

A photograph of a young man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue sweater over a white collared shirt. He is in a classroom setting, with other students blurred in the background. He has his right hand raised, palm facing forward, as if participating in a discussion or asking a question.

## Frequently Asked Questions about *TOEFL*® Practice Online

### SECTION 1: Features

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#### What is *TOEFL*® Practice Online?

*TOEFL*® Practice Online is the only official practice test that gives you the experience of taking the real *TOEFL iBT*® test. You will practice by using authentic questions from past tests, and you will receive your scores with performance feedback within 24 hours.

#### How will using *TOEFL* Practice Online help me?

*TOEFL* Practice Online simulates the real *TOEFL iBT* testing experience and provides scores within 24 hours. You will also receive performance feedback that helps you assess your readiness for test day.

#### What are the technical requirements to run the practice tests on a computer?

**Operating Systems:** Mac OS® X 10.11 or higher; Microsoft® Windows® 8 or 10

**Browsers:** Mac®: Safari® 9.0 or higher, Firefox® or Google Chrome™; Windows: Internet Explorer® 11.0 or higher, Edge, Google Chrome or Firefox. Note that you may have to do the following:

- Install the Audio Browser for Windows OS
- Install *TOEFL* Practice Online Browser for Mac OS

A headset and a non-voice-activated microphone are recommended for the Speaking section. Mac users may also use the internal speakers and microphone located in the computer.

**Please Note:** You must complete the practice test on the same operating system that you start on. You cannot switch between operating systems once the test has been started.

# Frequently Asked Questions about *TOEFL*® Practice Online

## SECTION 1: Features (continued)

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### What is the difference between timed and untimed mode?

Timed mode uses the same time limits as the real test for each of the four sections. This helps you get accustomed to the time limits and improve your pacing.

Untimed mode does not have time limits for each section, and you are able to highlight text and check your answers. You can also replay audio passages, which is not an option in the real test.

Once you choose your mode, you may not go back and change it. In either mode, once you leave a section, you cannot go back to that section.

### Does the practice test need to be completed within a certain number of days?

Yes, once you start your practice test, you have 6 months to complete it. After you complete it, you will have 30 days to access the test and save or print your score report for your records.

### Can I pause a partially completed practice test and then take the remaining part later?

Yes, the test may be paused and restarted where you left off at a later time.

### Can I retake a practice test?

No. Each practice test can be taken only once.

### When will I receive my practice test scores?

You must complete the entire test in order to receive a score for all four sections. You will receive your scores within 24 hours.

### Are any of the questions repeated in other practice tests or other *TOEFL*® test learning resources?

On rare occasions, a small set of questions may be repeated in another resource, but complete tests are never repeated in full.

### How are my responses scored?

Your responses are scored by the *SpeechRater*® automated scoring service, which uses speech recognition and analysis technology to analyze your responses. The *SpeechRater* service analyzes your pronunciation, fluency, vocabulary and grammar to produce your scores.

### How is *SpeechRater* automated scoring different from human rater scoring?

In general, human raters evaluate more features of each response than the *SpeechRater* service does. Human raters evaluate each response in the areas of Delivery (pronunciation, rhythm, intonation, rate of speech, pause structure, fluidity), Language Use (vocabulary and grammar) and Topic Development (content and coherence). The *SpeechRater* service analyzes features of Delivery and Language Use (including pronunciation, fluency, vocabulary and grammar), but it is currently limited in its evaluation of Topic Development features.

# Frequently Asked Questions about **TOEFL® Practice Online**

## SECTION 2: Speaking

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### How can I get the most benefit from my TOEFL Practice Online Speaking score?

The best approach is to respond to the tasks seriously, as you would during the TOEFL iBT test. Treating the practice test as a real test will help you receive the most accurate score. Your score will be less accurate if you respond casually or carelessly to the speaking tasks. During the practice test, as well as during a TOEFL iBT testing session, you should be sure to give full, complete responses in English. When responding, you should not use rehearsed speech that is not based on the speaking task, respond in a language other than English, read your response word-for-word from texts or notes, or provide partial or incomplete responses.

### How does computer scoring work?

Your responses to the speaking questions are recorded and sent to ETS, where they are analyzed by the *SpeechRater* service. *SpeechRater* service was developed by processing numerous responses to Speaking section questions and analyzing the features of the responses (pronunciation, fluency, vocabulary and grammar) alongside their scores from human raters. Language experts used this information to create a scoring model, which is used to determine a speaker's score on each of the tasks. The scores are added together and the final score is converted to a 0–30 scale.

## SECTION 3: Writing

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### How are my responses scored?

Your responses are scored by the *e-rater*® automated scoring engine, which assesses each essay by analyzing hundreds of essays that scoring experts have marked according to TOEFL scoring standards. The key features of your written responses that are analyzed to produce your scores include grammar, usage, mechanics, style, organization and development.

### How is my TOEFL Practice Online Writing section score different from a TOEFL iBT test Writing section score?

Both the TOEFL Practice Online Writing section and the TOEFL iBT Writing section report your score on a scale of 0–30. However, the scores differ in two distinct ways: (1) the practice test is scored only by a computer, rather than by both human raters and computer scoring; and (2) the computer scoring of the practice test does not consider the meaning expressed in a response in the same way human raters do.

### How is *e-rater* automated scoring different from human rater scoring?

Scoring by the *e-rater* engine is an automated prediction of a score a human rater would assign for the same response. The score is produced by combining the evaluation of several important features of each response (including grammar, usage, mechanics, style, organization and development). While the *e-rater* engine measures overall writing quality, it does not measure the correctness of the content within a response the way a human rater can.

## Frequently Asked Questions about **TOEFL® Practice Online**

### **SECTION 3: Writing** (continued)

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#### **How can I get the most benefit from my TOEFL Practice Online Writing section score?**

The best approach is to respond to the tasks seriously, as you would during the TOEFL iBT test. Treating the practice test as a real test will help you receive the most accurate score. Be sure to give full, complete responses in English, because your score will be less accurate if you respond casually or carelessly to the writing tasks. When responding, you should not use prewritten text, write in a language other than English, or provide partial or incomplete responses.

#### **How does computer scoring work?**

TOEFL Practice Online uses *e-rater* engine models that imitate the performance of trained human raters. TOEFL iBT test essays are scored on a 5-point holistic scale. The essay is rated for its overall quality and receives a score from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). If your response is too brief to be evaluated, you will receive an advisory notice indicating that no score will be assigned.

Your written responses to each of the two writing questions are sent to ETS, where they are analyzed by the *e-rater* engine. The *e-rater* engine scores for the two tasks are then added together. The final score is converted to a 0–30 scale.

#### **Why didn't my essay response receive a score?**

Essay responses that are too brief to evaluate with confidence or do not indicate paragraph breaks properly will not be scored by the *e-rater* engine. If you submit a response for scoring that meets one of these conditions, you will receive an advisory notice indicating that no score will be provided. If you receive an advisory notice, you are not eligible for a refund.

