



# Setting standards with the TOEFL<sup>®</sup> iBT test

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*Listening.  
Learning.  
Leading.*



## Presentation Overview

- Test overview
- Status update
- Test performance
- Setting new scores
- Security



## Why a New Test?

### **Focus on ability to communicate**

- Measures how well student can *communicate* in English
- Uses integrated tasks to reflect how language is actually used
- Authentic language used in everyday academic situations



## Test Overview

- **Four sections:**
  - Reading
  - Listening  
(break)
  - Speaking
  - Writing
- Test time: 4 hours
- Note-taking allowed



## Test Administration Status

- Moved to fixed dates to enhance test security
- iBT began in US in September; in **Canada**, France, Germany and Italy in October



## Test Administration Status

- Test delivery and scoring technology working well
- As of February 3
  - 15 administrations
  - 36,000 examinees tested
  - 55,000 examinees registered



## Challenges

- Delivery technology works well, but there were some initial problems at test centres
  - Miscommunication, new procedures
  - Initial problems that will lessen with experience
- Greatest challenge: preparing test centres
- Recruitment has gone well in most areas, but time required to ready new centres was greater than anticipated
- Resulted in shortfalls in some areas – a situation ETS takes very seriously



## Responses

- Offered additional TOEFL iBT test dates
- Added new test sites regularly
- Used non-traditional testing sites (e.g. CompUSA) as needed
- Offered TOEFL paper-based administrations in December, January and March
- Streamlining processes, adding staff
- Adjusting the rollout schedule



## Ensuring Access

Introduce TOEFL iBT **in selected cities**, while maintaining the current version of the test in other locations.

- March 25 – selected cities in Africa, the Americas, Europe, Eurasia, the Middle East, and North Africa.
- April – selected cities in Asia and the Pacific Region
- May – selected cities in Japan and Korea
- August – China

Continuously adding centres as ready, posted on web site every Monday



## Test performance

- Scoring and score reporting on-time and accurate
- TOEFL Committee of Examiners reviewed test performance, congratulated ETS on quality
- First four administrations showed high total test reliability, well over 0.9
- Integrated test questions performing as intended



## Fair and Objective Scoring

- Test results sent to ETS via the Internet for scoring
- ETS Online Scoring Network distributes Speaking and Writing responses
- Rigorous training, ongoing calibration
- 3-6 raters evaluate Speaking responses
- 2 raters evaluate each written response
- Raters see and hear worldwide responses – not just from one country



# Improved Score Reporting

## **For universities**

- Enhanced online score reporting:
  - Scores reported online 15 business days after test
  - Print-friendly format with photo
  - Sortable database to assist in matching scores with applications
- Implementation in late 2006



# Improved Score Reporting

## For test takers

- Free online score reports; scores viewable 15 business days after test
  - Paper score reports also mailed
  - Performance feedback on student score reports; universities do not receive this
  - Suggestions for improvement to be provided on score reports in the future

**TOEFL iBT only – scores from the computer-based and paper-based versions of the test cannot be reported online.**



## The new test scores

- Four skill scores:
  - Reading: 0-30
  - Listening: 0-30
  - Speaking: 0-30
  - Writing: 0-30
- Total score: 0-120



## Admission requirements

Examples of university requirements:

- **University of Toronto, undergrad:**  
Total 100, Writing 22  
Discretionary: Total 89-99, Writing 19
- **University of Toronto, grad:**  
Total 93, Writing 22, Speaking 22
- **Queen's, grad:** Total 88, Reading 22,  
Listening 20, Speaking 22, Writing 24
- **University of Waterloo (most programs):**  
Total 90, Writing 25, Speaking 25



## Admission requirements

Examples of university requirements:

- **University of Lethbridge**, undergrad:  
Total score: 80
- **University of British Columbia**,  
undergrad: Total Score: 86, Reading, 21,  
Listening, 21, Speaking 20, Writing, 20
- **Simon Fraser University**, Total Score: 88,  
score of 20 for each section. Lesser score  
for English Bridge program



## Establishing TOEFL iBT Score Requirements

- Score comparison charts
- View scores of peer institutions on Web site [www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl)
- Standard setting process
  - Designed by ETS
  - Panel of university faculty and staff review items and student performance and set scores for each section
  - Materials available on free CD Rom



## Setting TOEFL iBT Scores

- Speaking and integrated skills will be new to students; set lower scores and be flexible initially.
- Look at other information in addition to the comparison chart, such as percentile data and the SEM
- Consider using score ranges rather than a single score
- Re-evaluate your score requirements after the first or second year



For More Information About  
TOEFL iBT

**E-mail for questions about TOEFL iBT:**  
**[toeflnews@ets.org](mailto:toeflnews@ets.org)**

**Web: [www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl)**

**TOEFL Score User Help Line:**  
**+1-609-683-2008**

**To become a test centre:**  
**Contact Anne Heath at ETS Canada:**  
**1-800-615-8666 or [heath@etscanada.ca](mailto:heath@etscanada.ca)**



## Contact information

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