belong.

[introductory sentence + answer choices]
Listening (60’ – 90’, 34 – 51 questions)

● You will listen to 4 – 6 lectures (3’ – 5’ each) and 2 – 3 conversations (3’ long).

● You will be given headphones to listen to an audio file. Pictures will accompany the audio on the computer screen to help understand the speech.

● This section tests your ability to:

✓ Listen for the main idea
✓ Listen for details
✓ Understand the speaker’s purpose or attitude
✓ Understand inferences and implied meaning
● Format: multiple choice

Adapted from: https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/about/content
Sample Questions

[conversation or lecture]

1. What are the speakers mainly discussing?

2. Who is doing…

3. Why is the woman surprised/happy/upset?

   Read part of the conversation again. Then answer the question.

4. What does the man mean when he says: …

Adapted from: https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/prepare/test_questions
Speaking (20’, 6 tasks)

● You will use a microphone to speak about familiar topics and discuss material you’ve read about and listened to.

● You will be scored based on your ability to speak clearly and coherently using correct vocabulary and grammar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tasks 1 &amp; 2</th>
<th>Tasks 3 &amp; 5</th>
<th>Tasks 4 &amp; 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Answering questions about a familiar topic.</td>
<td>Combining appropriate information from a text and a talk to provide a complete answer.</td>
<td>Listening to part of a conversation or lecture and answer a question about what they have heard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation time: 15 seconds</td>
<td>Preparation time: 30 seconds</td>
<td>Preparation time: 20 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response time: 45 seconds</td>
<td>Response time: 60 seconds</td>
<td>Response time: 60 seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from: https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/about/content
Sample Questions

**Tasks 1 & 2.** Talk about a pleasant and memorable event that happened while you were in school. Explain why this event brings back fond memories.

**Tasks 3 & 5.** Read the following text and the lecture that follows it. Then, answer the question.

[Text and lecture]

The man expresses his opinion about … State his opinion and explain the reasons he gives for holding that opinion.

**Tasks 4 & 6.** Listen to the following conversation between two students and then answer the question.

[Conversation]

Summarize the problem the speakers are discussing. Then state which solution you would recommend. Explain the reasons for your recommendation.

Adapted from: [https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/prepare/test_questions](https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/prepare/test_questions)
Writing (50’, 2 tasks)

- You will read a passage, listen to a recording and then type your response.

**Task 1**

- You will read a passage and listen to part of a lecture about an academic topic. Then write a response to a question about the relationship between the lecture and the reading passage.
- You are expected to give a complete answer using information from the passage and the lecture without expressing a personal opinion.
- The response to this task is judged based on how well it presents the points in the lecture and their relationship to the reading passage.
- A 150-225 words is considered an “effective response”.
- The suggested time for this task is 20’ to plan and write.

**Task 2**

- You will write an essay in response to a question that asks to express and support your opinion about a topic or issue.
- The response to this task is judged based on the development of ideas, organization, and the quality and accuracy of the language used.
- You should write a minimum of 300 words.
- The suggested time for this task is 30’ to plan, write and revise.

Adapted from: [https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/about/content](https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/about/content)
Sample Questions

Task 1. Read the following passage and the lecture.

[passage & lecture]

Summarize the points made in the lecture, being sure to explain how they oppose specific points made in the reading passage.

Task 2. Read the question below.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

A teacher’s ability to relate well with students is more important than excellent knowledge of the subject being taught.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Adapted from: https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/prepare/test_questions
Resources

● CSS Website → Resources → Online Resources → IELTS/TOEFL

● Books and past papers in Zone R

● Consultations with ETA’s

Online resources

● https://www.ets.org/toefl

● https://www.discoverbusiness.us/education/online-mba/resources/toefl/#4

Online course

Questions?

IELTS workshops
- Wednesday 10:30 – 11:30 IELTS Speaking
- Thursday 11:30-12:30 IELTS Reading & Listening
- Friday 11:30-12:30 IELTS Writing

TOEFL workshops coming soon