Presentation Overview

- TOEFL Today
- 2007 Student Performance Information
- Understanding TOEFL iBT Score Results
- TOEFL Application to DIAC for Recognition
- TOEFL/IELTS score comparison
TOEFL Today

- The TOEFL® Internet-based test (iBT)
  - 95% of all TOEFL testing is iBT
  - Offered in 1,512 cities in 144 countries
  - Administered in 4,264 test centres
- The TOEFL Paper-based test (PBT) – where iBT is not yet available or as a supplement for iBT in a limited number of areas
- The TSE® (Test of Spoken English™) - available upon request in PBT locations
- TOEFL Computer-based test (CBT) scores no longer reported

TOEFL® Internet-based Test (iBT)

- The test includes all four skills
- Measures ability to use English in an academic setting
- Includes integrated tasks requiring test takers to use more than one language skill when responding
  - Read > Listen > Speak
  - Listen > Speak
  - Read > Listen > Write
Scores You Can Trust

Fair testing with unbiased, objective scoring
• 3 to 6 raters anonymously score Speaking responses
• 2 raters evaluate each Writing response
• Raters see and hear worldwide responses – not just from one country
• Raters do not know the examinee

Scores You Can Trust

Highly-trained Raters:
• New raters must complete training and pass certification test
• Take calibration test each time they begin scoring or change to a different question type
• Review exemplar responses after a break to refocus attention
• Continually monitored by Scoring Leaders
• Scoring Leaders > Content Scoring Leaders > ETS Expert
**TOEFL iBT Score Scale**

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

**TOEFL iBT 2007 Total Population Scaled Section and Total Score Means**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>iBT Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>19.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listening</td>
<td>19.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaking</td>
<td>19.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>20.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>78.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## TOEFL iBT 2007 Total Population Score Means by Test Taker Purpose

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Listening</th>
<th>Speaking</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>82.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>76.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>84.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## TOEFL iBT 2007 Total Population Score Means by Sample Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Native Country</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Listening</th>
<th>Speaking</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Korea (ROK)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China (PRC)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How are TOEFL Scores Used?

- University admission
- Graduation requirement from university
- Mid-degree requirement
- As part of selection criteria for scholarships
- International Teaching Assistant screening
- Visas
- Licensure
  - Nurses
  - Veterinarians
  - Pharmacists
  - Occupational Therapists
  - Physical Therapists

How are TOEFL Scores Used?

- Total Score only
- Total Score and one or more section scores
- Section scores only
- Score ranges
Resources Supporting Score Use

- Standard Setting CD Rom and score comparison tables available to set initial score requirements
- Annual Test and Score Data Summary with mean scores and percentile data
- Standard setting studies for health associations
- International Teaching Assistant Study

Review Means and Percentile Data

Test and Score Data Summary for TOEFL iBT

- January – December 2007
  - Percentile Data
  - Score means listed by total population, native language, native country, gender, and purpose for taking the test (i.e., Undergraduate, Postgraduate, or Professional License)

Available at www.ets.org/toefl within Research section
Comparing Score Requirements to Percentiles and Mean Scores

Postgraduate Level Example with 2007 Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentile Equivalent</th>
<th>Mean</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Score</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>47th</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Score</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>38th</td>
<td>20.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listening Score</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>35th</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaking Score</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>20th</td>
<td>19.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Score</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>80th</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reviewing Score Requirements

Review both mean score data and percentile ranks

- Requirements set too high may limit your applicant pool and reject qualified applicants
- Requirements set too low can lead to accepting students who may not have the skills needed to succeed at your institution

Other considerations:

- Availability of English-language support at your institution
- The need for setting different section score requirements for different departments
- Conduct periodic review of your score requirements
- Consult with English language program staff
Building a Validity Argument for the Test of English as a Foreign Language™
(edited by Carol A. Chapelle, Mary K. Enright, Joan M. Jamieson)

available at
www.Amazon.com

Using TOEFL iBT Speaking to Screen International Teaching Assistants

Study conducted with 4 universities to determine if TOEFL iBT Speaking can serve as a pre-arrival initial screening measure for International Teaching Assistants (ITAs)

- Drexel University
- University of North Carolina, Charlotte
- University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
- University of Florida at Gainesville
Goals of the Study

- Investigate the criterion-related validity of the TOEFL iBT Speaking test for the purpose of ITA certification
- Determine the association between scores on TOEFL iBT Speaking and on local ITA tests
- Set TOEFL iBT Speaking score requirements for ITA screening

Using TOEFL iBT Speaking to Screen International Teaching Assistants

- Success of ITAs depends on numerous factors
- What do you intend to measure?
  - English proficiency
  - Teaching ability
  - Culture
- TOEFL iBT Speaking would provide information on English proficiency
Major Findings

• Relationships between TOEFL iBT Speaking test and local ITA test scores moderately strong
  – Depends on the extent to which the local test engages and evaluates non-language abilities
  – TOEFL Speaking scores more strongly related to linguistic aspects measured by the local ITA tests

• Results provide guidance on using TOEFL iBT Speaking scores for ITA screening purposes and setting cut scores

• TOEFL Speaking scores are significant predictors of success when used for TA assignments

Using TOEFL iBT Speaking to Screen International Teaching Assistants

How Has the TOEFL iBT Test Impacted Instruction?

Longitudinal study to evaluate impact of the TOEFL iBT in the classroom

- Phase 1 – status prior to TOEFL iBT (published)
- Phase 2 – coping with change (in press)
- Phases 3 & 4 – washback effect (under review)


TOEFL iBT English Language Competency Descriptors

- “Can do” statements based on the self-evaluation of approximately 2,300 test takers who took TOEFL iBT
- Examinees were asked to respond to questions related to their English language abilities in Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking
- Descriptors can help interpret the language ability of test takers at each major score level for each of the skill sections as well as the total score
TOEFL iBT Score Descriptors

- TOEFL iBT score descriptors created based on score-anchoring study provide guidance to test takers on the components of language skills they may need to improve
- TOEFL website contains suggestions for improvement linked to the score descriptors

# Performance Feedback for Test Takers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaking Skills</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Your Performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speaking about Familiar Topics</td>
<td>Fair (2-3.0)</td>
<td>Your responses indicate you are able to speak in English about your personal experiences and opinions in a lively, clear, and conversational manner. Your ideas are mostly well taken with some inaccuracies. Occasionally you make some logical errors. At times, they are not relevant to the topic. Please focus on your topic and develop your ideas more.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaking about Complex Situations</td>
<td>Fair (2.5-3.0)</td>
<td>Your responses demonstrate your ability to speak in English about habits, interests, and typical circumstances in university student life. You are able to provide clear and relevant information about conversations, newspaper articles, and campus issues. However, some details are missing or incorrect. Elaborations of some ideas are needed. Your pronunciation is not always accurate. Please focus on your topic and develop your ideas more.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Skills</td>
<td>Level</td>
<td>Your Performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing based on Reading and Learning</td>
<td>Fair (2.5-3.0)</td>
<td>You responded to the topic, reading the lecture to the meeting, but your responses included weaknesses such as</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing based on Knowledge and Experience</td>
<td>Fair (2.5-3.0)</td>
<td>You expressed ideas with missing, unclear, and incorrect details. Your responses included weaknesses such as</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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## Recognition of TOEFL for Australian Visa Purposes

- DIAC announced a set of benchmarks and a process for recognition of English proficiency tests
- One of the benchmarks is to provide comparisons to IELTS score levels established by law for visas
- TOEFL has applied for recognition for student visas, which require total score comparisons
- TOEFL also apply for Skilled Migration recognition once work on comparing TOEFL and IELTS section-level scores is complete
- ETS will be expanding the TOEFL test center network within Australia and primary sending countries
Comparing TOEFL and IELTS Scores

- Although both measure English proficiency, there are differences between TOEFL and IELTS that make a comparison difficult, i.e.:
  - TOEFL content is 100% academic, while only 2 of 4 IELTS Academic modules have academic content
  - TOEFL has integrated skills questions to emphasize communicative competence
  - IELTS employs an oral interview, while TOEFL uses an objective speaking measure that elicits real academic language

How Was the Comparison Done?

- Collected TOEFL iBT and IELTS Academic Module scores from 217 volunteers who had taken both tests
- Used an equipercentile approach.
  - This methodology uses cut scores for the TOEFL test that would, in the sample collected, lead to the same proportion of candidates meeting immigration standards as does the current IELTS cut score
How Was the Comparison Done?

- Candidates came from 35 countries
- Limited sample
- Continuing to collect data
- To achieve a higher degree of certainty, ETS recommends the established score linkage be used in conjunction with, or verified by, additional evaluative information, such as expert judgments

**TOEFL/IELTS Comparison**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IELTS Total Score</th>
<th>TOEFL iBT Total Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>106</td>
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<td>7.0</td>
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<td>6.5</td>
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<td>6.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For score comparisons below IELTS 5.0, ETS recommends using the 5.0 equivalent (i.e. 43) because that is the lowest IELTS total score in the data collected.
TOEFL Information & Contacts

- Sign up to be a test center: www.ets.org/ctas

- Write to us at: TOEFLNews@ets.org

- TOEFL iBT University Help Line:
  +1-609-683-2008

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