



# **A Revised *TOEFL iBT*<sup>®</sup>? What's Up with That?**

Marian N. Crandall  
Languages Canada  
February 24, 2020

# A Little History

# **TOEFL<sup>®</sup> Program History**

- Paper-based test (PBT) administered starting in 1963
- Computer-based test (CBT) introduced in 1998
  - Discontinued when the *TOEFL iBT<sup>®</sup>* test was introduced
- Internet-delivered test (TOEFL iBT) rolled out gradually around the world starting in 2005
- The revised *TOEFL<sup>®</sup>* Paper-delivered Test (rPdT) replaced the *TOEFL<sup>®</sup>* PBT test in Fall 2017

## **NEW!**

- The TOEFL iBT Better Test Experience launched August 1, 2019

# When Change is Good

## ETS makes changes to its tests only after

- Listening to test takers and score users about their needs
- Doing research to ensure that the proposed changes won't affect the reliability, validity or fairness of the test

## What needs prompted these changes?

- Making the test less stressful for test takers
- Improving the test registration site and process
- Providing more opportunities to take the test
- Using the benefits of technology to improve scoring
- Providing additional information to score users

# Changes to the *TOEFL iBT*<sup>®</sup> Test Format and Scoring

# Shorter Test

## Starting August 1, 2019

- Testing time reduced by 30 minutes, to three hours
- Same overall test format and question types
- Fewer questions in the Reading and Listening sections
- Fewer tasks in the Speaking section
- No change to the score scale

“It’s the same test,  
measuring the same skills,  
in the same ways,  
with fewer questions.”

Srikant Gopal  
Executive Director, *TOEFL*<sup>®</sup> Program

# Shorter Test – Specific Changes

|  | All Tests <u>Before</u><br>August 1, 2019   | All Tests <u>After</u><br>August 1, 2019   |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Reading</b><br>(fewer questions<br>per passage) | 3-4 reading passages<br>12-14 questions each<br><b>60-80 minutes</b>                              | 3-4 reading passages<br><b>10 questions each</b><br><b>54-72 minutes</b>                                 |
| <b>Listening</b><br>(fewer lectures)               | 4-6 lectures<br>6 questions each<br>2-3 conversations<br>5 questions each<br><b>60-90 minutes</b> | <b>3-4 lectures</b><br>6 questions each<br>2-3 conversations<br>5 questions each<br><b>41-57 minutes</b> |
| <b>Break</b>                                       | <b>10 minutes</b>   | <b>10 minutes</b>  |
| <b>Speaking</b><br>(fewer tasks)                   | 6 tasks<br>2 independent<br>4 integrated<br><b>20 minutes</b>                                     | <b>4 tasks</b><br><b>1 independent</b><br><b>3 integrated</b><br><b>17 minutes</b>                       |
| <b>Writing</b><br>(no change)                      | 2 tasks<br>1 integrated<br>1 independent<br><b>50 minutes</b>                                     | 2 tasks<br>1 integrated<br>1 independent<br><b>50 minutes</b>  |

Test changes in *red*. No change to score scales.

# Does the Shorter Test Provide the Same Level of Quality?

**Yes: Scores are still reliable.**

- ETS researchers analyzed data from multiple 2018 *TOEFL iBT*<sup>®</sup> test administrations to compare the reliability of the longer and shorter versions
- **The data showed that test reliability is maintained with the shortened test**
- The shorter test maximizes measurement efficiency without sacrificing quality

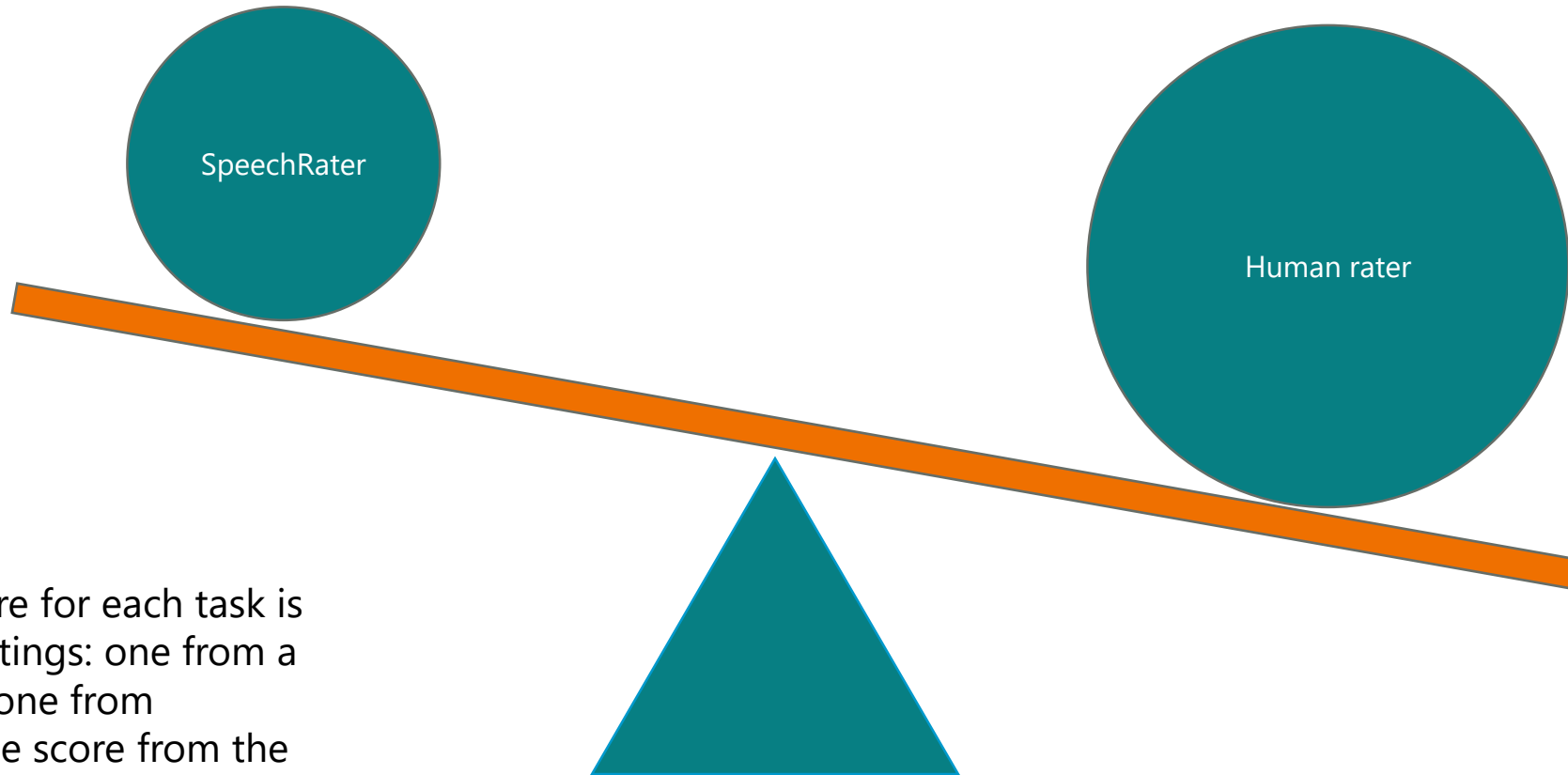


# Enhanced Speaking Scoring

## Adding AI technology to provide the best in measurement

- ETS's *SpeechRater*<sup>SM</sup> service uses artificial intelligence (AI) technology to assess and provide feedback on pronunciation, fluency, vocabulary and grammar
- The combination of AI and human raters' evaluation of content, meaning and language use provides unmatched accuracy and reliability
- **As of August 1, 2019, all TOEFL iBT<sup>®</sup> Speaking responses are rated by both a human rater and the *SpeechRater* service**
  - Speaking section score now based on more ratings (8) than before (6)
  - 4 human ratings + 4 *SpeechRater* ratings
- No other major English proficiency test combines the benefits of AI and human scoring for speaking and writing

# Enhanced Speaking Scoring

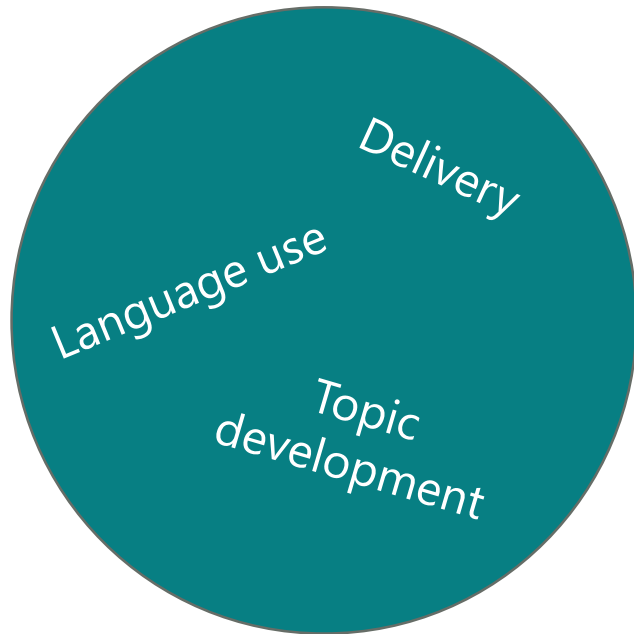


The Speaking score for each task is the sum of two ratings: one from a human rater and one from SpeechRater<sup>SM</sup>; the score from the human rater has more weight.

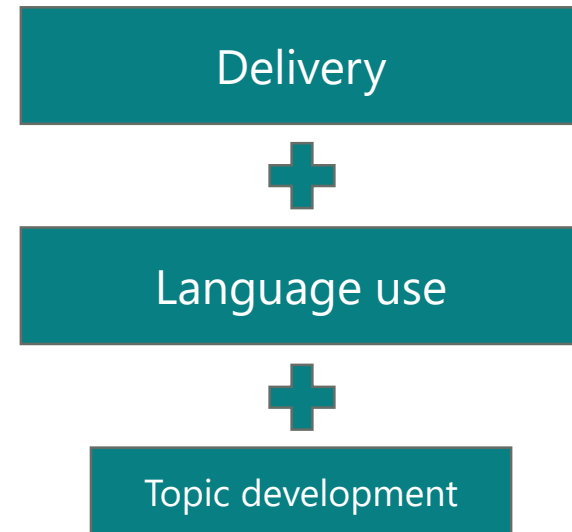
# Enhanced Speaking Scoring

Holistic evaluation  
human rater

by



Analytic evaluation by  
SpeechRater<sup>SM</sup>



# Instant Scoring of Reading and Listening

**NEW!**

- Starting with the February 15, 2020 test, test takers will see their unofficial scores for Reading and Listening on-screen after they complete the test
- This early indication of performance can help test takers make well-informed decisions about:
  - Keeping or cancelling their scores, when given the option at the end of the test, or
  - Registering for another test without having to wait six days for official scores

# Changes to the *TOEFL iBT*<sup>®</sup> Score Report and Reporting Turnaround Times

# Introducing *MyBest*<sup>™</sup> Scores

## Shows the test taker's best performance

- Score reports show the scores from a single test date and *MyBest* scores
- *MyBest* scores are the combination of the highest section scores from all valid test dates
- Automatically included in all score reports starting August 1, 2019

# Why Add *MyBest*<sup>™</sup> Scores?

## Universities prefer having them

- 74% of admissions officers surveyed prefer adding *MyBest* scores to score reports, compared to only receiving scores from a single test date\*
- Having both sets of scores is seen by admissions officers as *more useful* than single test date scores alone\*

## Widen the pool of qualified applicants

- With *MyBest* scores, more students can meet an institution's score requirements when they show their best performance across all of their valid *TOEFL iBT*<sup>®</sup> tests

\* Source: Survey of 251 individuals with responsibilities for undergraduate or graduate admissions at universities that accept *TOEFL*<sup>®</sup> scores.

# Are *MyBest*<sup>™</sup> Total Scores Valid?

## **Yes: They are built from valid section scores.**

- All section scores from valid tests are valid, so the combination of highest scores is also valid

## **Yes: Independent studies confirm it.**

- Studies in the testing field show that superscores are just as valid as other common scoring methods (e.g., most recent score, average score)

## **Yes: ETS research confirms it.**

- An ETS study compared the *MyBest* scores and the most recent test date scores of all test takers who repeated the test within a recent 2-year period
- The research found that there is only a small average difference between the *MyBest* total score and the most recent total score (approximately 4 points)

Read the research rationale  
for *MyBest*<sup>™</sup> scores at  
[www.ets.org/toefl/mybest](http://www.ets.org/toefl/mybest)



# MyBest™ Scores on Score Reports

## Automatically included in all score reports

- All score reports sent after August 1, 2019, **regardless of the test administration date**, will include both *MyBest™* scores and scores from a single test date
- Includes score reports in *ETS® Data Manager*, the *Scorelink®* service, server-to-server feeds, and paper score reports

ETS TOEFL iBT Institutional Score Report [ Security Guard goes here ]

Name: Setiadi, Atin  
Last (Family/Surname) Name, First (Given) Name, Middle Name  
Email: asetadi@ets.org  
Gender: F Appointment Number: 0000 0000 0036 5909  
Date of Birth: October 13, 1992 Test Date: October 23, 2019

A. Setiadi  
73, Jalan Cilaki  
BANDUNG 40115  
INDONESIA

Country of Birth: Indonesia Inst. Code: 0000  
Native Language: Bahasa Dept. Code: 00  
Test Center: STN22222C Dept. Description: xx  
Test Center Country: United States

ID Type: Passport ID No.: 23645 Issuing Country: Indonesia

### October 19, 2019 Test Date Scores

Total Score: 83 out of 120

Reading: 22 out of 30

Listening: 22 out of 30

Speaking: 21 out of 30

Writing: 18 out of 30

### MyBest™ Scores

Test taker's highest section scores from all valid test dates, as of October 24, 2019.

Sum of Highest Section Scores: 86 out of 120

Reading: 22 (Test Date: Oct 19, 2019)

Listening: 23 (Test Date: Mar 10, 2019)

Speaking: 21 (Test Date: Oct 19, 2019)

Writing: 20 (Test Date: Jun 02, 2019)

**INFORMATION ABOUT SCORES**  
For the TOEFL iBT™ test, there are four section scores and a total score. A total score is not reported when one or more sections have not been administered. These scores have the following ranges:

| Section     | Score Range |
|-------------|-------------|
| Reading     | 0–30        |
| Listening   | 0–30        |
| Speaking    | 0–30        |
| Writing     | 0–30        |
| Total Score | 0–120       |

**VALIDITY OF SCORES**  
Because English proficiency can change considerably in a relatively short period, scores more than two years old cannot be reported or validated. Please note the test date(s). Expired scores are not included in MyBest™ calculations.

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO SCORE RECIPIENTS:**  
This report of TOEFL iBT test scores is valid ONLY if received directly from ETS. Photocopies should never be accepted.

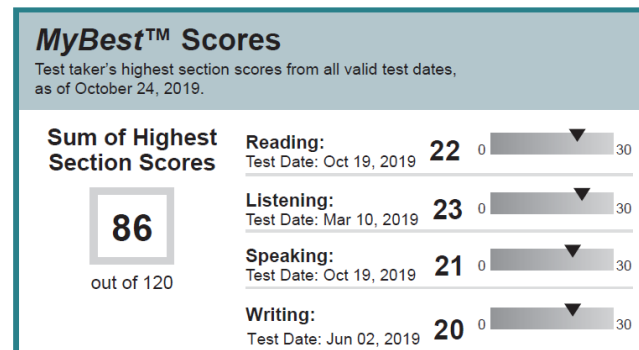
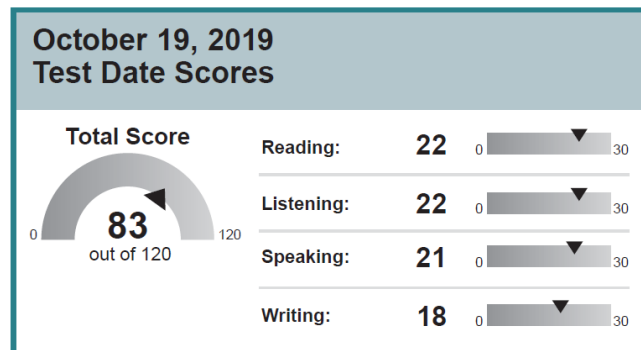
TOEFL iBT scores are confidential and are not to be released by the recipient without written permission from the test taker. All staff with access to score records should be advised of their confidential nature.

If you need to verify these scores, please call the TOEFL Score Verification Service at +1-800-257-9547 or +1-609-771-7100. Scores more than two years old cannot be reported or validated.

Additional information about TOEFL iBT scores is available at [www.ets.org/toefl/institutions/score](http://www.ets.org/toefl/institutions/score).

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## Institutional Score Report – Paper Version



# How Do *MyBest*<sup>™</sup> Scores Help Test Takers and Score Users?

- In this example, the test taker needs to achieve a total score of 80, with no section score lower than 18, to meet the requirements of University X
- The test taker meets University X's score requirement after two administrations:
  - Saving the test taker time and money by not having to take more tests
  - Providing University X with an additional applicant who meets its score requirements

| <b>Section</b>     | <b>Test Date 1</b> | <b>Test Date 2</b> | <b><i>MyBest</i><sup>™</sup> Score</b> |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| Reading            | <b>20</b>          | 19                 | <b>20</b>                              |
| Listening          | <b>22</b>          | 21                 | <b>22</b>                              |
| Speaking           | 17                 | <b>19</b>          | <b>19</b>                              |
| Writing            | 17                 | <b>19</b>          | <b>19</b>                              |
| <b>Total Score</b> | 76                 | 78                 | <b>80</b>                              |

# Check University Requirements for *MyBest*<sup>™</sup> Policies

**ETS has recommended that institutions add *MyBest* information to their websites**

Suggested language is:

- [INSTITUTION NAME] accepts *MyBest*<sup>™</sup> scores for the *TOEFL iBT*<sup>®</sup> test, in addition to TOEFL iBT scores from a single test date.
- [INSTITUTION NAME] only accepts *TOEFL iBT*<sup>®</sup> scores from a single test date, not *MyBest*<sup>™</sup> scores.

# Faster Score Reporting

Starting with the October 26, 2019 test:

- Test takers can view their scores online in approximately **6 days instead of 10**
- Institutions can view scores online in approximately **6 days instead of 13**
- Test takers can download PDF score reports in **7–8 days**
- Paper score reports are mailed from ETS to institutions in **9–11 days**

# Changes to the Registration Process and at Test Centers

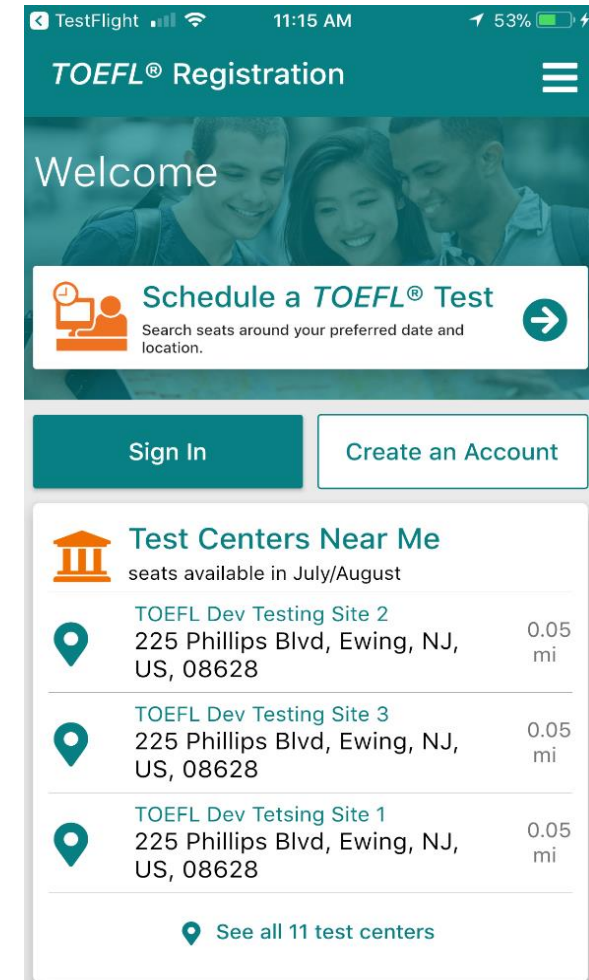
# TOEFL® Official App



## Register from anywhere on a mobile device

- Find nearby test centers with search powered by Google Maps
- Easy access to prep resources
- Download free from the App Store® or Google Play™

\* App is not available in Mainland China. Register at [toefl.neea.cn](http://toefl.neea.cn)



# More Opportunities to Test

## Increased Capacity with Afternoon Testing

- Convenient afternoon sessions added to select test dates starting August 24, 2019
- Up to 12 afternoon sessions per year
- Doubles test date capacity at participating test centers

# More Opportunities to Test

## Reduced Retest Waiting Period

- Required waiting period between *TOEFL iBT*<sup>®</sup> tests **reduced from 12 days to 3 days**
- Allows testing on consecutive weekends, as available dates permit
- Helps meet urgent deadlines
- Test takers can still test as many times as they wish



# More Opportunities to Test

## Register online up to just 2 days before a test

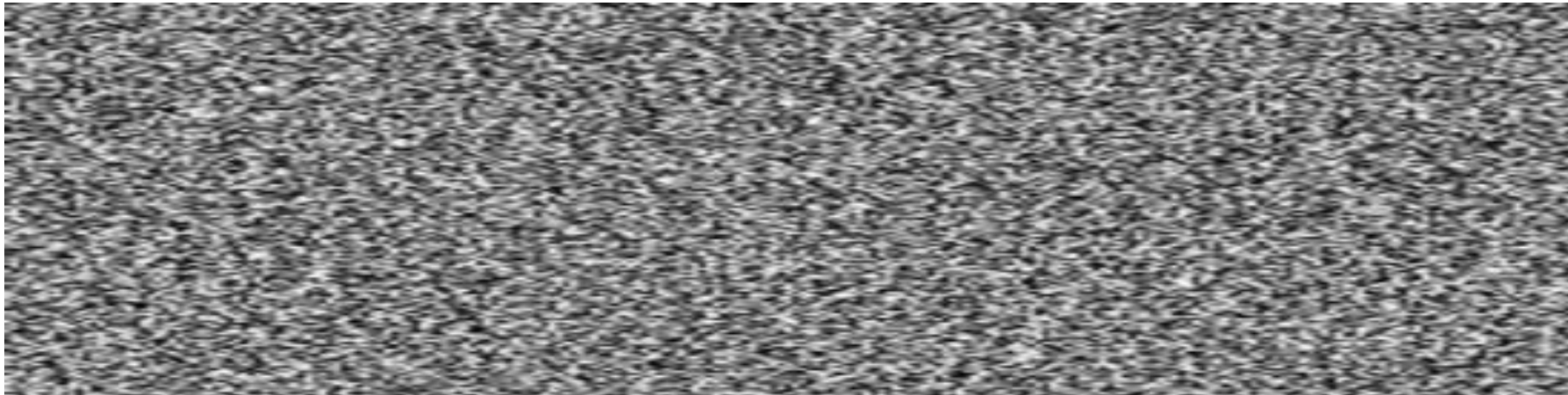
- Starting December 16, 2019, test takers can register online up to just 2 days\* before a test (formerly 4 days)
- Standard late fee still applies from 7 days before the test
- No changes to policies related to registration by phone or mail
- In China, deadline to reschedule or cancel a test is 4 days before the test (formerly 10 days)

*\* Late registration officially ends worldwide at 11:59 pm, Eastern US time, 2 days before the test (for example, on Thursday for a Saturday test).*



# Test Center Environment

**White noise machines have been deployed to our network of test centers to help reduce distracting noise for test takers**



# *TOEFL*<sup>®</sup> Program Resources – for Teachers and Advisors

# Webpage for Teachers and Advisors

ETS Home > TOEFL > For Teachers and Advisors



For Test Takers

For Institutions

For Teachers and Advisors

- Sign up for the *TOEFL*® Advisor Quarterly eNewsletter
- Videos: *TOEFL*® Resource Series for Teachers, Research Behind the *TOEFL*® Program, The *TOEFL* Family of Assessments, How ETS Scores the *TOEFL iBT*® Test, How ETS Makes the *TOEFL*® Test Fair
- Webinars: *TOEFL iBT*® Reading and Listening, *TOEFL iBT*® Speaking and Writing

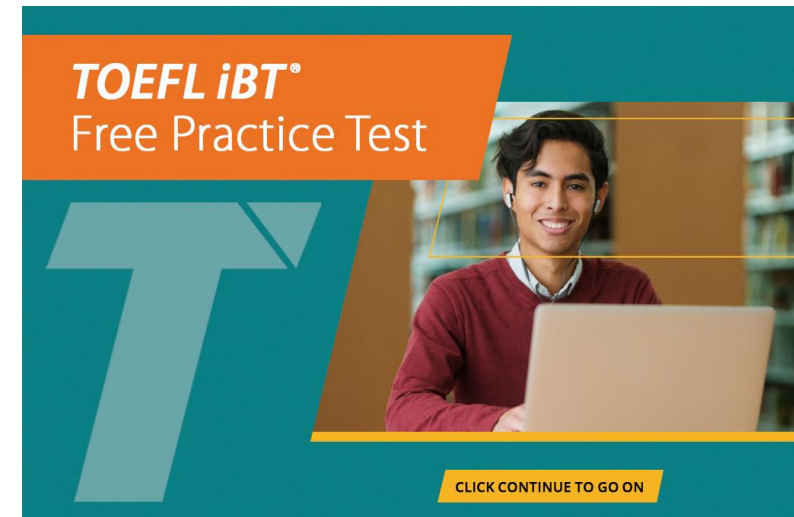
# TOEFL iBT® Free Practice Test

**NEW!**

## See what the test is like

- Take the full test with all 4 sections and real past questions
- Become familiar with the test format and question types
- View correct answers in Reading and Listening sections
- Listen to sample Speaking responses (high and medium levels)
- Read sample Writing responses (high and medium levels)

**Available September 3, 2019**

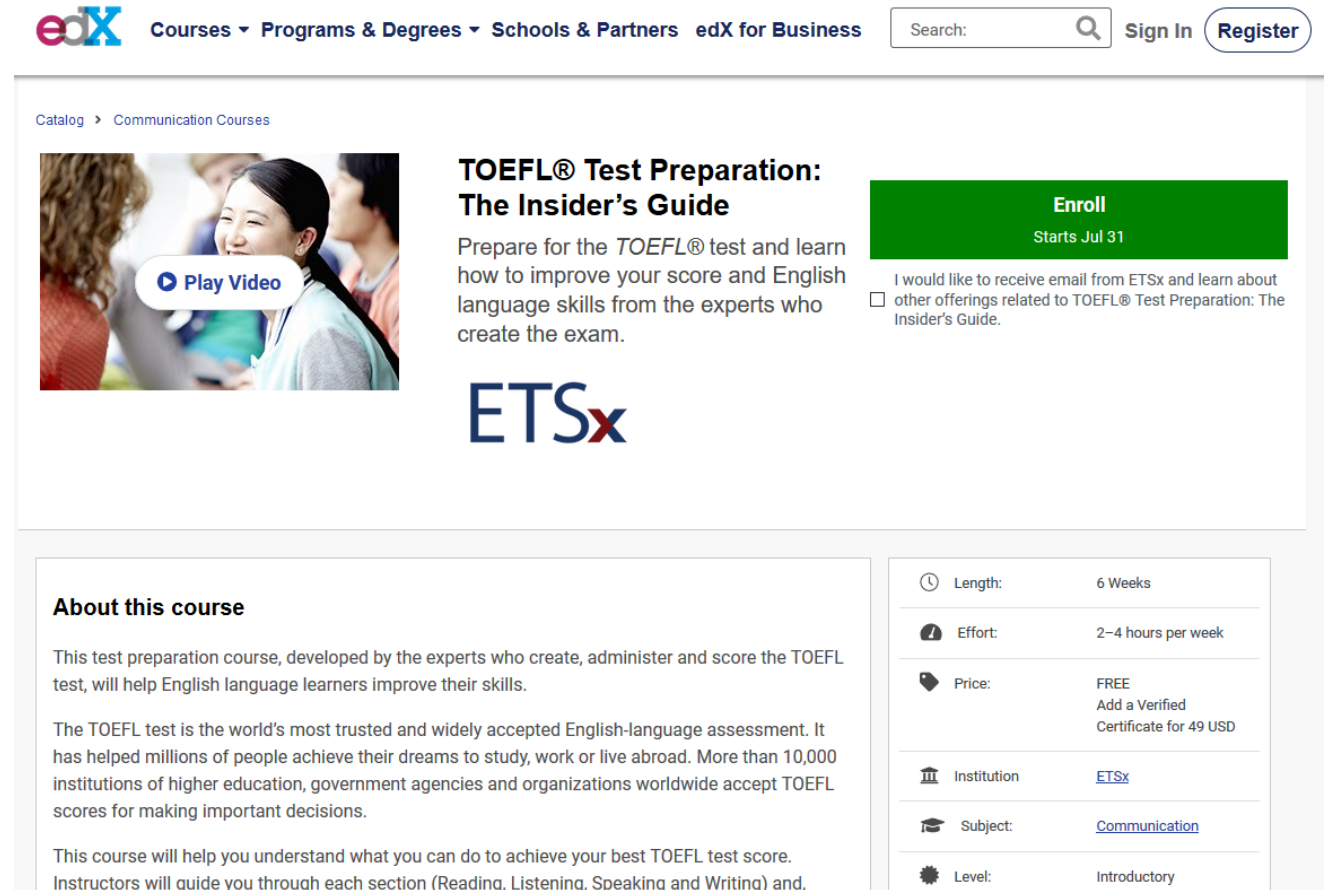


# TOEFL® MOOC

## TOEFL Test Preparation: The Insider's Guide:

- Launched June 2016 as a 6-week course
  - Enrollment since inception close to 630,000 representing over 206 countries
- The self-paced course was introduced August 2017
  - Includes *e-rater*® and *SpeechRater*SM technology
- Course was updated June 2019 to reflect the shortened test

Available on the edX platform



The screenshot shows the edX course page for "TOEFL® Test Preparation: The Insider's Guide". The page includes a navigation bar with "edX" logo and links for "Courses", "Programs & Degrees", "Schools & Partners", and "edX for Business". A search bar and "Sign In" / "Register" buttons are also present. The course title is prominently displayed, along with a "Play Video" button and an "Enroll" button that indicates the course starts on July 31. A checkbox option allows users to receive email from ETSx. The "About this course" section provides details about the test preparation course, its development by experts, and the TOEFL test's global acceptance. A sidebar on the right lists course details: Length (6 Weeks), Effort (2-4 hours per week), Price (FREE, with a verified certificate for 49 USD), Institution (ETSx), Subject (Communication), and Level (Introductory).

edX Courses ▾ Programs & Degrees ▾ Schools & Partners edX for Business Search:  Sign In Register

Catalog > Communication Courses

**TOEFL® Test Preparation: The Insider's Guide**

Prepare for the *TOEFL*® test and learn how to improve your score and English language skills from the experts who create the exam.

**Enroll**  
Starts Jul 31

I would like to receive email from ETSx and learn about other offerings related to TOEFL® Test Preparation: The Insider's Guide.

**ETSx**

**About this course**

This test preparation course, developed by the experts who create, administer and score the TOEFL test, will help English language learners improve their skills.

The TOEFL test is the world's most trusted and widely accepted English-language assessment. It has helped millions of people achieve their dreams to study, work or live abroad. More than 10,000 institutions of higher education, government agencies and organizations worldwide accept TOEFL scores for making important decisions.

This course will help you understand what you can do to achieve your best TOEFL test score. Instructors will guide you through each section (Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing) and

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 🕒 Length:       | 6 Weeks                                       |
| 🕒 Effort:       | 2-4 hours per week                            |
| 💰 Price:        | FREE<br>Add a Verified Certificate for 49 USD |
| 🏛️ Institution: | <a href="#">ETSx</a>                          |
| 🎓 Subject:      | <a href="#">Communication</a>                 |
| ⚙️ Level:       | Introductory                                  |

# TOEFL® Test Prep Planner

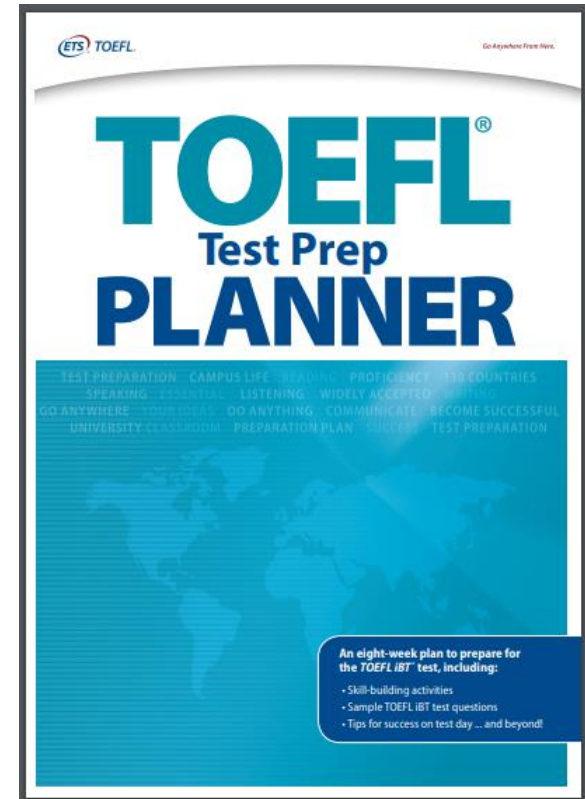
## Planner contents

- An 8-week preparation plan
- Test content details
- Scoring rubrics
- Sample questions

## Chapters 3-6 provide

- Learning objectives for academic English
- Activities to support those objectives

Downloadable from website



# TOEFL Go!® Official App

The TOEFL Go! app provides:

- access to free sample questions for all 4 sections of the test
- insider tips and resources
- in-app purchases of Reading, Listening, Speaking, and Writing practice tests. Each practice test will enable students to check their progress with 24-hour scoring from ETS



*Available in the United States and most areas of the world*

*Coming soon to Korea*





# Coronavirus Update

# Coronavirus Update

- All *TOEFL iBT*<sup>®</sup> tests in China have been cancelled through the end of March
- Tests in Hong Kong will resume later this month
- Plans are in place to have more seats available once testing resumes
- In addition to existing free resources, registered test takers have received a free *TOEFL*<sup>®</sup> Practice Online test so that they can continue their studies while at home
- For updates, please go to [www.ets.org/toefl/cv-update](http://www.ets.org/toefl/cv-update)

# The *TOEFL iBT*<sup>®</sup> Test: When Academic English Matters

Marian N. Crandall

Associate Director, Global Client Relations

[mcrandall@ets.org](mailto:mcrandall@ets.org)

