



Next Generation TOEFL® Phased Launch Q&A

This FAQ contains questions and answers about the following aspects of the new Internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language™ (also known as the next generation TOEFL test and TOEFL iBT):

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Launch Schedule

Q: When will the new TOEFL test launch?

A: It will launch for the first time on September 24, 2005.

Q: Will the new test be available worldwide in September?

A: To ensure test score integrity and a quality administration for all test takers, ETS will introduce the new TOEFL test to countries worldwide in phases rather than all at once.

Q: What do you mean by “phases”?

A: The new test will be offered first in the United States in September, and then Canada, Germany, Italy, and France will follow a month later. The rest of the world will follow in 2006. TOEFL computer-based testing (CBT) and paper-based testing (PBT) will continue to be available until the launch of iBT in other parts of the world.

Q: When does TOEFL CBT stop in the United States?

A: It will stop in mid-September. TOEFL iBT will begin on September 24.

Q: When do TOEFL CBT and PBT end in Canada, France, Germany and Italy?

A: In Canada, France, Germany and Italy, a paper-based test administration will be held on October 15, 2005, and computer-based testing will continue until mid-month. The new Internet-based test will be held on October 22, 2005.

Q: Why have you decided to introduce the new test in a phased manner?

A: Since TOEFL scores are used for high-stakes decisions, it is essential that the entire system works reliably in initial locations so that we can have a successful rollout in all locations.

Q: How can examinees testing outside of France, Germany, Italy, Canada or the United States find out when the new test will be available in their country?

A: ETS will inform score users and test takers of the schedule via the TOEFL web site, at student fairs, through educational advisors and other means. The schedule for 2006 will be announced by November 1st.

Test Delivery

Q: How will the new test be delivered?

A: The new TOEFL test will be delivered over the Internet at secure testing centers around the world. ETS will continue to utilize regular computer-based testing as well as paper-based testing throughout the transition period and until the Internet-based version is available worldwide.

Q: Why use Internet-based testing (iBT)?

A: ETS has wanted to add Speaking to the test for quite a while, but we needed to wait until we could do it in a way that met our standards for quality. Internet-based testing makes it possible for us to capture and score test-taker speech in the most efficient, standardized, and objective manner. Internet-based testing will also make it possible to greatly increase the number of test centers, which is good for test takers.

Q: Will it be possible to take just a specific section of the test or will it be necessary to take the complete test?

A: It will be necessary to take the entire test to receive a score.

Test Benefits

Q: Will the new test really be different or just an updated version?

A: The new test is an entirely new approach to learning and assessing the kind of English used in higher education. For the first time ever, the TOEFL test will assess test-taker ability to integrate English skills and will reflect how people actually communicate in English in college and university settings.

Q: What other benefits will the new TOEFL test provide?

A: The inclusion of Speaking, the use of integrated skills, and the emphasis on communicative competence will have great impact on how English is taught in the future. Students and other test takers will develop a higher level of English ability as a result, and will have confidence that they will be able to communicate and succeed.

Q: Who else will benefit from the new test?

A: Admissions officials and faculty at English-speaking colleges and universities as well as administrators of certification and licensing agencies will be provided with better information on their applicants' English communication abilities.

Test Scores

Q: When the new TOEFL iBT begins in September 2005, what will become of scores from previous tests?

A: ETS will report previous scores for two years after the original test date.

Q: Will institutions still accept previous TOEFL scores?

A: Requirements vary from institution to institution. Please check with your prospective institutions or agencies to determine their specific requirements.

Q: Is there a chart comparing the scores for the current test with the scores for the new TOEFL iBT?

A: Yes. ETS has created score comparison tables to help score users establish recommended or required next generation TOEFL iBT scores for their institutions. They can be found on our Web site at www.ets.org/toefl/nextgen.

Test-taker Resources

Q: What resources do you offer for test takers?

A: ETS provides a variety of print and online information resources for test takers. An online Next Generation TOEFL Practice Test is available for purchase in the [TOEFL Practice Online](#) community. Membership in the community, which is designed for those who want to practice their English-language skills and prepare for the current and next generation TOEFL tests, is free of charge and includes access to Speaking sample questions and responses, discussion boards and daily study tips.

The cost of the one-time use practice test is US\$20. It includes the Reading, Listening, and Writing sections from the new test, and users will receive instant scores and performance feedback. The opportunity to practice and get feedback on the Speaking portion of the new test is available for an additional US\$30.

Q: Have you added any new resources to the TOEFL Practice Online site recently?

A: Yes. Two new products have been added to the growing collection of test-preparation offerings at TOEFL Practice Online: **TOEFL Reading Practice Question Sets** and **TOEFL Listening Practice Question Sets**. Both help English-language learners practice their communication skills and prepare for taking the current and next generation TOEFL tests.

Outreach Events

Q: How have you been keeping score users and English teachers informed of the coming change?

A: In advance of the planned rollout, ETS is holding informational workshops and conference sessions to help score users learn how to set score requirements, and for English-language teaching professionals to help their students develop and integrate all four language skills so they can succeed in academic settings where English is used. A complete schedule of upcoming events can be found at www.ets.org/ell/events.html.

General

Q: What is the most important reason ETS created this new TOEFL test?

A: The new TOEFL test, our online practice community, and our informational workshops reflect ETS's mission to help students worldwide improve their English-language skills and increase their chances for success in the international marketplace. We listened to university faculty and admissions officials around the world who asked us to develop this new and better test. We're leading the way with this breakthrough, but in a manner that will assure a successful transition from the current test to the new test.

Q: Will the Test of Spoken English™ (TSE®) be available as a stand-alone test after September 2005?

A: The TSE test will be administered as a stand-alone test until TOEFL iBT is available worldwide.

Q: Who is ETS?

A: ETS is a nonprofit institution with the mission to advance quality and equity in education by providing fair and valid assessments, research and related services for all people worldwide. In serving individuals, educational institutions and government agencies around the world, ETS customizes solutions to meet the need for teacher professional development products and services, classroom and end-of-course assessments, and research-based teaching and learning tools. Founded in 1947, ETS today develops, administers and scores more than 24 million tests annually in more than 180 countries, at over 9,000 locations worldwide. Additional information is available at www.ets.org.