

TOEFL & IELTS

WorldWide *HealthStaff*
Solutions Ltd.

Preparing for your
English language
proficiency exam

Sample
Speaking
Tasks

Similarities
and
Differences



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TOEFL and IELTS

Similarities and Differences

Similarities

Both tests:

- Assess language as well as critical thinking skills
- Contain reading, writing, listening and speaking sections
- Are designed to assess academic skills for university work
- Have scores that expire in 2 years
- Are accepted for the VisaScreen
- Are approximately 3 hours long
- Cost around \$200 (IELTS \$215-240; TOEFL approximately \$200)

Differences

IELTS

Overview:

- Less common than TOEFL
- Paper-based – hand write answers
- Get results in 2-4 weeks
- Uses multiple dialects of English (British, Australian, North American)
- No waiting period to retake
- Not accepted by CA, GA, KS, ME, MI (exam), NV, NJ (exam), OH (exam)

Speaking section:

- Face-to face speaking assessment
- Speaking section is 11-14 minutes
- Speaking tasks do not require other materials
- Speaking portion may be taken on a separate day

TOEFL

Overview:

- Most widely used English assessment in the world
- Internet-based – click on answers
- Get results in 6 days
- Uses North American English
- 3-day waiting period to retake
- Accepted by ALL states

Speaking section:

- Record speaking into microphone
- Speaking section is approximately 17 minutes
- Integrated speaking tasks include reading and listening
- All portions of the test are taken on the same day

▶ Check which English proficiency exam is accepted by your assigned state board of nursing.



TOEFL and IELTS

Speaking Tips

Familiarize yourself with the test questions.

Learn about the different types of questions you will be asked and the speaking tasks you will need to perform. The more prepared you are, the fewer surprises you will have and the easier it will be to focus on your responses during the test.

Use the preparation time that is given before your response.

Many test sections allow you time to think and take notes before you respond. Use this time wisely to prepare for your answers.

Follow the instructions.

Do what the question asks you to do. If your response is off-topic, you will receive little to no credit.

Elaborate on your answers.

Give reasons and explanations, not just one- or two-word answers. Use all the time allowed to respond.

(TOEFL) When summarizing, focus on the main ideas and not the details.

A summary should be more general and shorter than the original.

Relax and breathe.

The more relaxed you are, the more comprehensible your language will be. You will also be able to think more clearly. Practice breathing or other relaxation techniques that you can use during the test.

Use good grammar and vocabulary.

Take the opportunity to demonstrate your language skills. Your responses will be scored on a variety of criteria, including grammar and vocabulary.

Use smooth transitions so your ideas flow well.

Don't jump from one topic to the next. Instead, create logical relationships between ideas. Connecting your ideas smoothly will make your language more coherent.

Use good pronunciation.

While an accent is acceptable, your speaking should be intelligible and your accent should not be distracting or cause confusion.

Practice using sample test questions.

There is nothing like practicing to really understand what the test is like. Record your responses to sample test questions, or practice with a partner. If you record your answers, listen to the recording and critique yourself.

Practice speaking in English every day.

Join a conversation group or find a conversation partner. There are numerous websites that offer English conversation practice. The more you practice, the more fluent and confident you will become.

IELTS

Sample Speaking Tasks

Duration: 11–14 Minutes

In the speaking test, you have a discussion with a certified examiner. It is interactive and as close to a real-life situation as a test can get.

There are three parts to the test and each part fulfills a specific function in terms of interaction pattern, task input and test taker output.

In **Part 1**, you answer questions about yourself and your family. In **Part 2**, you speak about a topic. In **Part 3**, you have a longer discussion on the topic.

Please note: These are examples only.

Learn more at

ielts.org/en-us/about-the-test/sample-test-questions



*Let's
talk
IELTS*

Part 1 Introduction and Interview

This part of the test begins with the examiner introducing himself or herself and checking the candidate's identification. It then continues as an interview.

Let's talk about your home town 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?)

Let's move on to talk about accommodation.

- Tell me about the kind of accommodation you live in?
- How long have you lived there?
- What do you like about living there?
- What sort of accommodation would you most like to live in?

Part 2 Individual Long Turn

Candidate Task Card

Describe something you own which is very important to you.

You should say:

- Where you got it
- How long you have had it
- What you use it for
- Explain why it is important to you

You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you're going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

Rounding Off Questions

- Is it valuable in terms of money?
- Would it be easy to replace?

Part 3 – Two-way Discussion

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.

- Do you think advertising influences what people buy?

TOEFL

Sample Speaking Tasks

Independent Speaking Practice (2 Tasks)

The first section is independent speaking. It is independent because you will be using your own knowledge to complete these tasks. This section has two tasks. For both of these, you will be given 15 seconds to prepare and note down ideas. You will then need to speak into a microphone for 45 seconds.

Please note: These are examples only.

1. Description Task

The first task asks you to describe something familiar to you. This could be anything from your personal experience like:

- Describe a teacher who had an influence on you
- Describe a place that you like to visit
- Describe a book that you liked to read as a child

2. Opinion Task

The second task asks you to give your opinion on a topic. For this task, you will need to say whether you agree or disagree with a statement. (For example: all children should play a sport.) Or you may be asked to choose a side and explain why. You will need to support your opinion with reasons. (For example: Some people think students should take a gap year before entering the workforce while others think this is a waste of time. What is your opinion?)



Integrated Speaking Practice (4 Tasks)

The integrated speaking tasks make up the second part of the speaking test. It is integrated because you will be using information provided to you from reading and listening texts to answer the questions. There are four tasks in total. For each task, you will be given 30 seconds to prepare and note down ideas. You will then need to speak into a microphone for 60 seconds.

For these tasks, you will have to integrate, or combine, information from a reading passage and listening audio into a summary, or summarize information you hear in a lecture or conversation. You will be able to take notes as you listen.

1. Summarize Opinion

For this task, you will be given a short reading text. You will have 45 seconds to read it. The text will be related to a campus issue, like student parking, or tuition fees for example.

You will then hear a conversation between two students related to that topic. In this conversation, one of the students will give an opinion about the issue. You will then need to summarize that opinion and explain why the student has that opinion.

2. Summarize Reading and Lecture

For this task, you will have 45 seconds to read a short passage about an academic topic. You will then hear a short lecture on the same topic.

You will be asked explain how the examples used in the lecture support or contradict information in the reading passage. It is important to take good notes to complete this task successfully.

3. Summarize Problem

For this task, you will listen to a conversation that takes place on a university campus. It will be related to some kind of student problem related to things like accommodation, scheduling, assignments, etc.

The speakers will also mention some possible solutions. You will be asked to summarize the problem discussed by the speakers and state which solution you would recommend and why. You should take notes as you listen.

4. Summarize Lecture

In the final speaking task, you will hear a lecture on an academic topic. You should take notes of main points and examples from the lecture as you listen. You will then use your notes to summarize the ideas.

Learn more at


blog.e2language.com/toefl-speaking-test


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