

I'm happy to give you more! Here are a few more common and useful English idioms, categorized by their general theme for easier learning.

## Idioms About Money and Value

Idiom	Meaning	Example
<b>A dime a dozen</b>	Very common and therefore not valuable.	"Those cheap souvenirs are <b>a dime a dozen</b> on the boardwalk."
<b>Pinch pennies</b>	To be very careful with money; to be frugal.	"Since they lost their income, they have to <b>pinch pennies</b> ."
<b>In the red</b>	Operating at a loss; owing money.	"Our company budget is <b>in the red</b> this quarter."
<b>To foot the bill</b>	To pay for something.	"My boss offered to <b>foot the bill</b> for the whole office party."

## Idioms About Time and Speed

Idiom	Meaning	Example
<b>At the drop of a hat</b>	Instantly; without hesitation.	"She's always ready to travel <b>at the drop of a hat</b> ."
<b>Better late than never</b>	It's better to arrive or do something after the expected time than not to do it at all.	"I finally submitted the report. <b>Better late than never</b> , I suppose."
<b>The eleventh hour</b>	The last possible moment.	"We managed to finish the project at <b>the eleventh hour</b> ."
<b>Time flies</b>	Time passes very quickly.	" <b>Time flies</b> when you're having fun!"

## Idioms About Taking Action or Decisions

Idiom	Meaning	Example
<b>Get your act together</b>	To organize yourself and behave properly; to prepare.	"You need to <b>get your act together</b> if you want to pass this exam."
<b>Let sleeping dogs lie</b>	To avoid reviving an old controversy or trouble.	"I decided to <b>let sleeping dogs lie</b> and not bring up the old argument."
<b>Throw in the towel</b>	To give up or surrender.	"After hours of struggling with the code, he finally <b>threw in the towel</b> ."
<b>Cross that bridge when you come to it</b>	To deal with a problem only when it happens, not before.	"We don't know if we'll have a budget shortfall, so let's just <b>cross that bridge when we come to it</b> ."

English idioms can be difficult because their meaning is often not clear from the individual words. Here are several categories of idioms that learners often find challenging, along with their meanings and examples:

## Idioms About Difficulty and Challenges

Idiom	Meaning	Example
<b>Bite the bullet</b>	To endure a painful or unpleasant but unavoidable situation.	"I hate going to the dentist, but I'll have to <b>bite the bullet</b> and go in for that root canal."
<b>A tough nut to crack</b>	A problem or person that is difficult to understand or deal with.	"The new coding challenge is a <b>tough nut to crack</b> ; it's much harder than the last one."
<b>Like pulling teeth</b>	A task or situation that is extremely difficult, frustrating, or time-consuming.	"Getting him to talk about his feelings is <b>like pulling teeth</b> ."
<b>The straw that broke the camel's back</b>	The final difficulty or annoyance that causes someone to lose patience or a system to fail.	"He was late, he forgot the file, and then the computer crashed—that was <b>the straw that broke the camel's back</b> ."
<b>An uphill battle</b>	A difficult and challenging struggle with a low chance of success.	"Convincing the entire committee to change the policy is going to be <b>an uphill battle</b> ."

## Idioms with Unclear Literal Meanings

Idiom	Meaning	Example
<b>Break a leg</b>	A saying used to wish someone good luck (especially before a performance).	"You're about to go on stage. <b>Break a leg!</b> "
<b>Under the weather</b>	Feeling slightly ill or unwell.	"I'm feeling a bit <b>under the weather</b> today, so I think I'll stay home."
<b>Once in a blue moon</b>	Very rarely.	"I only eat chocolate cake <b>once in a blue moon</b> ."
<b>The devil is in the details</b>	The seemingly simple parts of a plan or agreement can hide complications or problems.	"The contract looks fine, but be careful. <b>The devil is in the details</b> ."
<b>Don't look a gift horse in the mouth</b>	Don't question the value or quality of a gift.	"I know the car is old, but it was free. <b>Don't look a gift horse in the mouth</b> ."

## Idioms for Actions and Situations

Idiom	Meaning	Example
<b>Barking up the wrong tree</b>	To be pursuing a mistaken or misguided line of thought or course of action.	"If you think I took your keys, you're <b>barking up the wrong tree</b> ; I wasn't even here."

Idiom	Meaning	Example
<b>Beat around the bush</b>	To avoid coming to the point; to delay or avoid talking about something difficult.	"Stop <b>beating around the bush</b> and just tell me what happened."
<b>Bite off more than you can chew</b>	To take on a task that is too big or too difficult for you to handle.	"She's already working two jobs, so taking on this volunteer role might be <b>biting off more than she can chew.</b> "
<b>Burn the midnight oil</b>	To work late into the night.	"I have a deadline tomorrow, so I'll be <b>burning the midnight oil</b> tonight."
<b>Throw caution to the wind</b>	To take a significant risk.	"He decided to <b>throw caution to the wind</b> and quit his job to travel the world."

# Mastering the IELTS: Your Path to Global Opportunities





# What is IELTS? Understanding the Exam Structure

The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is a globally recognized test of English language proficiency. It assesses your abilities in four key areas, crucial for academic or immigration purposes.

1

### Listening

Assesses your ability to understand spoken English in various contexts.

2

### Reading

Evaluates your comprehension of different text types, from factual to analytical.

3

### Writing

Tests your capacity to produce well-structured and coherent written responses.

4

### Speaking

Measures your fluency, coherence, and accuracy in spoken English.

# Listening Strategies: Don't Just Hear, Comprehend!

Active listening is key to acing the IELTS Listening section. It's not just about hearing the words, but understanding the context, speaker's intent, and specific details.

## **Predict Content**

Before the audio plays, read the questions to anticipate what information to listen for.

## **Identify Keywords**

Focus on essential words and phrases that guide you to the answers.

## **Note-Taking Skills**

Develop a system for quickly jotting down key points without getting distracted.

## **Contextual Clues**

Pay attention to accents, tone, and the overall flow of conversation to grasp meaning.



# Reading Comprehension: Skimming, Scanning, and Deep Reading

The IELTS Reading section requires efficient strategies to navigate various text types under time pressure. Master these techniques for optimal performance.

1

## Skimming

Quickly read for the main idea and overall gist of the text.

2

## Scanning

Look for specific information or keywords to answer targeted questions.

3

## Deep Reading

Carefully analyze sections for detailed understanding and inference questions.



# Writing Task 1: Describing Data and Processes with Clarity

In Writing Task 1, you'll need to accurately describe and summarize visual information or a process. Precision and a clear structure are paramount.



## Data Interpretation

Analyze trends, comparisons, and key features of graphs, charts, or tables.



## Process Description

Clearly explain each stage of a diagram, using appropriate linking words.



## Vocabulary & Grammar

Employ a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures relevant to description.





# Writing Task 2: Crafting Persuasive Essays and Arguments

Writing Task 2 requires you to present a well-developed argument in response to a given topic. A clear stance, supporting evidence, and logical progression are essential.

## Structure Your Essay

Begin with an introduction, develop paragraphs with clear topic sentences, and conclude effectively.

## Develop Your Argument

Present clear main ideas, supported by relevant examples and explanations.

## Cohesion and Coherence

Use linking words and phrases to ensure your ideas flow logically and are easy to follow.

## Lexical Resource & Grammatical Range

Demonstrate a wide range of vocabulary and complex sentence structures accurately.

# Speaking Confidence: Fluency, Coherence, and Pronunciation

The IELTS Speaking test assesses your ability to communicate effectively in English. Focus on these key areas to impress the examiner.



## Fluency & Coherence

Speak naturally and smoothly, connecting your ideas logically.



## Pronunciation

Speak clearly and intelligibly, ensuring your words are understood.



## Lexical Resource

Use a wide range of appropriate vocabulary to express your ideas.



## Grammatical Range & Accuracy

Employ a variety of grammatical structures correctly.



# Common Mistakes to Avoid: Learn from Others' Errors

Being aware of typical pitfalls can significantly improve your IELTS score. Steer clear of these common errors.



## Time Management

Many candidates struggle to complete sections within the allotted time.



## Irrelevant Answers

Not directly addressing the question asked, especially in writing and speaking.



## Lack of Cohesion

Ideas that don't flow logically or are poorly connected.



## Limited Vocabulary

Over-reliance on simple words and phrases.



# Effective Study Plan: Your Roadmap to Success

A well-structured study plan is crucial for IELTS preparation. Tailor your plan to your strengths and weaknesses.

## Assess Your Level

Take a diagnostic test to identify areas needing improvement.

1

## Set Realistic Goals

Determine your target band score and break down your study into achievable milestones.

2

## Practice Regularly

Consistent practice across all four modules is essential for progress.

3

## Seek Feedback

Get your writing and speaking assessed by a tutor or experienced peer.

4



# Q&A and Next Steps: Your Journey Continues!

You've taken the first step towards mastering the IELTS. Now, it's time to solidify your understanding and plan your next moves.

## Ask Anything!

- Clarify any doubts about the exam structure.
- Discuss specific challenges you anticipate.
- Get advice on personalized study resources.

## Ready for Action?

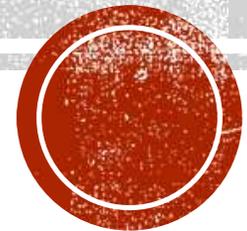
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# TOEFL FORMAT

The total duration is 116 minutes, comprising four sections: Reading, Listening, Speaking, and Writing. The total score is calculated based on all four sections, with each section scored from 0 to 30, making the highest possible score 120.



# TOEFL READING SECTION

- The Reading section of the TOEFL evaluates how well you can comprehend and interpret academic materials. It includes two passages, each around 700 words long, with 10 questions per passage. This section takes approximately 35 minutes to complete and is scored based on the number of correct responses.



**THERE ARE 9 TYPES OF READING  
QUESTIONS:**



- **Inference Questions:** Require you to make logical conclusions based on the passage.
- **Vocabulary Questions:** Test your understanding of specific words within the context.
- **Rhetorical Purpose Questions:** Assess why the author included certain pieces of information in a particular way.
- **Detail (Factual Information) Questions:** Ask for specific information stated in the passage



- **Negative Factual Information Questions:** Identify information that is not true according to the passage.
- **Essential Information (Sentence Simplification) Questions:** Simplify a complex sentence to its essential meaning.
- **Sentence Insertion Questions:** Determine where a new sentence best fits within the passage.
- **Complete the Summary (Prose Summary) Questions:** Summarise the main ideas of the passage.



- **Complete the Table (Fill in a Table)**  
**Questions:** Organise information from the passage into a table format.



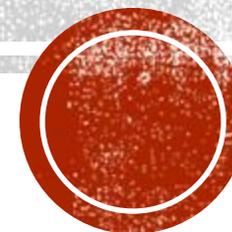
- The reading passages are excerpts from university-level textbooks. These passages cover various subjects, but you don't need prior knowledge to answer the questions. A glossary feature defines uncommon words if needed.
- Skim the passage first to get a general idea before answering the questions.
- Refer back to the passage to find specific information for detailed questions.



**BY DR. LAYTH ALOBAIDI**



# TOEFL LISTENING SECTION



- The Listening section of the TOEFL tests your ability to comprehend English as spoken in academic settings. It involves listening for basic comprehension, understanding the speaker's attitude and certainty, and connecting information.
- 
- The section includes three lectures (some with classroom discussions), each lasting 3–5 minutes, with six questions per lecture and two conversations, each lasting 3 minutes, with five questions per conversation. It takes about 35 minutes to complete.



**THERE ARE EIGHT TYPES OF LISTENING  
QUESTIONS AND WHAT THEY WILL  
REQUIRE YOU TO DO:**



- **Gist (Content):** Identify the main idea or purpose of the lecture or conversation.
- 
- **Gist (Purpose):** Understand why something was said or done.
- 
- **Detail (Most Popular):** Answer questions about specific details mentioned.
- 
- **Understanding the Speaker's Attitude:** Infer the speaker's feelings or opinions.



- **Understanding the Function:** Determine why something was said or done.
- **Making Inferences:** Draw conclusions based on the information given.
- **Understanding Organisation:** Recognise how information is structured.
- **Connecting Content:** Relate different pieces of information within the conversation or lecture



# HOW TO TACKLE THIS SECTION EFFECTIVELY:

- Take notes while listening to capture key points and details.
- Pay attention to the speaker's tone and attitude to answer attitude questions accurately.
- Review your notes and the questions to ensure you connect the information correctly.



# TOEFL Speaking section

The TOEFL's Speaking section assesses your ability to speak English in academic contexts. The four tasks simulate real-life situations you might encounter in and outside a classroom. In this section, test graders look for clear, coherent, and sustained responses. This section takes about 16 minutes to complete.

The format of the speaking section will be:

- Question 1: Independent Speaking Task — You will be required to respond to the question based on your own ideas, opinions and experiences.
- 
- Questions 2–4: Integrated Speaking Tasks — You will be required to combine your English-language skills (listening, speaking and reading, and speaking) to respond.

- You'll get 15–30 seconds of preparation time before each response, which should be 45 or 60 seconds long. Here are three tips for approaching this TOEFL section effectively:

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- Practise your pronunciation and speed of speaking to maintain a natural pace.
- Organise your thoughts quickly during the preparation time.
- Use examples to support your responses and make them more compelling.

# TOEFL Writing section

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- The TOEFL's Writing section evaluates your ability to write in English in an academic setting. To score well for this section, your responses should be clear, well-organised, and supported by relevant details. Additionally, you should display a variety of sentence structures and ensure your essay has minimal errors. This section of the TOEFL should take approximately 30 minutes to complete.
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- There will be two writing tasks:

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Integrated Writing — You will be required to read a passage and listen to a lecture, then propose a response.

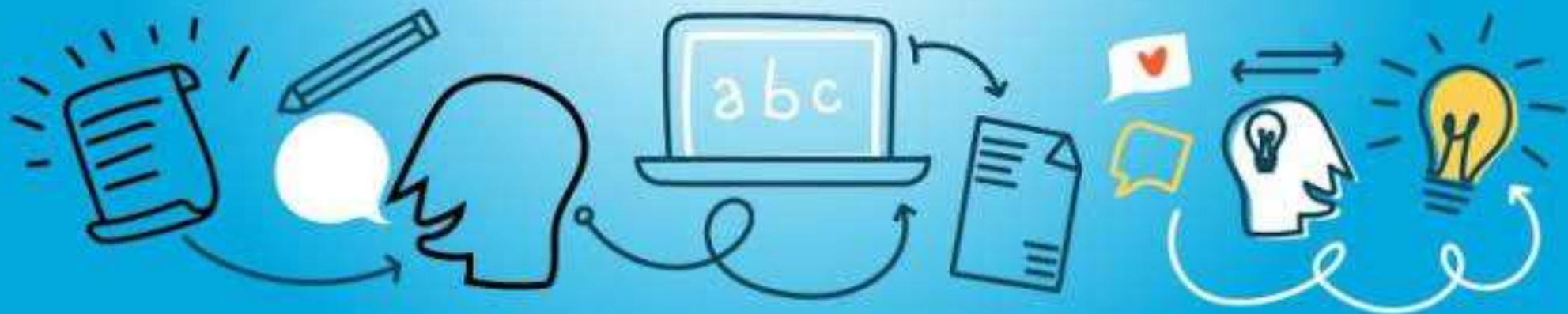
Writing for an Academic Discussion — You will be required to state and support an opinion in an online classroom discussion.

Tips for approaching this section effectively:

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- Draft an outline of your response before you start writing to ensure a clear structure.
  - Use specific examples to support your arguments.
  - Proofread your work to correct any minor grammatical errors.



**ETS** **TOEFL**



# What is TOEFL?



**Test of English as  
a Foreign Language**

## Format TOEFL

- TOEFL iBT (Internet-based Test)
- TOEFL PBT (Paper-based Test)

## Test Materials TOEFL iBT

- Reading section
- Listening section
- Speaking section
- Writing Section

## Test Materials TOEFL PBT

- Listening section
- Structure & writing expression
- Writing comprehension
- Reading comprehension

**TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) exam.**

**Here's a breakdown of the information visible on the board:**

**TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)**

**About**

**Conduct by ETS (The Educational Testing Service)**

**Why TOEFL**

**For study abroad (Higher education)**

**Job seeking**

**Visa application**

**Scholarships**

**Most preferred English proficiency exam accepted at US, UK, Canada, Europe, Asia, etc.**

**Eligibility**

**High school pass**

**No age restriction**

**Registration & fees**

**24 \times 7 on [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org)**

**\$180 charges**

# Definition of TOEL

- ▶ is a standardized test to measure the English language ability of non-native speakers wishing to enroll in English-speaking universities. The test is accepted by more than 11,000 universities and other institutions in over 190 countries

# Preparation Strategies

## ▶ Section-wise Study:

1--Reading: Read academic texts and practice summarizing main ideas, understanding vocabulary in context, and identifying the author's purpose. Use practice tests to get accustomed to the question formats.

