



iBT/Next Generation TOEFL Score Information

iBT/Next Generation TOEFL Field Test

ETS conducted a field test of the new Internet-based (iBT) next generation TOEFL test to achieve three major goals: to evaluate item (question) properties, to inform decisions about score scales, and to provide a score link between the new iBT/next generation TOEFL test and the current computer-based TOEFL test (CBT). The field test also yielded percentile data about test performance, as well as test taker responses to English language competency descriptors, both of which were thought to be potentially useful to score recipients.

Time and sample. From November 2003 to February 2004, 3,284 test takers participated in the field test. Participants were recruited from 30 countries in North America, Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Europe. Approximately 80 percent of the current TOEFL examinees are from these 30 countries.

Test administrations. Each participant was required to take the new iBT TOEFL test (Form A) and a computer-based TOEFL test. Approximately 500 of the participants were also required to take a second form of the new test (Form B). Each participant completed an online questionnaire of demographic, self-assessment, and post-testing questions. A total of 2,720 usable responses were obtained from the 3,284 examinees who took Form A of the new test and the computer-based test.

The table titled “iBT/Next Generation TOEFL Field Test Sample” indicates the number of participants from each country, their percentage in the total study, and the percentage of individuals who took the current versions of the TOEFL test in that country between July 2002 and June 2003.

Score Comparisons

ETS has created score comparison tables to help score users establish recommended or required iBT/next generation TOEFL scores for their institutions. The field test provided data to compare performance on the new iBT test with performance on the CBT test. It did not compare performance between the new iBT test and the paper-based TOEFL. Paper-based and CBT score comparisons shown in the tables here were developed based upon data from 6,556 examinees who took both the paper-based and computer-based tests between November 1997 and March 1998.

Score comparison tables are provided in score-to-score and range formats for

- total score
- reading
- listening
- writing
- total score – reading listening, and writing only

Although score comparisons can be useful in understanding the relationship between scores on the three versions of the TOEFL test, it is important to note that differences among the tests make it difficult to establish exact comparisons.

The difference in the three versions of the test can be seen most clearly in the writing component. The new iBT Writing section is composed of two writing tasks: one independent essay and one integrated writing task. The computer-based Structure and Writing section includes multiple-choice questions and an essay. The paper-based Structure and Written Expression section consists of multiple-choice questions only, and the required essay score is reported separately from the total score. Therefore, the scores for these three sections are derived differently.

In addition, when comparing total scores, it should be kept in mind that while the new TOEFL test measures the four skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking, neither the computer-based nor the paper-based version of the test measures speaking.

Speaking Score Comparisons and ITA Score Standards

There is no speaking score comparison because the TOEFL CBT test does not measure speaking. However, ETS conducted a standard setting study with international teaching assistant administrators in September 2004 to establish cut scores for International Teaching Assistants (ITAs) on the speaking portion of the new TOEFL test.

The panel of 18 experts established two separate cut scores: first, a cut score for minimally acceptable speaking skills in order to have the lowest level of ITA contact with undergraduate students; and second, to establish a Speaking score that corresponds to the TSE (Test of Spoken English) score of 50.

The lowest level of ITA contact with undergraduate students was set as 23 out of 30 scaled score points.

The TSE score equivalent of 50 was established as 26 out of 30 scaled score points.

Percentile Data

Percentile rank information is based on results from 2,720 test takers who participated in the field test and who took both the new TOEFL test and TOEFL CBT. The participants' English ability levels ranged from low to high to replicate the current TOEFL testing population, **however, the field study group performed below the typical testing population on TOEFL CBT. Therefore, this field study percentile data should be used with great caution.**

Using Percentile Data—Considerations for Score Users

Although great care was taken in the design and administration of the next generation TOEFL field test, there are a number of important reasons why score users should view this percentile data as preliminary.

- Sample size: Results are based on a field sample of 2,720 participants.
- Motivation and performance: Participants typically are less motivated to perform well on field tests than on operational, high-stakes tests.
- Unfamiliarity with the test: The field test was administered to test takers who had no familiarity with the new iBT/next generation TOEFL test, which is based on current theories of communicative competence and uses integrated tasks that require examinees to combine language skills. In July 2004, ETS published a complete version of the new test on its Web site to familiarize teachers and test takers with the new test and its requirements. It is anticipated that increased familiarity will impact performance.
- The addition of a speaking measure: The current TOEFL test does not measure speaking ability, and in many parts of the world teachers have not emphasized the development of this skill in their classes. Although the addition of speaking on the new test will initially be challenging for some test takers, learning this skill will improve their ability to communicate effectively in an academic environment.
- When taking the TOEFL CBT test, the field study group performed below the typical TOEFL CBT population. Thus, the percentile data should be used with great caution, as they are not reflective of anticipated performance if the field study participants had performed similar to the overall TOEFL CBT population.

Updated percentile data based on the high-stakes operational test will be published after the first testing year.

Score means and standard deviations are also provided, and will be updated after the first year of testing.

iBT/Next Generation TOEFL Field Test Sample

Country	Number of study participants	Percentage of study participants	Percentage of TOEFL 2002-03 volume
Egypt	49	1.80	0.35
Ethiopia	59	2.17	0.07
Israel	69	2.54	0.28
Kuwait	12	0.44	0.36
United Arab Emirates	44	1.62	0.87
France	54	1.99	1.81
Germany	26	0.96	2.5
Greece	22	0.81	0.75
Italy	3	0.11	1.02
Norway	69	2.54	0.65
Romania	37	1.36	0.41
Russia	35	1.29	0.22
Spain	36	1.32	0.62
Turkey	23	0.85	1.55
Australia	121	4.45	0.34
Hong Kong	35	1.29	0.79
India	233	8.57	3.35
Japan	119	4.38	5.61
Korea	193	7.10	2.05
Malaysia	41	1.51	0.57
New Zealand	179	6.58	0.32
Philippines	45	1.65	1.7
Taiwan	81	2.98	1.15
Thailand	47	1.73	0.56
Argentina	55	2.02	0.46
Brazil	64	2.35	0.85
Columbia	84	3.09	0.82
Mexico	65	2.39	0.75
Canada	117	4.30	6.05
United States	703	25.85	23.32
Total	2,720	100.00	60.15

TOEFL Total Score Comparisons

Score Comparison

New Internet-based TOEFL Total	Computer-based Total	Paper-based Total
120	300	677
120	297	673
119	293	670
118	290	667
117	287	660-663
116	283	657
114-115	280	650-653
113	277	647
111-112	273	640-643
110	270	637
109	267	630-633
106-108	263	623-627
105	260	617-620
103-104	257	613
101-102	253	607-610
100	250	600-603
98-99	247	597
96-97	243	590-593
94-95	240	587
92-93	237	580-583
90-91	233	577
88-89	230	570-573
86-87	227	567
84-85	223	563
83	220	557-560
81-82	217	553
79-80	213	550
77-78	210	547
76	207	540-543
74-75	203	537
72-73	200	533
71	197	527-530
69-70	193	523
68	190	520
66-67	187	517
65	183	513
64	180	507-510

Score Comparison, cont.

New Internet-based TOEFL Total	Computer-based Total	Paper-based Total
62-63	177	503
61	173	500
59-60	170	497
58	167	493
57	163	487-490
56	160	483
54-55	157	480
53	153	477
52	150	470-473
51	147	467
49-50	143	463
48	140	460
47	137	457
45-46	133	450-453
44	130	447
43	127	443
41-42	123	437-440
40	120	433
39	117	430
38	113	423-427
36-37	110	420
35	107	417
34	103	410-413
33	100	407
32	97	400-403
30-31	93	397
29	90	390-393
28	87	387
26-27	83	380-383
25	80	377
24	77	370-373
23	73	363-367
22	70	357-360
21	67	353
19-20	63	347-350
18	60	340-343
17	57	333-337

continued

TOEFL Total Score Comparisons (cont.)

Score Comparison, cont.

New Internet-based TOEFL Total	Computer-based Total	Paper-based Total
16	53	330
15	50	323-327
14	47	317-320
13	43	313
12	40	310
11	37	310
9	33	310
8	30	310
7	27	310
6	23	310
5	20	310
4	17	310
3	13	310
2	10	310
1	7	310
0	3	310
0	0	310

Range Comparison

New Internet-based TOEFL Total	Computer-based Total	Paper-based Total
111-120	273-300	640-677
96-110	243-270	590-637
79-95	213-240	550-587
65-78	183-210	513-547
53-64	153-180	477-510
41-52	123-150	437-473
30-40	93-120	397-433
19-29	63-90	347-393
9-18	33-60	310-343
0-8	0-30	310

Note: The paper-based total score does not include writing. The paper-based and computer-based total scores do not include speaking.

TOEFL Score Comparisons for Reading

Score Comparison

New Internet-based TOEFL Reading	Computer-based Reading	Paper-based Reading
30	30	67
29	29	66
28	28	64-65
28	27	63
27	26	61-62
26	25	59-60
24	24	58
23	23	57
21	22	56
20	21	54-55
19	20	53
17	19	52
16	18	51
15	17	50
14	16	48-49
13	15	47
12	14	46
11	13	44-45
10	12	43
9	11	41-42
8	10	40
7	9	38-39
6	8	36-37
5	7	34-35
4	6	32-33
3	5	31
1	4	31
0	3	31
0	2	31
0	1	31
0	0	31

Range Comparison

New Internet-based TOEFL Reading	Computer-based Reading	Paper-based Reading
28-30	28-30	64-67
26-28	25-27	59-63
21-24	22-24	56-58
17-20	19-21	52-55
14-16	16-18	48-51
11-13	13-15	44-47
8-10	10-12	40-43
5-7	7-9	34-39
1-4	4-6	31-33
0	0-3	31

TOEFL Score Comparisons for Listening

Score Comparison

New Internet-based TOEFL Listening	Computer-based Listening	Paper-based Listening
30	30	67-68
30	29	66
29	28	65
28	27	63-64
27	26	62
26	25	60-61
25	24	59
23	23	58
22	22	56-57
21	21	55
19	20	54
18	19	53
17	18	52
16	17	51
15	16	50
14	15	49
13	14	48
12	13	47
11	12	46
10	11	45
9	10	44
7	9	42-43
6	8	41
5	7	40
4	6	38-39
2	5	36-37
1	4	34-35
1	3	32-33
0	2	31
0	1	31
0	0	31

Range Comparison

New Internet-based TOEFL Listening	Computer-based Listening	Paper-based Listening
29-30	28-30	65-68
26-28	25-27	60-64
22-25	22-24	56-59
18-21	19-21	53-55
15-17	16-18	50-52
12-14	13-15	47-49
9-11	10-12	44-46
5-7	7-9	40-43
1-4	4-6	34-39
0-1	0-3	31-33

TOEFL Score Comparisons for Writing

Score Comparison

New Internet-based TOEFL Writing	Computer-based Structure/Writing	Paper-based Structure and Written Expression
30	30	68
29	29	67
28	28	65-66
26	27	63-64
24	26	61-62
22	25	59-60
20	24	58
19	23	56-57
17	22	55
16	21	54
14	20	52-53
13	19	51
13	18	50
12	17	48-49
11	16	47
11	15	46
10	14	44-45
10	13	43
9	12	42
9	11	40-41
8	10	39
8	9	37-38
7	8	35-36
7	7	33-34
6	6	31-32
5	5	31
3	4	31
1	3	31
0	2	31
0	1	31
0	0	31

Range Comparison

New Internet-based TOEFL Writing	Computer-based Structure/Writing	Paper-based Structure and Written Expression
28-30	28-30	65-68
22-26	25-27	59-64
17-20	22-24	55-58
13-16	19-21	51-54
11-13	16-18	47-50
10-11	13-15	43-46
8-9	10-12	39-42
7-8	7-9	33-38
3-6	4-6	31-32
0-1	0-3	31

Note: The new Internet-based TOEFL Writing section is composed of two writing tasks: one independent essay and one integrated writing task. The computer-based Structure and Writing section includes multiple-choice questions and an essay. The paper-based Structure and Written Expression section consists of multiple-choice questions only, and the required essay score is reported separately from the total score. Therefore, the scores for these three sections are derived differently.

TOEFL Total Score Comparisons for Reading, Listening, and Writing Only

This table presents another way of comparing scores between the new Internet-based TOEFL test and the computer-based and paper-based versions of the test. While the new TOEFL test will measure speaking ability, the computer-based and paper-based versions of the test do not. Therefore, this table compares total scores for the Reading, Listening, and Writing sections of the new test with total scores for the computer-based and paper-based versions of the test. The Internet-based scores are presented on a 0-90 scale because the Speaking section, which is worth up to 30 points, is not included in the comparison. Please note that the paper-based total score does not include Writing.

Score Comparison

New Internet-based TOEFL Reading, Listening, and Writing Only Total	Computer-based Total	Paper-based Total
90	300	677
90	297	673
90	293	670
89	290	667
88	287	660-663
87	283	657
86	280	650-653
85	277	647
84	273	640-643
83	270	637
82	267	630-633
80-81	263	623-627
79	260	617-620
78	257	613
76-77	253	607-610
75	250	600-603
74	247	597
72-73	243	590-593
71	240	587
70	237	580-583
68-69	233	577
67	230	570-573
65-66	227	567
64	223	563
62-63	220	557-560
61	217	553
59-60	213	550
58	210	547
57	207	540-543
55-56	203	537
54	200	533

Score Comparison, cont.

New Internet-based TOEFL Reading, Listening, and Writing Only Total	Computer-based Total	Paper-based Total
53	197	527-530
51-52	193	523
50	190	520
49	187	517
48	183	513
47	180	507-510
46	177	503
45	173	500
44	170	497
43	167	493
42	163	487-490
41	160	483
40	157	480
39	153	477
38	150	470-473
37	147	467
36	143	463
35	140	460
34	137	457
33	133	450-453
33	130	447
32	127	443
31	123	437-440
30	120	433
29	117	430
28	113	423-427
27	110	420
26	107	417
25	103	410-413
24	100	407

continued

TOEFL Total Score Comparisons for Reading, Listening, and Writing Only (cont.)

Score Comparison, cont.

New Internet-based TOEFL Reading, Listening, and Writing Only Total	Computer-based Total	Paper-based Total
23	97	400-403
22	93	397
21	90	390-393
21	87	387
19-20	83	380-383
19	80	377
18	77	370-373
17	73	363-367
16	70	357-360
15	67	353
14	63	347-350
13	60	340-343
12	57	333-337
11	53	330
11	50	323-327
10	47	317-320
9	43	313
8	40	310
7	37	310
6	33	310
5	30	310
5	27	310
4	23	310
3	20	310
2	17	310
1	13	310
1	10	310
0	7	310
0	3	310
0	0	310

Range Comparison

New Internet-based TOEFL Reading, Listening, and Writing Only Total	Computer-based Total	Paper-based Total
84-90	273-300	640-677
72-83	243-270	590-637
59-71	213-240	550-587
48-58	183-210	513-547
39-47	153-180	477-510
31-38	123-150	437-473
22-30	93-120	397-433
14-21	63-90	347-393
6-13	33-60	310-343
0-5	0-30	310

Scale: 0–90

Percentile Ranks, Means, and Standard Deviations for iBT/Next Generation TOEFL

Total Scale Score Reading, Listening, Writing, Speaking	Percentile Rank
120	100
119	99.98
118	99.9
117	99.9
116	99.8
115	99.5
114	99.3
113	98.7
112	98.2
111	97.6
110	96.8
109	96.1
108	95.5
107	95.1
106	94.2
105	93.6
104	92.9
103	92.3
102	91.1
101	90.1
100	89.0
99	88.3
98	87.3
97	86.6
96	85.9
95	85.0
94	83.8
93	82.8
92	82.0
91	81.0
90	79.7

Total Scale Score Reading, Listening, Writing, Speaking	Percentile Rank
89	77.9
88	76.9
87	76.1
86	74.5
85	73.1
84	71.9
83	70.6
82	69.1
81	67.8
80	66.2
79	64.8
78	63.5
77	62.0
76	60.5
75	59.0
74	57.4
73	56.3
72	54.6
71	53.7
70	52.3
69	51.0
68	49.6
67	48.3
66	46.7
65	45.5
64	44.3
63	42.7
62	41.6
61	40.4
60	38.9
59	37.4

Note: When taking the TOEFL CBT test, the field study group performed below the typical TOEFL CBT population. Thus, the percentile data should be used with great caution, as they are not reflective of anticipated performance if the field study participants had performed similar to the overall TOEFL CBT population.

continued

Percentile Ranks, Means, and Standard Deviations for iBT/Next Generation TOEFL (cont.)

Total Scale Score Reading, Listening, Writing, Speaking	Percentile Rank
58	35.6
57	34.6
56	33.5
55	32.7
54	31.2
53	29.9
52	28.6
51	27.4
50	26.5
49	25.6
48	24.5
47	23.2
46	22.1
45	20.9
44	19.5
43	18.8
42	17.8
41	16.7
40	15.8
39	14.8
38	14.2
37	13.1
36	12.2
35	11.1
34	10.1
33	9.2
32	8.5
31	7.8
30	7.4
29	6.5
28	5.7
27	5.2
26	4.7

Total Scale Score Reading, Listening, Writing, Speaking	Percentile Rank
25	4.2
24	3.7
23	3.2
22	2.9
21	2.5
20	2.1
19	1.7
18	1.2
17	0.8
16	0.7
15	0.6
14	0.4
13	0.4
12	0.3
11	0.2
10	0.2
9	0.1
8	0.04
7	0.04
6	
5	
4	
3	
2	
1	
0	

Total - Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking

N = 2,720

Mean = 67.04

SD = 24.58

Minimum Score = 6

Maximum Score = 119

Note: When taking the TOEFL CBT test, the field study group performed below the typical TOEFL CBT population. Thus, the percentile data should be used with great caution, as they are not reflective of anticipated performance if the field study participants had performed similar to the overall TOEFL CBT population.

Percentile Ranks, Means, and Standard Deviations for iBT/Next Generation TOEFL

Reading Scale Score	Percentile Rank
30	99.5
29	97.6
28	95.3
27	90.1
26	87.2
25	83.8
24	76.7
23	73.6
22	70.6
21	66.6
20	59.8
19	55.6
18	51.2
17	44.1
16	39.9
15	36.9
14	33.0
13	27.0
12	23.7
11	21.3
10	15.6
9	13.3
8	11.1
7	9.0
6	5.9
5	3.8
4	3.0
3	1.1
2	0.7
1	0.2
0	

Reading
 N = 2,720
 Mean = 17.04
 SD = 6.99
 Minimum Score = 0
 Maximum Score = 30

Listening Scale Score	Percentile Rank
30	99.7
29	98.6
28	96.1
27	92.9
26	88.7
25	84.1
24	79.3
23	74.0
22	69.4
21	64.6
20	59.6
19	54.9
18	49.7
17	45.6
16	40.2
15	36.5
14	29.3
13	26.3
12	22.8
11	19.9
10	16.8
9	14.0
8	11.5
7	9.4
6	6.4
5	4.6
4	3.2
3	2.1
2	1.4
1	0.6
0	

Listening
 N = 2,720
 Mean = 16.98
 SD = 6.95
 Minimum Score = 0
 Maximum Score = 30

Note: When taking the TOEFL CBT test, the field study group performed below the typical TOEFL CBT population. Thus, the percentile data should be used with great caution, as they are not reflective of anticipated performance if the field study participants had performed similar to the overall TOEFL CBT population.

Percentile Ranks, Means, and Standard Deviations for iBT/Next Generation TOEFL

Writing Scale Score	Percentile Rank
30	97.9
29	95.9
28	93.4
27	90.5
26	90.5
25	87.2
24	82.9
23	82.9
22	77.4
21	72.4
20	66.9
19	66.9
18	60.2
17	53.6
16	53.6
15	46.3
14	37.3
13	37.3
12	30.0
11	21.4
10	14.9
9	14.9
8	5.4
7	5.0
6	5.0
5	1.1
4	1.1
3	1.1
2	1.1
1	1.1
0	

Speaking Scale Score	Percentile Rank
30	98.6
29	96.2
28	93.4
27	90.2
26	86.2
25	86.2
24	81.3
23	75.7
22	70.5
21	70.5
20	63.9
19	56.3
18	49.3
17	42.1
16	42.1
15	35.9
14	30.3
13	24.5
12	24.5
11	20.1
10	15.4
9	12.1
8	9.2
7	9.2
6	6.8
5	4.8
4	3.2
3	1.9
2	1.9
1	0.9
0	

Note: When taking the TOEFL CBT test, the field study group performed below the typical TOEFL CBT population. Thus, the percentile data should be used with great caution, as they are not reflective of anticipated performance if the field study participants had performed similar to the overall TOEFL CBT population.

Writing
 N = 2,720
 Mean = 16.05
 SD = 6.67
 Minimum Score = 0
 Maximum Score = 30

Speaking
 N = 2,720
 Mean = 16.97
 SD = 6.98
 Minimum Score = 0
 Maximum Score = 30