

About the *TOEFL* Primary Standard Test

Step 1 Tests

The table below summarizes the structure of the Reading and Listening—Step 1 tests.

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

Step 2 Tests

The table below summarizes the structure of the Reading and Listening—Step 2 tests.

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

Speaking Test

The *TOEFL Primary* Speaking test has between 7 and 10 questions, and it takes about 20 minutes to complete.

Test	Number of Questions	Time
Speaking	7–10	20 minutes

Reading and Listening Tests Overview

Communication Goals

The *TOEFL Primary* Reading and Listening tests measure young learners' abilities to understand written and spoken English that they are learning in their classrooms and that is relevant to their daily lives. Test tasks require students to read or listen to information, instructions, or stories that reflect their experiences at school, home, and other age-appropriate contexts. Test tasks are designed to assess abilities for fulfilling particular communication goals central to young students' English-language proficiency development.

The communication goals assessed in Reading are:

- Identifying people, objects, and actions
- Understanding commonly occurring non-linear written texts (examples: signs, schedules)
- Understanding written directions and procedures
- Understanding short personal correspondence (examples: letters, emails)
- Understanding simple, written stories
- Understanding written informational texts about age-appropriate content-area topics

The communication goals assessed in Listening are:

- Understanding simple descriptions of familiar people and objects
- Understanding spoken directions and procedures (example: teacher directions in a classroom)
- Understanding conversations
- Understanding spoken stories
- Understanding short informational texts related to daily life (example: a voicemail message)
- Understanding expository monologues about age-appropriate content-area topics

Test Structure

The number of questions a student fills in on the answer sheet is the sum of the number of questions and number of examples.

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Speaking Test Overview

The *TOEFL Primary* Speaking test measures young learners' ability to communicate orally in routine social situations related to their daily lives. Test questions are administered via computer or tablet, and a headset is provided to students for listening to prompts and speaking their responses. The communication goals assessed in the Speaking test are:

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

The recorded responses are scored by trained raters at ETS.

The Speaking test starts by asking students some basic questions about themselves to make sure their headsets work properly. Then, students are introduced to a storyline and characters who guide them through the test questions. The first prompt is an unscored practice question that gives students a chance to become more comfortable with the computer setup and the format of the test. Test prompts include audio, picture, and video elements. Each question has a time limit, and the time limit varies by question type. The longest amount of time allotted for a response is 30 seconds.

Students can practice sample questions for the Speaking test online at https://www.ets.org/toefl_primary/prepare.

Test Structure

The *TOEFL Primary* Speaking test has between 7 and 10 questions, and it takes about 20 minutes to complete.

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Speaking	7–10	20 minutes

Task Types

The following task types are scored using a 3-point rubric:

- **Description:** The student will see a picture and a character will ask the student to describe things that look strange in the picture.
Response time: 20 seconds
- **Expression:** A character will present some pictures and ask the test taker to choose 1 and express some thoughts or opinions about it.
Response time: 15 seconds
- **Requests:** A character will ask the test taker to make a request of another character in the story.
Response time: 5–15 seconds
- **Questions:** A character will present an object and invite the test taker to ask 3 questions about it.
Response time: 30 seconds

The following task types are scored using a 5-point rubric:

- **Directions:** Either a video or a sequence of pictures appearing one by one will show a character performing an activity. Afterwards, the test taker will be asked to explain how to do the activity that was shown.
Response time: 30 seconds
- **Narration:** The test taker will watch a video or view a sequence of pictures. After watching the animation or seeing the pictures, test takers will be asked to tell a story based on what they saw in the animation or pictures.
Response time: 30 seconds

The Speaking test may also include some unscored questions used for warm-up or research purposes.