

# TOEFL Reading Season 1

by Vince Lu

Mar 2021



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Group9120

**Vince Lu**  
**BS from the University of Michigan**  
**MS from Stanford University**

Native Chinese Speaker, GaoKao Curriculum, Former Engineer  
Overall 9 Scorer on IELTS and 119 on TOEFL (working on an 120)



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# Who are we?

- Lina / 王丽娜
- Grew up in the US (8 years)



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# Who are we?

- Lina
- IELTS overall 8.5/9
  - TOEFL 120/120

WANG LINA  
ETS Registration Number [redacted]  
ETS ID 53D92H30  
Date of Birth [redacted]  
Gender Female  
ID [redacted]  
Email 3\*\*\*\*\*9@qq.com  
Phone 191\*\*\*\*2730

Most Recent Scores :

Test	Test Date	Reading (0-30)	Listening (0-30)	Speaking (0-30)	Writing (0-30)	Total (0-120)
TOEFL iBT	Sat Jan 04 03:00:00 EST 2020	30	30	30	30	120

Candidate Details

Family Name: WANG  
First Name: LINA  
Candidate ID: [redacted]

Date of Birth: 08/01/1993 Sex (M/F): F Scheme Code: Private Candidate

Country or Region of Origin: CHINA (PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF)  
Country of Nationality: [redacted]  
First Language: CHINESE

Test Results

Listening	9.0	Reading	9.0	Writing	7.5	Speaking	8.5	Overall Band Score	8.5	CER Level	C2
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Administrator Comments: [redacted]

Centre stamp: [redacted]  
Validation stamp: [redacted]

Administrator's Signature: [redacted]  
Date: 17/04/2018  
Test Report Form Number: 18CN021530WANG10024

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## TOEFL Reading Season 1

Session	1.	Intro
	2.	Prep plan
	3.	Skimming
	4.	Prob solving I
	5.	Prob solving II
	6.	Summary
	7.	From beginning to end



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## Agenda

- Who are we?
- **What is TOEFL**
- Reading format
- Questions types



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## The TOEFL Test

- Test of English as a Foreign Language
- by ETS
- measures English **at university level**
- accepted in US, Europe, and Asia
- 4 sections, 120 points (30 points / section)

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# The test

Reading at 9AM or 3PM

Listening

Speaking

Writing

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According to paragraph 1, all of the following characteristics of pine made it a desirable material for building in nineteenth-century America EXCEPT:

- ☐ It was long lasting.
- ☐ It was relatively easy to transport.
- ☐ Its softness made it easy to work with.
- ☐ It produced buildings that were especially attractive.

Click on an oval to select your answer. To choose a different answer, click one different oval.

More Available

## The Commercialization of Lumber

In nineteenth-century America, practically everything that was built involved wood. Pine was especially attractive for building purposes. It is durable and strong, yet soft enough to be easily worked with even the simplest of hand tools. It also floats nicely on water, which allowed it to be transported to distant markets across the nation. The central and northern reaches of the Great Lakes states-Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota-all contained extensive pine forests as well as many large rivers for floating logs into the Great Lakes, from where they were transported nationwide.

By 1860, the settlement of the American West along with timber shortages in the East converged with ever-widening impact on the pine forests of the Great Lakes states. Over the next 30 years, lumbering became a full-fledged enterprise in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Newly formed lumbering corporations bought up huge tracts of pineland and set about systematically cutting the trees. Both the colonists and the later industrialists saw timber as a commodity, but the latter group adopted a far more thorough and calculating approach to removing trees. In this sense, what happened between 1860 and 1890 represented a significant break with the past. No longer were farmers in search of extra income

**Reading**

Three or Four  
Passages

in

54 or 72 mins

18 min per passage

**Academic Topics**

Animals and plants 20%

Natural science 30%

Social science 40%

Humanity 10%



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**Reading**

Three or Four  
Passages

in

54 or 72 mins

18 min per passage

**Extra Question**

The test you take may include extra questions in the Reading or Listening sections that don't count toward your score. These questions help ETS to:

- make test scores comparable across administrations
- determine how such questions function under actual testing conditions

<https://www.ets.org/toefl/test-takers/ibt/about/content/reading/>

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Vince's  
guesstimate:  
70-80%

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## Reading

Three or Four  
Passages

in

54 or 72 mins

18 min per passage

## Word Count / Passage

700 on Passage

550 on Questions

70 / min

## IELTS

55 / min




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**Reading**

Three or Four Passages  
in  
54 or 72 mins  
  
18 min per passage

**Questions**

10 per passage  
Q1 to Q9 – 1 Pt  
Q10 – 2 Pts  
  
11 Points on each passage  
33 Points on reading in total



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Reading	According to 6 <sup>th</sup> edition Official Guide:			
	✓ Answers	Section Score	✓ Answers	Section Score
Three or Four Passages in 54 or 72 mins	32-33	30	19	15-21
	31	29-30	18	14-20
	30	28-30	17	13-19
	29	27-28	16	11-18
	28	26-29	15	10-17
	27	25-28	14	8-16
	26	24-27	13	7-15
	25	23-26	12	5-13
	24	21-25	11	4-12
	23	20-25	10	2-10
	22	19-24	7	0-5
	21	18-23	5	0-2
	20	17-22	3 or below	0

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According to 6 <sup>th</sup> edition Official Guide:					
Reading  Three or Four Passages  in 54 or 72 mins	✓ Answers	Section Score	✓ Answers	Section Score	Group9120
	32-33	30	19	15-21	
	31	29-30	18	14-20	
	30	28-30 0.3	17	13-19	
	29	27-28 0.6	16	11-18 0.9	
	28	26-29	15	10-17	
	27	25-28	14	8-16	
	26	24-27	13	7-15	
	25	23-26 0.7	12	5-13 1.0	
	24	21-25	11	4-12	
	23	20-25	10	2-10	
	22	19-24	7	0-5	
	21	18-23	5	0-2	
	20	17-22 0.8	3 or below	0	

## Agenda

- Who are we?
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- Reading format
- Question types



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## Question Types

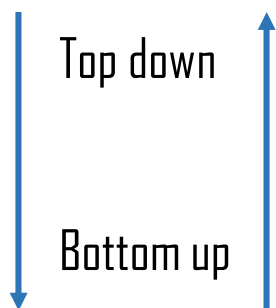
1. Factual Info
2. Not true / Except
3. Vocab
4. Pronoun referral
5. Inference
6. Purpose
7. Sentence Analysis
8. Cohesion
9. Summary
10. Categorization



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## Question Types



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## Style 1: Factual Info – 35%

**P1.** The TOEFL test is owned and managed by the ETS (Educational Testing Service), the world's largest private nonprofit educational testing and assessment organization. The most popular version of the test currently being held is the iBT, acronym for internet-based TOEFL.

**Q1.** According to paragraph 1, **which of the following is true** of the ETS?

- A. TOEFL is not owned by ETS.
- B. The ultimate goal of ETS is to generate profit.
- C. ETS runs TOEFL in several versions.
- D. ETS has offices around the globe.



Feel free to go over with me or complete independently

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## Style 2: Factual Info - Not true / Except

**P2.** While there are many standardized tests that measure English language capacity, the TOEFL test is specialized in language readiness for college education. As a result, the test not only covers all aspect of language communication – reading, listening, speaking, and writing – it also utilizes academic topics as vehicles in testing English, ranging from general topics in natural science, social science, humanity, to less common concepts in art and business.

**Q2.** According to paragraph 2, all of the following statements about TOEFL are true **EXCEPT**:

- A. TOEFL is a specialized test.
- B. TOEFL tests English comprehensively.
- C. TOEFL only involves what are often taught.
- D. TOEFL is conveyed via academic topics.

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## Style 3: Vocab / Expression

**P2.** While there are many standardized tests that measure English language capacity, the TOEFL test is specialized in language readiness for college education. As a result, the test not only covers all aspect of language communication – reading, listening, speaking, and writing – it also utilizes academic topics as **vehicles** in testing English, ranging from general topics in natural science, social science, humanity, to less common concepts in art and business.

**Q3.** The word “vehicles” in the passage is closest in meaning to

- A. cars
- B. mediums
- C. paths
- D. objectives

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Q3. The word “vehicles” in the passage is closest in meaning to

- A. cars
- B. **mediums**
- C. paths
- D. objectives

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## Style 4: Pronoun Referral

**P2.** While there are many standardized tests that measure English language capacity, the TOEFL test is specialized in language readiness for college education. As a result, the test not only covers all aspect of language communication – reading, listening, speaking, and writing – **it** also utilizes academic topics as vehicles in testing English, ranging from general topics in natural science, social science, humanity, to less common concepts in art and business

Q4. The word “it” in the passage refers to

- A. language communication
- B. the TOEFL test
- C. language capacity
- D. academic topics

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## Style 5: Inference

**P3.** While the TOEFL test is intended for measuring the English language ability of non-native speakers wishing to enroll in English-speaking universities, tons of younger students are currently studying for it to prepare for high school or even middle school admission home and abroad, this trend has caused controversies in the society. A study held in China shows that 43% of the parents believe TOEFL iBT is not the best evaluation tool for younger students.

Q5. Which of the following **can be inferred** from paragraph 5 about younger students?

- A. Younger students spend more effort in their test reparation.
- B. Younger students are not what TOEFL iBT originally aimed at.
- C. Younger students complain a lot about the TOEFL test.
- D. Parents do not want younger students to take TOEFL.

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## Style 5: Inference

**P3.** While the TOEFL test is intended for measuring the English language ability of **non-native speakers wishing to enroll in English-speaking universities**, tons of younger students are currently studying for the it to prepare for high school or even middle school admission home and abroad, this trend has caused controversies in the society. A study held in China shows that 43% of the parents believe TOEFL iBT is not the best evaluation tool for younger students.

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## Question Types

**Vince is mad.**

Style 1: Factual Info

**Vince is angry.**

Style 5: Inference

**Vince is not happy.**

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## Style 6: Purpose

**P3.** While the TOEFL test is intended for measuring the English language ability of non-native speakers wishing to enroll in English-speaking universities, tons of younger students are currently studying for the it to prepare for high school or even middle school admission home and abroad, this trend has caused controversies in the society. A study held in China shows that 43% of the parents believe TOEFL iBT is not the best evaluation tool for younger students.

Q6. In paragraph 3, **why does the author provide the information** that 43% of parents believe TOEFL iBT is not the best evaluation tool for younger students?

- A. To recommend younger students to take another test
- B. To indicate that TOEFL needs to be customized for China
- C. To highlight the extent of unsatisfaction toward TOEFL
- D. To emphasize the incompatibility of TOEFL with younger students

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## Style 6: Purpose

**P3.** While the TOEFL test is intended for measuring the English language ability of non-native speakers wishing to enroll in English-speaking universities, tons of younger students are currently studying for the it to prepare for high school or even middle school admission home and abroad, this trend has caused controversies in the society. A study held in China shows that 43% of the parents believe TOEFL iBT is not the best evaluation tool for younger students.

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## Style 7: Sentence Simplification

**P2.** While there are many standardized tests that measure English language capacity, the TOEFL test is specialized in language readiness for college education. **As a result, the test not only covers all aspect of language communication – reading, listening, speaking, and writing – it also utilizes academic topics as vehicles in testing English, ranging from general topics in natural science, social science, humanity, to less common concepts in art and business**

Q7. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in the passage? Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

- A. Although TOEFL covers less common topics, it primarily covers common subjects.
- B. Language communication utilizes academic topics in testing.
- C. TOEFL tests language, and involves academic topics in testing.
- D. Some academic topics are more frequently discussed than others..

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## Style 8: Cohesion

Q8. Look at the four squares [■] that indicate where the following sentence could be added to the passage.

**Other versions of the test include paper-based and customized tests.**

Where would the sentence best fit?

P1. ■ The TOEFL test is owned and managed by the ETS (Educational Testing Service), ■ the world's largest private nonprofit educational testing and assessment organization. ■ The most popular version of the test currently being held is the iBT, acronym for internet-based TOEFL. ■

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## Style 9: Summary

An introductory sentence or a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the three answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage. This question is worth 2 points.

**TOEFL is a comprehensive test of language skills but it has caused controversies.**

Answer choices:

- A. Natural science topics are more often taught in college than business and psychology.
- B. TOEFL is managed by ETS and is operated on various versions.
- C. TOEFL evaluates a candidate in a variety of ways.
- D. Most parents do not believe TOEFL is a good test.
- E. TOEFL involves topics that are discussed in universities.
- F. TOEFL is a challenging test and takes tons of preparation.

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- E. TOEFL involves topics that are discussed in universities.
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## Style 10: Categorization

Q10.Directions: Select from the seven sentences below, the two sentences that correctly characterize TOEFL and the three sentences that correctly characterize IELTS. Drag each sentences you select into the appropriate column of the table. Two of the sentences will NOT be used. This question is worth 3 points.

TOEFL / IELTS

Answer Choices

- A. The test is also used for immigration.
- B. Academic topics are involved in all reading passages.
- C. The listening part of the test is very challenging.
- D. The test is used primarily for college admission in North America.
- E. The test is most often delivered on paper.
- F. Most test takers obtain an ideal score in less than three trials.
- G. All parts of the test involve grading by machine.

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	<b>2. Prep plan</b>
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**THANK YOU**  
**Any questions? 😊**  
**Leave a comment and**  
**I will get back to you.**



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