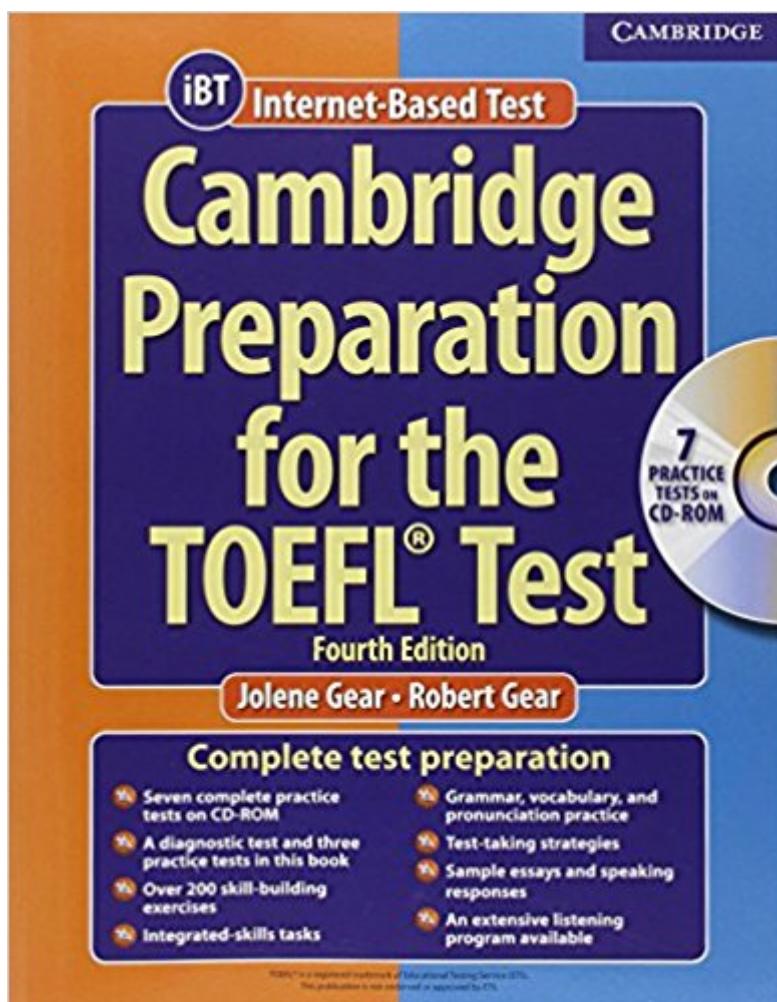


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# Cambridge Preparation For The TOEFL Test (Book & CD-ROM)



## **Synopsis**

Cambridge Preparation for the TOEFL® Test, Fourth Edition, helps students master the language skills they need to succeed on the TOEFL® iBT and communicate effectively in an academic setting. Using an integrated skills approach that mirrors the structure of the TOEFL® iBT, this fully revised text is ideal for classroom use and self-study. The book contains hundreds of skill-building exercises covering all of the question types in the exam and four practice tests. A supporting skills section is provided to improve grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation and study skills. The CD-ROM includes the tests from the book plus three additional practice tests in an electronic format that simulates the online TOEFL® iBT. The audio program, available on Audio CDs or Audio Cassettes, contains conversations, lectures, and all listening material for all listening exercises and test questions.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 616 pages

Publisher: Cambridge University Press; 4th edition (September 11, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0521755840

ISBN-13: 978-0521755849

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 1.4 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.8 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars See all reviews (61 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #320,970 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #82 in Books > Education & Teaching > Higher & Continuing Education > Test Preparation > TOEFL & TOEIC #762 in Books > Reference > Foreign Language Study & Reference > Instruction #1311 in Books > Reference > English as a Second Language

## **Customer Reviews**

CD-ROM doesn't work under Lion mac OS (only works under older versions of mac OS), so I can't use it in my Macbook pro. This information is not available in the website. I feel as if I wasted half of the money spent.

I have very positive feelings about this book. I was required to take the TOEFL test by the time of January 2010 by the college I applied to. I have been studying English for about 10 years and during the last two I am using it as a primary language in school. Knowing only very roughly what the

TOEFL looks like I began my preparation about a week before the exam. Sounds like very little time, but ultimately I scored 105 points (120 is maximum in the iBT). I'm proud of my score and it more than enough for my college application. This Cambridge book was a large help here. It talks about each section and each question type in great detail, but you still can feel why each of these details matter and why knowing them can help you. I strongly suggest buying the version of the book with CD-ROM and 8 audio CDs (the one which costs \$89). The audio CDs contain quite big amount of listening and speaking exercises. One more thing: in my view, the most difficult part of the TOEFL iBT is speaking. Prepare well for it by recording yourself and paying attention to time. Attached CD-ROM with a program that simulates the test is very helpful here. Not only here, actually - it makes you feel comfortable with the test interface, which is important.

I am an ESL teacher and I teach courses in TOEFL preparation. In my opinion, most of the sections of this book do not accurately represent TOEFL test questions. The authors do not seem to have had an in-depth understanding of the writing and speaking scoring rubric, or an understanding of how the listening and reading questions are composed. I do not recommend this book to anyone planning to take the TOEFL test. First, in the reading section, while there are many good examples of academic text, the actual questions and answer choices in the book are not composed the same way as the real TOEFL questions. Therefore, a student using these questions to practice is often practicing skills that are not tested on the real test, or is wasting time trying to answer questions that would never be asked on a TOEFL test. Worse, in many cases the answer choices do not contain a clear, correct answer, regardless of what the answer key claims. In some cases, the answer choices are too vague or, I believe, simply incorrect. Also, the authors have divided up the section into the different types of questions that can be asked, but with little rhyme or reason, as they have lumped questions into the inference section which are clearly not inference questions (and not considered inference questions by the test makers), and ignored some other types of questions. The listening section is slightly better, but the book does not come with the listening CD's, so the student will not be able to use this section. Nevertheless, there are quite a few places in the listening where the questions do not accurately represent TOEFL questions, although to the inexperienced eye the format appears similar. The speaking section is quite sparse and offers little useful advice to the student. There are no samples available on CD of how different score levels will sound. I did not use the writing section at all, so cannot comment on the exercises there, but the explanation of the scoring rubric and the sample papers shown in the book do not reflect an understanding of how TOEFL papers are actually scored. You will find much better samples that give a much more

accurate idea of what a high or low scoring essay looks like in the book published by ETS. Finally, the book is loaded up with "supporting skills" exercises, which seems like a good idea, except that often the skills practiced will not be found on the actual test. Moreover, the questions and answer choices in the exercises are so carelessly done that there are many instances of answers which don't make sense, choices that are too similar and too vague, and questions which don't use the skill one is supposedly practicing. And one more thing - the book is overly large and not at all user friendly. It's hard to find anything in it, and sometimes the exercises that go with certain materials are located at the end of the unit instead of directly after the material. One of the few good things about this book is the ETS scoring rubrics and scoring instructions provided in the front of the book, which allow you to figure out your TOEFL score. Also, it is useful to have actual computerized practice tests that reflect the testing conditions and can give the student practice with the real test format. Other than that, I really don't like this book and would never willingly use it again for a TOEFL class.

I have just taken my GMAT and started to prepare for Toefl. However, this book's reading part is not like real TOEFL offical guide. It is unnecassary hard and the answers look like each other. They are vague. The content of reading passages are extremely hard. I believe Official guide is best. Longman is too easy and this book is too hard.

OK, this book comes without Audio CDs. But I already knew this when I bought it. The supporting skills chapter is not very useful and the book tends to be boring after some reading. BUT it has a very good writing section and (the best) it has 7 computer tests on the CD that accompanies it. I took the TOEFL yesterday and I can say that these were the tests that most accurately reflected the actual experience. I have tried Kaplan's, Barron's and Longman's tests, but these were no match. Although I can't highly recommend the book itself, the Practice Tests are a MUST have.

I bought this book few weeks ago. I was expecting that book will be enough for my toefl preparation process(at least for reading, writing and speaking sections). But i found later that without the audio cds that book is useless. All the subjects in this book requires some listening parts which is only given by the audio cds. So before buying this product, be aware that you have to also buy the audio cd set. Then you can get maximum benefit from the book. I know selling millions of products but consumers need more info.

It is well-organized. Beginning practice is excessively useful. Also, Listening, Speaking, and Writing practice are helpful. (If you wanna practice Listening, you have to buy extra audio CDs... but it surely is helpful. It contains different types of accent such as British, Australian.) However, as for reading practice, I cannot recommend this 'cause it's totally different from real the iBT TOEFL test. I cannot accept this book's practice style. In conclusion, people who want to improve; 1) Listening 2) Speaking 3) Writing (including Grammer practice) this book helps you.

I tried the Delia's toefl ibt and it was too easy. But the Cambridge is really good, the reading are hard and the listening too. The only problem is that it doesn't come with cd to practice listening. It brings only seven exams!

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