

THE REVIEW QUALITY POST

A NEWSLETTER FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN OUR CERTIFICATION EXAMS



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ETS authorized
provider

QUIÉNES SOMOS/WHO WE ARE/QUI NOUS SOMMES

- En Review Quality somos responsables de distribuir y aplicar el portafolio de exámenes TOEIC.
- Nuestros instrumentos son los más utilizados en el mundo para evaluar el nivel de dominio de inglés internacional para el trabajo.
- Nuestra página tiene una gran cantidad de información y recursos para formadores, los invitamos a visitarnos:



TOEIC Test México



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News

Noticias

En el número anterior de nuestra publicación, prometimos compartir con nuestros lectores los criterios de evaluación por medio de los cuales se obtienen los scores de los exámenes TOEIC en sus versiones Speaking y Writing. En este número, cumplimos compartiendo los criterios para The TOEIC Writing Test, en los próximos números compartiremos tácticas de preparación para las habilidades receptivas, y explicaremos, de manera general, la manera en la que se obtienen los resultados.



Our Community

Nuestra Comunidad

THE WRITER'S TOOLBOX: ESSENTIAL TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE WRITING

BY TERRY SLOANE, INDEPENDENT TOEIC FACILITATOR

Writing in a foreign language can be a challenge, and teaching how to do it certainly is a big one. However, this productive skill is key in many careers and the TOEIC writing Test has become increasingly popular among corporations and recruiters. It can be taken as part of the TOEIC 4-Skill Test, together with the TOEIC Speaking Test, or as a separate module. In my practice as a facilitator, many students find the following guidelines useful when aiming at a high score in this test.

1. Understand the Exam Format

Familiarize yourself with the types of questions (e.g., essays, short answers, etc.) and the scoring criteria.

Practice with the sample tests available at our website: Examen TOEIC®, or with the practice materials and resources provided in our RQP previous numbers.

Get a feel for the format and timing.

2. Plan Your Answers

Outline your thoughts before you start writing. A clear structure helps you stay on track and ensures you cover all necessary points. Categorizing your ideas and organizing them before writing will be noticed and taken into account by the raters.

Manage your time considering each section's weight and complexity.

(Go to next page)



HOW IS THE TOEIC WRITING TEST EVALUATED?

Many readers ask us about the way that the productive tests are scored, and we are happy to explain. First, there is a series of descriptors and Can do statements indicated by the Common European Framework of Reference and are available for anyone who reads their website: CEFR Descriptors - Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). These are the bases for the guidelines used by expert raters who follow strict guidelines to grade the TOEIC productive skills tests (Speaking and Writing) to guarantee fair and consistent scoring. They evaluate the recordings and texts that are produced during test administration.

*Assess
to progress*

3. Be Clear and Concise

- Use simple and direct language to convey your ideas. Avoid unnecessary jargon or overly complex sentences.
- Stick to the point and avoid going off on tangents.

4. Support Your Arguments

- Provide evidence and examples to back up your points. This shows a deeper understanding of the material.

5. Review and Revise

- Review your answers. Check for grammatical errors, clarity, and completeness.
- When preparing for the test, make sure to understand the use of punctuation marks and types of sentences. For more information and practice, here are some links that might come in handy:
 - [Punctuation - Grammar - Cambridge Dictionary](#)
 - [Punctuation Grammar Test](#)
 - [Types of Sentences in English \(With Explanations & Examples\)](#)
 - [When no one was looking, Lilly had her own ideas. ... | GrammarQuiz.net](#)
- Make sure your answers are well organized, and a paragraph structure is evident. Isolated ideas will lead to lower scores.
- Revise any sections that seem unclear or incomplete.
- Use reliable AI tools to check your correctness, take notes and learn from the corrections. Ask the tool to explain the corrections.

7. Stay Calm and Focused

- Take deep breaths and stay calm during the exam. Anxiety can cloud your thinking and affect your performance.

8. Use Mnemonics and Memory Aids

- When preparing for the test, create acronyms or mnemonic devices to remember key concepts and terms.

9. Answer All Parts of the Question

- Read questions carefully and ensure you address all parts. Missing a part can cost you valuable points.
- Your opinion will not be judged, addressing the question will be assessed.

10. Practice, Practice, Practice

- Write practice essays or answers under timed conditions to build your confidence and improve your writing speed.



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The TOEIC Writing Test*

BY MARÍA ESTHER PAVÓN SOLANA

Práctica Practice

Content editor, rqp

The TOEIC Writing Test includes eight questions that measure aspects of our writing ability. The test lasts approximately one hour.

Question	Task	Evaluation Criteria
1–5	Write a sentence based on a picture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• grammar• relevance of the sentences to the pictures
6–7	Respond to a written request	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• quality and variety of your sentences• vocabulary• organization
8	Write an opinion essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• whether your opinion is supported with reasons and/or examples• grammar• vocabulary• organization

In this practice section, we include sample exercises, followed by the scoring criteria used by ETS. Our aim is to provide our readers with practice material, official test directions and tools to assess their results.

Questions 1–5

Write a Sentence Based on a Picture

Questions 1–5 of the TOEIC Writing Test are all the same question type. Each question presents a picture on your screen. Below the picture are two words. You will use the two words in one sentence to describe the picture. You may change the form of the words to fit the grammar of your sentence, but you must use some form of both words in one sentence. You will have 8 minutes to complete all 5 questions. An example is below.*

Directions: In this part of the test, you will write ONE sentence that is based on a picture. With each picture you will be given TWO words or phrases that you must use in your sentence. You can change the forms of the words and you can use the words in any order.*

Your sentences will be scored on

- the appropriate use of grammar, and
- the relevance of the sentence to the picture.

In this part, you can move to the next question by clicking on Next. If you want to return to a previous question, click on Back. You will have 8 minutes to complete this part of the test.

(Continues on next page)

1



student/street

2



Food/since

3



people/train

In accordance with CEFR descriptors and can-do statements, the scoring criteria is carefully established. A team of certified raters will go through answers and use benchmarks to reach the most reliable, fair, and trust-worthy score.

SCORE	RESPONSE DESCRIPTION
3	The response consists of ONE sentence that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• has no grammatical errors,• contains forms of both key words used• appropriately, AND• is consistent with the picture.
2	The response consists of one or more sentences that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have one or more grammatical errors that do not obscure the meaning,• contain BOTH key words, (but they may not be in the same sentence and the form of the word(s) may not be accurate), AND• are consistent with the picture.
1	The response: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• has errors that interfere with meaning,• omits one or both key words, OR• is not consistent with the picture.
0	The response is blank, written in a foreign language, or consists of keystroke characters.



Questions 6–7

Respond to a Written Request

There are two Respond-to-a-Written-Request questions on the TOEIC Writing Test. In each question, an email message will appear on your screen. The directions will say “Read the email.” Below the email will be further directions that will tell you what must be included in your response.

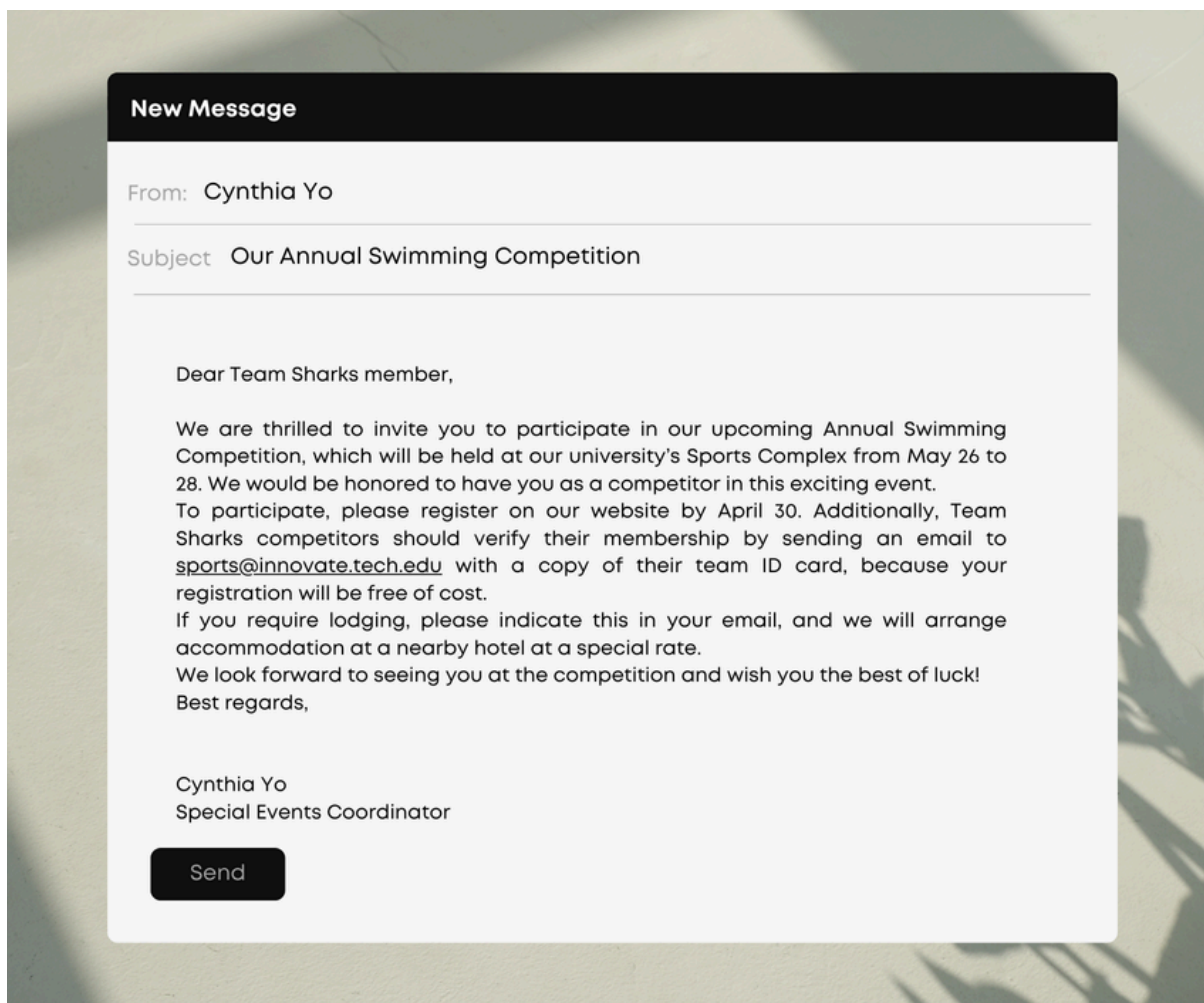
You will have 10 minutes to read the email and respond. Once you begin question 7, you cannot return to question 6. An example is below.

Directions: In this part of the test, you will show how well you can write a response to an email.

Your response will be scored on

- the quality and variety of your sentences,
- vocabulary, and
- organization.

You will have 10 minutes to read and answer each email.



The screenshot shows a web-based email interface. At the top, there is a dark header bar with the text "New Message" in white. Below this, the email details are shown: "From: Cynthia Yo" and "Subject: Our Annual Swimming Competition". The main body of the email contains the following text:

Dear Team Sharks member,

We are thrilled to invite you to participate in our upcoming Annual Swimming Competition, which will be held at our university's Sports Complex from May 26 to 28. We would be honored to have you as a competitor in this exciting event. To participate, please register on our website by April 30. Additionally, Team Sharks competitors should verify their membership by sending an email to sports@innovate.tech.edu with a copy of their team ID card, because your registration will be free of cost.

If you require lodging, please indicate this in your email, and we will arrange accommodation at a nearby hotel at a special rate.

We look forward to seeing you at the competition and wish you the best of luck!

Best regards,

Cynthia Yo
Special Events Coordinator

At the bottom of the email body, there is a dark button labeled "Send".

Respond to the email as a Team Sharks member who is interested in taking part in the competition. Make at least TWO requests for information.

Scoring Guide for Questions 6–7:

SCORE	RESPONSE DESCRIPTION
4	<p>The response effectively addresses all the tasks in the prompt using multiple sentences that clearly convey the information, instructions, questions, etc., required by the prompt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writer uses organizational logic or appropriate connecting words or both to create coherence among sentences. • The tone and register of the response is appropriate for the intended audience. • A few isolated errors in grammar or usage may be present, but they do not obscure the writer's meaning.
3	<p>The response is mostly successful but falls short in addressing one of the tasks required by the prompt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writer omits, responds unsuccessfully, or responds incompletely to ONE of the required tasks. • The writer uses organizational logic or appropriate connecting words in at least part of the response. • The writer shows some awareness of audience. • Noticeable errors in grammar and usage may be present; ONE sentence may contain errors that obscure meaning.
2	<p>The response is marked by several weaknesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writer addresses only ONE of the required tasks or unsuccessfully or incompletely addresses TWO OR THREE of the required tasks. • Connections between ideas may be missing or obscure. • The writer may show little awareness of audience. • Errors in grammar and usage may obscure meaning in MORE THAN ONE sentence.
1	<p>The response is seriously flawed and conveys little or no information, instructions, questions, etc., required by the prompt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writer addresses NONE of the required tasks, although the response may include some content relevant to stimulus. • Connections between ideas are missing or obscure. • The tone or register may be inappropriate for the audience. • Frequent errors in grammar and usage obscure the writer's meaning most of the time.
0	<p>A response at this level merely copies words from the prompt or stimulus, rejects the topic or is otherwise not connected to the topic, is written in a language other than English, consists of keystroke characters that convey no meaning, or is blank.</p>



Question 8

Write an Opinion Essay

There is one Write-an-Opinion-Essay question on the TOEIC Writing Test. The directions and essay question will appear on your screen. An example is below.

Directions: In this part of the test, you will write an essay in response to a question that asks you to state, explain, and support your opinion on an issue. Typically, an effective essay will contain a minimum of 300 words.

Your response will be scored on

whether your opinion is supported with reasons and/ or examples,

grammar,

vocabulary, and

organization.

In recent years, the debate between working from home and commuting to a traditional office has gained significant attention. With advancements in technology and the global shift towards remote work, many employees now have the option to choose their preferred work environment.

Write an opinion essay discussing whether you prefer working from home or commuting to a workplace.

Writing tips:

Consider the following points in your essay:

Productivity: How does each environment impact your ability to focus and complete tasks efficiently?

Work-Life Balance: Which option allows for a better balance between professional responsibilities and personal life?

Social Interaction: How important is face-to-face interaction with colleagues for your job satisfaction and professional growth?

Cost and Time Savings: Compare the financial and time-related benefits of working from home versus commuting.

Health and Well-being: Discuss the physical and mental health implications of each work setting.

Support your opinion with personal experiences, observations, and relevant examples. Conclude by summarizing your main points and stating your overall preference.



Scoring Guide for Question 8:

SCORE	RESPONSE DESCRIPTION
5	A response at this level largely accomplishes all of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It effectively addresses the topic and task. • It is well organized and well developed, using clearly appropriate explanations, exemplifications, and/or details. • It displays unity, progression, and coherence. • It displays consistent facility in the use of language, demonstrating syntactic variety, appropriate word choice, and idiomaticity, though it may have minor lexical or grammatical errors.
4	A response at this level largely accomplishes all of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It addresses the topic and task well, though some points may not be fully elaborated. • It is generally well organized and well developed, using appropriate and sufficient explanations, exemplifications, and/or details. • Displays unity, progression, and coherence, though it may contain occasional redundancy, digression, or unclear connections. • Displays facility in the use of language, demonstrating syntactic variety and range of vocabulary, though it will probably have occasional noticeable minor errors in structure, word form, or use of idiomatic language that do not interfere with meaning.
3	A response at this level is marked by one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It addresses the topic and task using somewhat developed explanations, exemplifications, and/or details. • It displays unity, progression, and coherence, though connection of ideas may be occasionally obscured. • It may demonstrate inconsistent facility in sentence formation and word choice that may result in lack of clarity and occasionally obscure meaning. • It may display accurate but limited range of syntactic structures and vocabulary.
2	A response at this level may reveal one or more of the following weaknesses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited development in response to the topic and task. • Inadequate organization or connection of ideas. • Inappropriate or insufficient exemplifications, explanations, or details to support or illustrate generalizations in response to the task. • A noticeably inappropriate choice of words or word forms. • An accumulation of errors in sentence structure and/or usage.
1	A response at this level is seriously flawed by one or more of the following weaknesses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious disorganization or underdevelopment. • Little or no detail, irrelevant specifics, or questionable responsiveness to the task. • Serious and frequent errors in sentence structure or usage.
0	A response at this level merely copies words from the prompt, rejects the topic or is otherwise not connected to the topic, is written in a language other than English, consists of keystroke characters that convey no meaning, or is blank.

Below are two links to external videos for practice.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=toeic+writing+test+practice&mid=5D9C042F260D64FEFCF75D9C042F260D64FEFCF7&FORM=VIRE>
TOEIC WRITING PRACTICE TEST 8 (with sample response)

ENGLISH: WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW YET

By: Javier Licea
Chief Editor



The Rise of Internet Slang: Is It Changing English for Better or Worse?

The rise of the internet has revolutionized the way we communicate, bringing with it a new wave of linguistic creativity. Internet slang—comprising abbreviations, memes, emojis, and viral phrases—has become an integral part of digital communication. But as these informal expressions make their way into everyday language, the question arises: is internet slang enriching the English language, or is it deteriorating it?

One of the most significant benefits of internet slang is its ability to foster creativity and efficiency in communication. Expressions like “LOL” (laugh out loud), “BRB” (be right back), and “SMH” (shaking my head) allow users to convey emotions quickly and concisely. Emojis, too, serve as a universal language, transcending linguistic barriers and enhancing online interactions. Additionally, internet slang often reflects cultural and social trends, making language more dynamic and adaptable to the times. For instance, words like “ghosting” (suddenly cutting off communication) and “FOMO” (fear of missing out) have captured contemporary experiences that previously lacked precise terms.

Moreover, internet slang democratizes language by allowing users to actively participate in shaping its evolution. Unlike traditional linguistic changes, which were often dictated by scholars and literary figures, digital language evolves through collective user interaction. This participatory nature of language development keeps English fresh and relevant to younger generations. Social media platforms like Twitter, TikTok, and Reddit serve as incubators for new expressions, many of which eventually find their way into mainstream conversations and even dictionaries. For example, the Oxford English Dictionary has added internet-born words like “selfie” and “twerk,” acknowledging their widespread usage.

However, critics argue that the rise of internet slang threatens the integrity of the English language by promoting laziness and grammatical erosion. The frequent use of informal language online may lead to a decline in proper spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure, especially among younger users. Studies have shown that heavy reliance on internet shorthand can negatively impact students' writing skills, as they become accustomed to abbreviations and fragmented sentences. Teachers and linguists worry that the casual nature of digital communication could weaken formal writing and verbal skills, making professional and academic communication less precise and articulate. Furthermore, internet slang can create generational and cultural divides. Older generations may struggle to understand newer expressions, leading to potential miscommunication between age groups. Additionally, internet slang often evolves rapidly, rendering certain phrases obsolete within months. This constant flux can make it challenging for non-native speakers and even some native speakers to keep up with the ever-changing linguistic landscape.

Ultimately, the impact of internet slang on the English language is a matter of perspective. While it undeniably adds creativity, efficiency, and cultural relevance to communication, it also raises concerns about the erosion of traditional language skills. Instead of viewing internet slang as a threat, perhaps the best approach is to embrace its evolution while maintaining a balance between informal digital expression and the fundamental rules of language. By doing so, we can ensure that English remains both innovative and intelligible for future generations.

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