



TOEFL for college TOEIC for the workplace

If you think of an internationally recognized English examination, the first name that comes to your mind is TOEFL or the Test of English as a Foreign Language. However, TOEIC or the Test of English for International Communication has come to occupy an equally important position in today's times. In fact TOEFL and TOEIC are registered trademarks of Educational Testing Service (ETS).

TOEIC has been used by institutions, companies and government agencies worldwide to measure the English proficiency of non-native English-speaking people. With more than 4.5 million test takers per year, the TOEIC is the standard for workplace English language proficiency worldwide. It essentially measures the everyday English skills of people working in an international environment.

Multiple-choice

The TOEIC test is a paper-and-pencil, multiple-choice assessment that uses audiocassettes, pictures and written materials. There are two separately timed sections of 100 questions each.

The first tests listening skills. Examinees listen to a variety of questions and short conversations recorded in English, then answer questions based on what they heard. The second section is to test reading skills. Here the examinees read a variety of materials and respond at their own pace to questions based on the content.

The test typically lasts two-and-a-half hours. Examinees have 45 minutes for Section I, 75 minutes for Section II and the remaining time to respond to biographical questions and a brief questionnaire about education and work history. Questions are drawn from a variety of real-world settings and situations -- from dining out and entertainment to travel and housing.

It also has questions from corporate development, finance and budgeting, health, manufacturing, human resources and technical areas. The number of correct responses in each section is converted to a scale score.