

FREE PRACTICE SET • 2026 FORMAT

TOEFL iBT® Writing Practice Set (2026 Format)

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

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 10 Build a Sentence items
- 1 Write an Email task, with a sample email
- 1 Academic Discussion task, with a sample post

ON THE REAL TEST

The Writing section has 12 items and takes about 23 minutes (ETS, TOEFL iBT test content page, checked 28 October 2026).

HOW TO USE THIS SET

1. Build each sentence in pencil. One tile in each item is left over.
2. Write the email and the post by hand or on a computer, with a timer running.
3. Then compare with the samples. They show one strong way to answer, not the only one.

Timing: About 6 minutes for Build a Sentence, 7 for the email and 10 for the discussion. The 7 and 10 are ETS's; the 6 is what the section's 23 minutes leaves.

Take this section timed and scored, free

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

Part 1 Build a Sentence

Make a sentence that answers the first line by putting the words and phrases in the right order. One tile in each item isn't needed. On the test you move the tiles into place. Here, write them on the lines.

How this task works: goodmocks.com/toefl/writing/build-a-sentence

1. *"Did you get the tickets for the concert?"*

Yes, _____ last night.

online buy them I bought

2. *"Where should I put these boxes?"*

You _____ the door.

them next to leaving can leave

3. *"Why are you studying in the hallway?"*

The library _____ in.

noisy study so to is too

4. *"Have you finished the chemistry assignment?"*

Not yet, _____ by Friday.

done it I'll doing have but

5. *"What did the professor say about the exam?"*

She _____ cover the first six chapters.

us would said it told that

6. *"Is the new café on Main Street any good?"*

I _____ yet.

to try it haven't tried a chance had

7. *"Why was the train so late this morning?"*

There _____ near the station.

with were the signals a problem was

8. "Do you know when the gym opens on Sundays?"

I _____ ten.

until

opens

it

doesn't

think

open

9. "Could you help me move my desk this weekend?"

I'd _____ remind me on Friday.

you

happy

will

be

to help

if

10. "I'm thinking about joining the photography club."

Do _____ ?

the members

meet

know

how often

you

meets

Part 2 Write an Email

Read the situation and write an email. On the test you have 7 minutes, and you type your answer.

How this task works: goodmocks.com/toefl/writing/write-an-email

TASK 11

You often study at Willow Street Café, a small café near your college. You've noticed that its walls are empty, and you'd like to show some of your photographs there. The café's owner is Ms. Harper.

Write an email to Ms. Harper. In your email, do the following:

- Introduce yourself and describe your photographs.
- Explain why the café would be a good place to show them.
- Ask what she would need from you.

To: Ms. Harper

Subject: Showing my photographs at the café

Part 3 Write for an Academic Discussion

Read the discussion and write a post of your own. On the test you have 10 minutes.

How this task works: goodmocks.com/toefl/writing/write-for-an-academic-discussion

TASK 12

Your professor is teaching a class on education. Write a post responding to the professor's question. In your response, you should express and support your opinion, and make a contribution to the discussion in your own words. An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

Dr. Brennan

Some schools now ask students to lock their phones away for the whole school day, including lunch and breaks. Supporters say this helps students focus in class and talk to each other more. Others say phones are useful tools, and that students need to learn to manage them on their own. What do you think? Should schools ban phones for the whole school day? Why or why not?

Amara

Yes. Even when my phone is on silent, I keep checking it. Without it, I'd pay more attention in class, and lunch would be about talking to friends, not scrolling.

Felix

I don't think a full-day ban is fair. Phones are how parents reach us in an emergency, and we use them to check timetables and look things up. Students should learn when to put them away, because nobody will ban phones for us at university.

Answers and explanations

BUILD A SENTENCE

- 1 **Yes, I bought them online last night.** · Left over: “buy”. Subject, verb, object: I bought them. “Last night” needs the past form, so “buy” is left over.
- 2 **You can leave them next to the door.** · Left over: “leaving”. After “can”, the verb takes its base form: can leave. “Next to” is one tile, so it stays together.
- 3 **The library is too noisy to study in.** · Left over: “so”. “Too + adjective + to” says something stops you: too noisy to study in. “So” would need “that” after it.
- 4 **Not yet, but I’ll have it done by Friday.** · Left over: “doing”. “Have it done” means it will be finished. “Doing” doesn’t fit after “have it” here.
- 5 **She told us that it would cover the first six chapters.** · Left over: “said”. “Told” takes a person straight after it: told us. “Said” can’t, so it’s left over. In reported speech, “will” becomes “would”.
- 6 **I haven’t had a chance to try it yet.** · Left over: “tried”. “Haven’t had a chance to try it” uses every phrase tile. “Yet” at the end goes with this negative.
- 7 **There was a problem with the signals near the station.** · Left over: “were”. The verb agrees with “a problem”, one thing, so “was”. The plural “signals” comes later and doesn’t change it.
- 8 **I think it doesn’t open until ten.** · Left over: “opens”. After “doesn’t”, the verb has no -s: doesn’t open. “Doesn’t open until ten” is how English says when something starts.
- 9 **I’d be happy to help if you remind me on Friday.** · Left over: “will”. “I’d be happy to help” is a polite yes. After “if”, the present tense talks about the future: if you remind me.
- 10 **Do you know how often the members meet?** · Left over: “meets”. After “Do you know...”, the rest uses statement order: how often the members meet, with no extra “do”. “Members” is plural, so “meet”.

WRITE AN EMAIL

A sample email for task 11. It’s one strong way to answer, not the only one.

Dear Ms. Harper,

My name is Daniel Osei, and I'm a second-year student at Riverside College. I study at your café most afternoons, usually at the table by the window. In my free time I take photographs of the city at night: rainy streets, lit-up shop windows and the old bridge over the river.

I'd love to show a few of them on your walls. Many of your customers are students and people from the neighborhood, and several of the photos show streets just a few minutes from the café, so I think people would enjoy recognizing them. They might also make the room feel a little warmer in the evenings.

Could you let me know what you would need from me? I could print six or eight photos in simple black frames and hang them myself, at no cost to the café. If you'd like to see them first, I'd be happy to bring a few in next week.

Thank you for considering it.

Best regards,
Daniel Osei

What makes it strong

- **It does all three tasks, in order**, with a short paragraph for each: who he is and what he photographs, why the café fits, and what the owner needs.
- **Each point has a detail** that makes it real: the table by the window, the streets near the café, six to eight framed photos.
- **The tone suits someone he's asking a favor of**: polite, warm and easy to say yes to ("at no cost to the café").

WRITE FOR AN ACADEMIC DISCUSSION

A sample post for task 12. It's one strong way to answer, not the only one.

I think Amara is right about classes, but I agree with Felix that a whole-day ban goes too far. During lessons, phones should be locked away, because even a silent phone pulls your attention, and teachers shouldn't have to compete with it. Breaks are different, though. They're the one part of the school day when students can practise managing their phones without an adult deciding for them. My school had a rule like this: phones in lockers during class, free at lunch. At first many of us spent the whole break on our phones, but after a few weeks most people got bored and started playing games outside or talking again. That's a skill we'll need at university and at work, where no one will take our phones away. A full ban would only delay learning it.

What makes it strong

- **The first sentence takes a position** and connects to both classmates at once.
- **It adds something new:** breaks as practice in self-control, an idea neither classmate gave.
- **One real example does the work:** the school rule, and what happened over a few weeks.
- **It's well over the 100 words the directions suggest**, in plain, accurate sentences rather than rare vocabulary.

Next: the real thing, timed and scored

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

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

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Take this section timed and scored, free

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