



# How to Crack TOEFL® iBT

## TOEFL® iBT Integrated essay

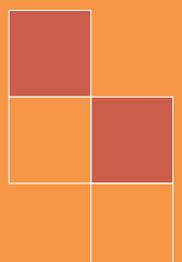
In this part of the writing section you will first have three minutes to read an extract from an academic text, then you will listen to a lecture on the same topic. Afterwards, you will have 20 minutes to write the integrated essay where you will be asked to summarize the points from the listening and relate them to the information in the reading. An effective integrated essay should be 150-225 words long.



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### Strategies for writing a good integrated essay

- [Take notes](#) during both reading and listening. Try to identify the main idea of the reading and the supporting or contrasting ideas in the listening. Remember: the reading will appear on the screen again and will be there while you are writing the essay, so don't worry about forgetting something from it.
- Before you start writing, make a plan of the essay - that will help you organize your ideas and thoughts better.
- In this essay you are not asked to express your opinion, but to present the information from the listening and how it connects to the main ideas in the reading.
- Write the essay in such a way that a person who has neither read the passage nor heard the lecture would understand the main points from the listening and how they add to or contrast the reading.
- Write clearly and with variety of language structures, use discourse markers to make connections between ideas.
- Write accurately – make sure you do not add incorrect or irrelevant information in the essay.
- Leave a few minutes at the end to check your essay for spelling or grammatical mistakes.
- Keep track of the time - you should manage to finish your essay within the set period of time. Do not allow the system to cut you off before you have completed your thought.

### Organization of the integrated essay

A good integrated essay will have the following structure:

- **Introduction** – presents the topic of the essay (what the reading and listening are about; whether the listening adds to the information in the reading or it contrasts it). Here are two templates that can be used:
  - **When the listening contrasts the information in the reading:** The author explains that [...present the main idea of the reading...]. The lecturer, however, suggests that [...present the main idea of the lecture...].
  - **When the listening adds to the information in the reading:** The author explains that [...present the main idea of the reading...], and the lecturer suggests that [...present the main idea of the lecture...].



- **Body** – the number of paragraphs in the body will depend on the main points and supporting details.
  - main point from the listening and its relation to the reading
  - main point from the listening and its relation to the reading
  - (main point from the listening and its relation to the reading)
- **Conclusion** – although many sources state that a conclusion is not needed in the integrated essay, to be on the safe side you should write a conclusion of one or two sentences where you should present the main idea of the reading and listening again.

**Remember:** the accent in this essay is on the listening. You should not copy information from the reading.

See also the section [Test Taking Strategies](#) for more tips for each particular [TOEFL](#) task – [TOEFL Reading](#), [TOEFL Listening](#), [TOEFL Speaking](#), and [TOEFL Writing](#).

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