**TOEFL OVERVIEW**

TOEFL has 4 sections: reading, listening, speaking and writing and the test went through major changes this year in that it is now offered AT HOME. Please see the post on the TOEFL and GRE at the top of this page for that update if you are going to be taking the TOEFL at home. The TOEFL also went through major changes last year but let me first talk their website and books. Then I will talk about those changes in case some students are more familiar with the older version.

**I.The Official Website.** For an overview of the test, this video provides a good overview for those that do not know anything about the structure of the test, <https://www.ets.org/toefl/test-takers/ibt/prepare/toefl-talks/toefl-talks-webinar-transcript>. There is also a transcript where you can read what the speakers say about the test.

 **A.The Official TOEFL site,** <https://www.ets.org/toefl>

**The official website has been updated and has free practice materials including a sample test. This test is in the new version I will discuss below. TOEFL offers a variety of materials.**

 **B.ETS’ Free materials.** They have a variety of free materials for students.

 **1.Free Course. They have free materials including a free 6-week TOEFL course,** <https://www.edx.org/course/toefl-test-preparation-the-insiders-guide>.

 **2.A Free Practice Test and Test Questions,** <https://www.ets.org/toefl/test-takers/ibt/prepare/tests> This test is in the current version and is free. There are also free sets of questions for the different skills on the TOEFL that are also free on that link.

 **3.An 8-Week Sample Study Schedule for the TOEFL.** The TOEFL also provides students with a suggested plan for studying for the TOEFL in 2 months. <https://www.ets.org/toefl/test-takers/ibt/prepare/guides-books>

 **4.TOEFL app.** TOEFL also has a free app you can use. <https://www.ets.org/toefl/test-takers/ibt/prepare/app>

 **5.Books.** ETS has books for the TOEFL and the books are very good. The main problem is that the listening is on a cd so if you don’t have a laptop with a cd rom drive, you would need to figure out a solution. I downloaded the files from the cd on another computer to my flash drive so that I could listen on my laptop, which doesn’t have a cd rom drive. You can buy that book from TOEFL here, <https://v2.ereg.ets.org/ereg/public/testPrep/viewtestPreparation?_p=TEL> or you can buy that from a store or another online seller like Amazon. I would just check prices.

 **6.Value packs.** TOEFL offers several online practice sets that you have to pay for but they also provide a way to buy several and save money. If you are interested in doing that, you can go to this link, <https://www.ets.org/toefl/test-takers/ibt/prepare/value-packs>

Please note that if you get a value pack you have access for a year only.

 **7.Online practice.** TOEFL offers online practice and that practice is available only for 6 months. You must use it in that 6 months because after that time you will no longer have access.

Here is a listing of some of that practice. Some people buy these if they are interested in just 1 section that they feel week or simply want more practice. <https://v2.ereg.ets.org/ereg/public/testPrep/viewtestPreparation?_p=TEL>

 **8.TOEFL talks or webinars in your country.** If you want to hear a TOEFL talk or a webinar in your country, you can go to this site and choose your country. Then you will find out what’s available.

**II.Other books and resources.** There are a variety of other books and resources. Some of them are good and some of them are not very good. If you are unsure, please feel to email me or chat with me about it.

 **A.Magoosh.** Magoosh offers some free materials and materials you have to pay for. It has a good reputation. Here is that site, <https://toefl.magoosh.com/>

 **B.Books.** There are several well-known books out there and most of them are good. I would start with ETS’ book first but if you want another one, please contact me before you buy one so you are making sure you buy a good book.

Now, this last section is about the current version of the test and how that differed from the earlier version.

**III.TOEFL CHANGES**

**Here are the ways in which the test changed last year:**

1.The test is now 3 HOURS.

2.Same format but fewer questions in reading, listening and speaking.

https://www.ets.org/toefl/better\_test\_experience

Independent question #1 (express a personal preference) and integrated question #5 (campus situation; problem/solution) are being removed. The remaining questions will be renumbered 1 to 4 in the shortened version. https://www.ets.org/s/toefl/pdf/faqs\_shorter\_toefl\_ibt\_test.pdf

3.Best scores. 2 years for each section. This tends to be beneficial for students.

4.Registration is supposed to be easier. Here is information from TOEFL’S site:

“In addition, the new *MyBest*™ scores feature will combine test takers’ best scores for each section from all valid TOEFL iBT scores from the previous two years. *MyBest* scores allow test takers to show their best overall test performance to institutions making important admissions decisions. All TOEFL iBT score reports sent after August 1, 2019, regardless of the test administration date, will automatically include *MyBest* scores along with the traditional scores from the test taker’s selected test date.

“A growing number of institutions are acknowledging the value of seeing applicants’ best section scores when they take a standardized test more than once,” said ETS’s Srikant Gopal, Executive Director of the TOEFL Program. “We also know that our test takers want an English-language test that helps them stand out to admissions officers. These changes provide a significantly better testing experience for students, while institutions can widen their pools of qualified applicants that meet their English-language requirements. It’s a win-win.

To round out the improved test-taking experience, ETS developed a new registration and account management system. As a result, test takers will see greater functionality, a streamlined registration experience, easy access to test prep and more.

For more information about the enhancements to the TOEFL test’s format, score reports and registration, please visit https://www.ets.org/toefl/better\_test\_experience. “

**So, that’s a quick overview of the TOEFL and a quick list of various resources. Please feel free to comment or ask me questions.**