

FREE PRACTICE SET • 2026 FORMAT

TOEFL iBT® Reading Practice Set (2026 Format)

20 questions in the format the TOEFL iBT has used since January 2026, with answers and short explanations.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 1 Complete the Words paragraph (10 words)
- 2 Read in Daily Life texts (5 questions)
- 1 academic passage (5 questions)

ON THE REAL TEST

The Reading section has 50 questions and takes about 30 minutes (ETS, TOEFL iBT test content page, checked 28 October 2026).

HOW TO USE THIS SET

1. Set a timer and work straight through, as you would on the test.
2. Answer every question. On the real test, a wrong answer costs you nothing more than that one point.
3. Then check the answer key at the back and read why each answer is right.

Timing: About 12 minutes for all 20 questions. That's our suggestion: the real section gives you about 30 minutes for 50.

Take this section timed and scored, free

When you've finished on paper, take the full Reading section online in the real format:
goodmocks.com/toefl/reading/reading-practice-test-1

Part 1 Complete the Words

Fill in the missing letters to complete the words in the paragraph. Each line stands for one missing letter. On the test you type them.

How this task works: goodmocks.com/toefl/reading/complete-the-words

QUESTIONS 1-10

Swiss cheese is famous for the round holes that run through it. The ¹ho ____ form ²wh ____ the ³che ____ is ⁴ag ____ in a ⁵wa ____ room. ⁶Ti ____ living ⁷bact ____ in ⁸t ____ cheese ⁹fe ____ on ¹⁰pa ____ of the milk and give off a gas called carbon dioxide. The gas cannot escape through the firm cheese, so it gathers in small pockets. Over several weeks, these pockets slowly grow into the large, smooth holes that cheese makers call eyes.

Part 2 Read in Daily Life

Read each text and answer the questions about it. Choose the best answer.

How this task works: goodmocks.com/toefl/reading/read-in-daily-life

QUESTIONS 11-12

HILLTOP CAFÉ: WEEKDAY LUNCH, 11:30 A.M.–2:30 P.M.

Soup of the day with bread: \$6

Chicken wrap with salad: \$9

Vegetable curry with rice: \$10

Pasta of the day: \$11

Lunch deal: add any drink to a main dish for just \$2.

Students: show your student card for 10% off before noon.

Sorry, we take reservations only for groups of 8 or more.

11. What does the menu say about the lunch deal?

- ☐ (A) Drinks are free before noon.
- ☐ (B) A drink costs \$2 when you buy a main dish.
- ☐ (C) Every main dish costs \$2 less.
- ☐ (D) Only students can get it.

12. A student arrives at 12:30 p.m. and shows her student card. What can you infer?

- (A) She will have to book a table first.
- (B) The café will already be closed.
- (C) She can get the lunch deal for free.
- (D) She will not get the student discount.

QUESTIONS 13–15

From: CityCycle Bike Share

To: Jonah Park

Subject: Your annual membership renews on March 1

Hi Jonah,

Thanks for riding with CityCycle this year! Your annual membership will renew automatically on March 1, and we'll charge the card ending in 4417.

Please note that the yearly price is going up from \$90 to \$105. Rides under 45 minutes are still free for members.

If you'd like to switch to our new monthly plan (\$12 a month) or cancel, just change your settings in the app before March 1. After that date, we can't give refunds.

Happy riding,
The CityCycle Team

13. Why did CityCycle send this email?

- (A) To remind Jonah that his membership will renew soon, at a new price
- (B) To tell Jonah that his card was declined
- (C) To welcome Jonah as a new member
- (D) To announce that the app has changed

14. How can Jonah avoid paying \$105?

- (A) Ask for a refund after March 1
- (B) Keep every ride under 45 minutes
- (C) Change his settings in the app before March 1
- (D) Reply to this email

15. What can you infer about the monthly plan?

- ☐ A It includes longer free rides than the annual plan.
- ☐ B Over a full year, it would cost more than the annual plan.
- ☐ C Only new members can choose it.
- ☐ D It can only start after March 1.

Part 3 Read an Academic Passage

Read the passage and answer the questions about it. Choose the best answer.

How this task works: goodmocks.com/toefl/reading/read-an-academic-passage

QUESTIONS 16–20**How the Crossword Puzzle Began**

- 1 On December 21, 1913, readers of the New York World newspaper found something new in the paper's Sunday puzzle section. Arthur Wynne, a journalist who made the puzzles for that section, filled a diamond-shaped grid with numbered squares and gave readers a list of clues. The answers had to fit the grid, with words running both across and down so that they shared letters. He called it a "word-cross."
- 2 Word games were nothing new. People had long enjoyed word squares, in which the same words read both across and down. Wynne's puzzle was different because its words crossed each other instead of repeating, which made it far more flexible. Within a few weeks, the name had changed to "cross-word," and the puzzle became a weekly feature of the paper.
- 3 Over the next ten years, a few other newspapers began to print crosswords too. Then, in 1924, a new publishing company printed the first whole book of them. It was an instant hit, and crosswords quickly became a national **craze**. Today, the puzzle that Wynne made for one Sunday page is printed in many languages around the world.

16. According to paragraph 1, what did Wynne give readers along with the grid?

- ☐ A The answers to the puzzle
- ☐ B A prize for the fastest solver
- ☐ C A list of clues
- ☐ D A word square to copy

17. The word "craze" in paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to

- ☐ A popular trend
- ☐ B serious problem
- ☐ C careful study
- ☐ D new law

18. According to paragraph 2, how was Wynne's puzzle different from a word square?

- ☐ A It was much easier to solve.
- ☐ B It had no clues at all.
- ☐ C It was printed in a book.
- ☐ D Its words crossed each other instead of repeating.

19. What can be inferred about the 1924 crossword book?

- ☐ A Arthur Wynne wrote it.
- ☐ B It helped make crosswords popular across the country.
- ☐ C It sold slowly at first.
- ☐ D It was the first book of games ever printed.

20. What is the passage mainly about?

- ☐ A Why people enjoy word games
- ☐ B The history of the New York World newspaper
- ☐ C How the crossword puzzle was invented and became popular
- ☐ D How to solve a crossword puzzle

Answers and explanations

COMPLETE THE WORDS

- 1 **holes** · The first sentence was about the holes, and now they form: **holes**.
- 2 **while** · It links two things happening at the same time: **while**.
- 3 **cheese** · The whole paragraph is about **cheese**, and the word is already in the first sentence.
- 4 **aging** · After “is”, a verb ending in -ing: **aging**, which means getting older.
- 5 **warm** · A word that describes the room, with two letters missing: **warm**.
- 6 **Tiny** · The capital letter starts a new sentence, and the word describes the bacteria as very small: **Tiny**.
- 7 **bacteria** · Living things too small to see: **bacteria**. Count the lines: four letters are missing.
- 8 **the** · “in ___ cheese” needs **the**. Short words are cut as often as long ones.
- 9 **feed** · The bacteria eat: they **feed** on parts of the milk. “Feed on” is a common pair.
- 10 **parts** · “___ of the milk” needs a plural noun: **parts**. The -s is part of the missing half.

READ IN DAILY LIFE

- 11 **B** · “Add any drink to a main dish for just \$2” means the drink costs \$2 with a main dish. The noon rule belongs to the student discount, not the deal.
- 12 **D** · The 10% student discount is only “before noon”, and 12:30 p.m. is after noon. Lunch runs until 2:30, so the café is open.
- 13 **A** · The subject line and the first paragraph say the membership renews on March 1, and the second paragraph gives the new price. The thanks and the app are details.
- 14 **C** · Switching plans or cancelling is done in the app “before March 1”. After that, there are no refunds. The 45-minute rule is about free rides, not the yearly price.
- 15 **B** · Twelve months at \$12 is \$144, more than the new \$105 annual price. The email calls it a “new” plan: the plan is new, which doesn’t mean it’s only for new members.

READ AN ACADEMIC PASSAGE

- 16 **C** · Paragraph 1 says he filled a grid with numbered squares “and gave readers a list of clues”.
- 17 **A** · The book was “an instant hit”, so the craze was something that suddenly became very popular. Try each choice in the sentence: only “popular trend” keeps the meaning.
- 18 **D** · In a word square the same words read across and down. Wynne’s words “crossed each other instead of repeating”, which is the contrast the paragraph draws.

- 19 **B** · Before it, only a few newspapers printed crosswords. After it became “an instant hit”, they were a national craze. It was the first crossword book, not the first game book, and the passage never says who wrote it.
- 20 **C** · Paragraph 1 is the invention, paragraph 2 what made it new, and paragraph 3 how it spread. The other choices fit one detail at most.

Next: the real thing, timed and scored

Paper can't time you or adapt to you. The free online Reading test does both, in the real section's format, and gives you a band score from 1.0 to 6.0. No account needed.

goodmocks.com/toefl/reading/reading-practice-test-1

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