

The TOEFL Primary[®] Tests

Learning English starts here

Designed for students ages 8+, the TOEFL Primary[®] tests allow you to measure your students' English communication skills to guide your teaching goals, monitor student progress and more.

[Learn More](#)

Part of the TOEFL[®] Young Students Series

The TOEFL Young Students Series is designed to measure early learners' English-language skills and guide them to the next steps of learning.



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The TOEFL Primary tests are



in a format that is easy for the students to understand.

Some exams are really difficult. When they are too long and tedious, students don't want to do them anymore. The TOEFL tests are simple. They're not complicated and they're not too long.

Vivian Kahn Feldman

English-Language Program Coordinator, Colegio Bilbao



CONTACT US

Choose the tests that are the first step on your students' path to reaching their full potential. Contact us to learn more or to order the tests for use in your program

[Order Now](#)





TOEFL iBT

TOEFL Primary[®]

TOEFL
Essentials

TOEFL Junior[®]

TOEFL ITP[®]



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About the TOEFL Primary Tests

The Right Path. Right from the Start.

Designed for students ages 8+, the TOEFL Primary[®] tests allow you to measure your students' English communication skills to guide your teaching goals, monitor student progress and more.

The program offers convenient and flexible tests that:

- assess the academic and social English-language proficiency of young students
- provide a snapshot of each student's ability in listening, reading, writing and speaking
- support teaching and learning by giving information about students' abilities in relation to a widely accepted international standard

Reading and Listening Test — Step 1

Designed for students at the beginning stages of learning English.

[Learn More](#)

Reading and Listening Test — Step 2

Created for students with some communicative English skills.

[Learn More](#)

Speaking Test

Suitable for students at various levels of English-language speaking proficiency.

[Learn More](#)

Writing Test

Suitable for students at various levels of English-language writing proficiency.

[Learn More](#)

How the TOEFL Primary Tests can help you

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

- guide teaching goals
- monitor 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

Interested in using the TOEFL Primary tests in your program?



Choose the tests that are the first step on your students' path to reaching their full potential. Contact us today to order the tests or learn more.

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TOEFL Primary Information for Parents

As a parent, you play a crucial role in your child's educational achievements. By working in tandem with your child's teachers, you'll provide the support and guidance your child needs to reach their goals.

Score reports that guide parents

The feedback received in a [TOEFL Primary® score report](#) provides a clear understanding of your child's abilities in English, as well as areas that need improvement.

Level

Your child's level comes with "can do" information that describes their current English-language abilities along with steps to be taken to help improve proficiency and move to the next stage of learning.

Scale score

Scale scores help to show progress within a level when students take the test more than once.

CEFR levels

The Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) is a standard used by educators worldwide to describe students' language proficiencies. TOEFL Primary scores are mapped to CEFR levels, so you will know about your child's abilities in relation to a widely accepted international standard.

Lexile® Reading Measures

TOEFL Primary Reading and Listening score reports provide a [Lexile measure](#) to help identify books at the appropriate reading level for a student. Lexile measures are based on a developmental scale for measuring both readers and texts and are the standard for matching readers with appropriate texts.

Test content

Learn more about the [content of the four tests](#): the TOEFL Primary Reading and Listening test — Step 1, the TOEFL Primary Reading and Listening test — Step 2, the TOEFL Primary Speaking test and the TOEFL Primary Writing test.

Have questions?

If you would like to learn more, please email toeflprimary@ets.org or [contact your local network office](#).



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TOEFL Primary Test Content

Different tests for 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[®] program offers four tests to measure a range of skills.

- TOEFL Primary Reading and Listening Test — Step 1
- TOEFL Primary Reading and Listening Test — Step 2
- TOEFL Primary Speaking Test
- TOEFL Primary Writing Test

TOEFL Primary Reading and Listening Tests

The **TOEFL Primary Reading and Listening tests** offer institutional testing so that schools can administer the tests to their own students. They assess students' knowledge, skills and abilities to fulfill core communication goals in English and are offered at two levels of proficiency — Step 1 and Step 2. Questions are presented in a multiple-choice format and are paper or digitally delivered.

TOEFL Primary Reading and Listening Test — Step 1

Intended for students in the earlier stages of English learning, the test covers:

- familiar contexts
- basic formulaic expressions
- basic vocabulary and phrases
- simple requests and directions

- basic text relevant to everyday experiences

Section	Number of Questions	Number of Examples	Number of Questions Answered	Time
Reading	36	3	39	30 minutes
Listening	36	5	41	30 minutes

TOEFL Primary Reading and Listening Test — Step 2

Designed for students who have acquired some communicative English skills, it covers:

- basic expressions
- phrases and directions
- simple short stories and conversations
- unfamiliar words presented with context clues
- simple content-based texts

Section	Number of Questions	Number of Examples	Number of Questions Answered	Time
Reading	36	1	37	30 minutes
Listening	36	3	39	30 minutes

TOEFL Primary Speaking Test

The **TOEFL Primary Speaking test** is given during fixed administration periods and is designed for students at many different levels of English ability — from beginners through more proficient speakers. It is digitally delivered and covers:

- giving simple descriptions
- expressing basic emotions, feelings and opinions
- making simple requests
- asking questions
- giving directions
- explaining and sequencing simple events

The TOEFL Primary Speaking test has eight questions and test takers have 20 minutes to complete it.

TOEFL Primary Writing Test

TOEFL Primary Writing is a digitally delivered test that measures a student's ability to communicate in writing about familiar topics related to their daily lives, across a wide range of English writing ability, from writing words to writing a cohesive paragraph.

There are four types of tasks on the TOEFL Primary Writing test:

- Write a Word
- Build a Sentence
- Edit a Text
- Write a Story

The TOEFL Primary Writing test has 19 questions and takes about 30 minutes, including time for directions and practice questions.



Interested in using the TOEFL Primary tests in your program?

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Prepare for the TOEFL Primary Tests

Handbooks

Discover what to do before the test, what to expect on test day, how to prepare for the test, score reporting, and policies and guidelines.

- [TOEFL Primary[®] Test Taker Handbook \(PDF\)](#)
- [TOEFL[®] Young Students Series Handbook Supplement for Test Takers with Disabilities or Health-related Needs \(PDF\)](#)

Sample questions

Review sample questions with students to familiarize them with the test format and content.

- [TOEFL Primary[®] Reading and Listening Test — Step 1 Sample Questions \(PDF\)](#)
- [TOEFL Primary[®] Reading and Listening Test — Step 2 Sample Questions \(PDF\)](#)
- [TOEFL Primary[®] Speaking Test Sample Questions](#)
- [TOEFL Primary[®] Writing Test Sample Questions](#)



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Scoring and Reporting

Detailed and comprehensive, score reports highlight what students have accomplished as English-language learners and where they are ready to improve. And fast score turnaround time helps you in planning instruction.

Score reports feature a variety of information, including:

- proficiency levels
- proficiency descriptors
- scale scores that show progress within levels

TOEFL Primary Reading and Listening Tests

The TOEFL Primary® Reading and Listening Test Steps 1 and 2 are scored locally by ETS Preferred Network offices. Scores are determined by the number of questions a student has answered correctly — there's no penalty for wrong answers. Score reports provide:

- information about the student's current level of English proficiency
- recommendations for improving English-language abilities
- details on the student's CEFR level
- Lexile reading measures to help select level-appropriate reading materials

For more information about TOEFL Reading and Listening Tests scoring and reporting, download:

- [TOEFL Primary Reading and Listening Test — Step 1 Proficiency Descriptors \(PDF\)](#)
- [TOEFL Primary Reading and Listening Test — Step 2 Proficiency Descriptors \(PDF\)](#)
- [Understanding TOEFL Primary® Reading and Listening Score Reports \(PDF\)](#)

TOEFL Primary Speaking Test

The TOEFL Primary Speaking test is scored at ETS by human raters. Please refer to the [TOEFL Primary Speaking Scoring Guide \(PDF\)](#) for a better understanding of the scoring methodology. Score reports provide:

- information about the student's current level of English proficiency
- recommendations for improving English-language abilities
- details on the student's CEFR level

For more information about scoring and reporting for the TOEFL Primary Speaking Test, download:

- [TOEFL Primary Speaking Test Proficiency Descriptors \(PDF\)](#)
- [Understanding TOEFL Primary Speaking Score Reports \(PDF\)](#)

TOEFL Primary Writing Test

The TOEFL Primary Writing test is scored by ETS using an automated scoring engine with artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities. Please refer to the [TOEFL Primary Writing Scoring Guide \(PDF\)](#) for a better understanding of the scoring methodology. Score reports provide:

- information about the student's current level of English proficiency
- recommendations for improving English-language abilities
- details on the student's CEFR level

For more information about scoring and reporting for the TOEFL Primary Writing Test, download:

- [TOEFL Primary Writing Score Descriptors \(PDF\)](#)
- [Understanding TOEFL Primary Writing Score Reports \(PDF\)](#)

A global picture of potential

Aligned with the CEFR

The Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) is a standard used by educators worldwide to measure the language proficiency of nonnative English speakers. TOEFL Primary scores are mapped to CEFR levels so you will know about your students' abilities in relation to a widely accepted international standard.

The TOEFL® Steps learning path



With TOEFL Steps, you can see the relationship between CEFR levels and the reading and listening scores from all tests in the TOEFL Family of Assessments, including TOEFL Primary. It provides a guiding tool for showing student progression and readiness for the next test.

[Learn more about TOEFL Steps.](#)

Find the right books using Lexile measures

TOEFL Primary reading scores are also matched to Lexile® measures. Based on a developmental scale for measuring both readers and texts, Lexile measures help students, teachers and parents select the material appropriate for a particular student's English reading ability.

Browse the ever-growing [Lexile Book Database](#) and find the right books for your students.

Recommended score validity

Due to rapid development of English proficiency by younger learners, ETS recommends that scores not be used beyond 1 year. Scores can be considered valid beyond 1 year if the student has provided evidence of having maintained the same level of English-language learning.

Test and score data summaries

TOEFL Primary and TOEFL Junior Test and Score Data Summaries contain data on the performance of examinees who took the test during a given period.

- [2019–2021 TOEFL Primary® and TOEFL Junior® Tests and Score Data Summary.\(PDF\)](#)
- [2016–2018 TOEFL Primary® and TOEFL Junior® Tests and Score Data Summary.\(PDF\)](#)



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Resources

The TOEFL Primary[®] program offers valuable resources and tools to assist with teaching and help students in their English-language learning.

The English Learning Center

The TOEFL Primary English Learning Center is a subscription-based, online program with interactive activities that:

- focus on building reading, listening, speaking and writing skills
- accelerate language acquisition with visual and audio prompts and cues
- support communicative language teaching and learning with activities relevant to real-world English-language usage

Students move at their own pace through exercises and are provided automated feedback on listening and reading activities. Teachers monitor student progress and relay feedback through the Teacher Management System.

Featuring 12 theme-based units with 30 total hours of learning material, the Learning Center is appropriate for a range of proficiency levels and allows students to:

- practice English with a range of materials that include both everyday and academic English
- enjoy interactive lessons with real-world examples
- take responsibility for the learning process through guided independent study
- become familiar with the types of questions on the TOEFL Primary tests

The Teacher Management System provides educators with tools to accelerate student progress. The system allows teachers to:

- share feedback with students
- generate progress reports
- shape student content
- evaluate students' speaking and writing responses

To learn more about the TOEFL Primary English Learning Center, email TOEFLEPN@ets.org.

Research-based tests provide information you can trust

Each year, ETS and the TOEFL® program support a number of research studies to ensure the validity and reliability of the TOEFL Family of Assessments. View [TOEFL Primary Research \(PDF\)](#) to learn about studies that are publicly available and projects that are in progress to support the quality of the TOEFL Primary tests.



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