

TOEFL® Primary™

About the *TOEFL® Primary™* Tests

The *TOEFL Primary* tests are the first step on a student's path to reaching his or her full potential. The tests measure students' English communication skills and progress in English classes — and provide meaningful feedback about their abilities to both you and their parents.

The *TOEFL Primary* tests are designed to:

- Assess the general English-language proficiency of young students ages 8+
- Provide a snapshot of each student's ability in listening, reading and speaking
- Support teaching and learning by giving information about students' abilities in relation to a widely accepted international standard

What is TOEFL Primary for?

The *TOEFL® Primary™* tests can be used to monitor student progress over time and, if appropriate, for placement.

They are designed for:

- English-language programmes
- Local schools that teach English as part of the curriculum

Detailed [score reports](#) provide meaningful [score-level descriptors](#) of what students can do and help assist students, teachers and parents set goals for understanding where future learning should focus. As a teacher, you can use the *TOEFL Primary* tests to:

- **Guide** your teaching goals
- **Monitor** student progress
- **Identify** students' strengths and weaknesses
- **Determine** instructional plans
- **Inform** placement decisions, if appropriate
- **Focus** your work with both individual students and groups
- **Shape** your communication with parents about student learning

a. Type and Content

Test Options for Students at Different Levels

Depending on school curricula and other factors, young students acquire their English abilities at different times and in different ways.

The *TOEFL® Primary™* programme offers three tests to measure a range of skills:

- the paper-delivered Reading and Listening test — Step 1
- the paper-delivered Reading and Listening test — Step 2
- the computer-delivered Speaking test

Each test provides reliable scores, and scores from all tests are mapped to Common European Framework of Reference ([CEFR](#)) levels. The *TOEFL Primary* tests scores are also matched to [MetaMetrics® Lexile®](#) measures, making it easier to find the books and articles that best match students' English reading levels.

The TOEFL Primary Reading and Listening tests

These tests assess students' knowledge, skills and abilities to fulfill core communication goals in English. They are offered at two levels of proficiency, Step 1 and Step 2, so that you can select an assessment that more closely matches the skills your students have acquired.

TOEFL Primary Reading and Listening Test — Step 1

The Reading and Listening test — Step 1 is intended for students in the earlier stages of English learning and covers:

- Familiar contexts (school, home, playground)
- Basic formulaic expressions
- Basic vocabulary and phrases related to common objects and people
- Short and simple requests and directions
- Short and simple text relevant to everyday experiences

Section	Number of Questions	Number of Examples	Total Number of Questions	Time
Reading	36	3	39	30 min
Listening	36	5	41	30 min

TOEFL Primary Reading and Listening Test — Step 2

The Reading and Listening test — Step 2 is intended for students who have acquired some communicative English skills and covers:

- Basic expressions, requests, phrases and directions
- Simple short stories and conversations on topics beyond everyday experiences
- Unfamiliar words given sufficient amount of contextual clues
- Simple content-based texts

Section	Number of Questions	Number of Examples	Total Number of Questions	Time
Reading	36	1	37	30 min
Listening	36	3	39	30 min

The TOEFL Primary Speaking test

This test is designed for students at many different levels of English ability, from beginners through more proficient speakers.

The Speaking test is intended for Reading and Listening test takers — Step 1 or Step 2 — and covers:

- Giving simple descriptions
- Expressing basic emotions, feelings and opinions
- Making simple requests
- Asking questions
- Giving directions
- Explaining and sequencing simple events

Section	Number of Questions	Time
Speaking	7-10	20 min

b. Scoring & Report

Score Reports

The TOEFL Primary® Reading and Listening tests Step 1 and Step 2 are scored locally by ETS Preferred Network offices and feature fast turnaround times. And the TOEFL Primary Speaking test is scored at ETS by ETS-trained human raters.

Scoring and Reporting the TOEFL Primary® Reading and Listening Test — Step 1 and Step 2

Each Reading and Listening (Step 1 and Step 2) score report provides:

- Information about the student's current level of English proficiency.
- Recommendations about next steps that students should take to improve their English-language abilities.
- The CEFR level — each student's language proficiency in relation to a widely accepted international standard.
- Lexile reading measures to help students, teachers and parents select reading material appropriate for a particular student's English reading ability.
- [Understanding TOEFL Primary Reading and Listening Score Reports \(PDF\)](#)
- [View a Reading and Listening -Step 1 score report sample \(PDF\)](#)
- [View a Reading and Listening -Step 2 score report sample \(PDF\)](#)

This document includes tables outlining proficiency descriptors, Badge score levels, scale scores, Common European Framework of Reference ([CEFR](#)) levels and corresponding [Lexile](#) measures.

Scoring and Reporting for the TOEFL Primary Speaking Test

Each Speaking test score report provides:

- Information about the student's current level of English speaking proficiency.
- Recommendations about next steps that students should take to improve their English-language speaking abilities.
- [Understanding Your TOEFL Primary Speaking Score Report \(PDF\)](#). This document includes tables outlining proficiency descriptors, Ribbon score levels, scale scores and how those scores map to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) levels.
- [View a TOEFL Primary Speaking test sample score report \(PDF\)](#).

Recommended Score Validity — One Year

Due to rapid development of English proficiency by younger learners, ETS recommends that scores not be used beyond one year. Scores can be considered valid beyond one year if the student has provided evidence of having maintained the same level of English language learning.