

# TOEIC® Speaking Test – Proficiency Level Descriptors

## Level 8 Scale Score 190-200

Typically, test takers at Level 8 can create connected, sustained discourse appropriate to the typical workplace. When they express opinions or respond to complicated requests, their speech is highly intelligible. Their use of basic and complex grammar is good, and their use of vocabulary is accurate and precise.

Test takers at Level 8 can also use spoken language to answer questions and give basic information.

Their pronunciation, intonation and stress are at all times highly intelligible.

## Level 7 Scale Score 160-180

Typically, test takers at Level 7 can create connected, sustained discourse appropriate to the typical workplace. They can express opinions and respond to complicated requests effectively. In extended responses, some of the following weaknesses may sometimes occur, but they do not interfere with the message:

- minor difficulties with pronunciation, intonation or hesitation when creating language
- some errors when using complex grammatical structures
- some imprecise vocabulary

Test takers at Level 7 can also use spoken language to answer questions and give basic information.

When reading aloud, test takers at Level 7 are highly intelligible.

## Level 6 Scale Score 130-150

Typically, test takers at Level 6 are able to create a relevant response when asked to express an opinion or respond to a complicated request. However, at least part of the time, the reasons for or explanations of the opinion are unclear to a listener. This may be because of the following:

- unclear pronunciation or inappropriate intonation or stress when the speaker must create language
- mistakes in grammar
- a limited range of vocabulary

Most of the time, test takers at Level 6 can answer questions and give basic information. However, sometimes their responses are difficult to understand or interpret.

When reading aloud, test takers at Level 6 are intelligible.

## Level 5 Scale Score 110-120

Typically, test takers at Level 5 have limited success at expressing an opinion or responding to a complicated request.

Responses include problems such as:

- language that is inaccurate, vague or repetitive
- minimal or no awareness of audience
- long pauses and frequent hesitations
- limited expression of ideas and connections between ideas
- a limited range of vocabulary

Most of the time, test takers at Level 5 can answer questions and give basic information. However, sometimes their responses are difficult to understand or interpret.

When reading aloud, test takers at Level 5 are generally intelligible. However, when creating language, their pronunciation, intonation and stress may be inconsistent.



## Level 4 Scale Score 80-100

Typically, test takers at Level 4 are unsuccessful when attempting to explain an opinion or respond to a complicated request. The response may be limited to a single sentence or part of a sentence. Other problems may include:

- severely limited language use
- minimal or no awareness of audience
- consistent pronunciation, stress and intonation difficulties
- long pauses and frequent hesitations
- severely limited vocabulary

Most of the time, test takers at Level 4 cannot answer questions or give basic information.

When reading aloud, test takers at Level 4 vary in intelligibility. However, when they are creating language, speakers at Level 4 usually have problems with pronunciation, intonation and stress. For more information, check the “Read-Aloud Pronunciation and Intonation and Stress Ratings.”

## Level 3 Scale Score 60-70

Typically, test takers at Level 3 can with some difficulty state an opinion, but they cannot support the opinion. Any response to a complicated request is severely limited.

Most of the time, test takers at Level 3 cannot answer questions and give basic information.

Typically, test takers at Level 3 have insufficient vocabulary or grammar skills to create simple descriptions.

When reading aloud, speakers at Level 3 may be difficult to understand. For more information, check the “Read-Aloud Pronunciation and Intonation and Stress Ratings.”

## Level 2 Scale Score 40-50

Typically, test takers at Level 2 cannot state an opinion or support it. They either do not respond to complicated requests or the response is not at all relevant.

In routine social and occupational interactions, such as answering questions and giving basic information, test takers at Level 2 are difficult to understand.

When reading aloud, speakers at Level 2 may be difficult to understand. For more information, check the “Read-Aloud Pronunciation and Intonation and Stress Ratings.”

## Level 1 Scale Score 0-30

Typically, test takers at Level 1 leave a significant part of the TOEIC® Speaking Test unanswered. Test takers at Level 1 may not have the listening or reading skills in English necessary to understand the test directions and/or questions.



## TOEIC® Speaking Test – Proficiency Level Descriptors

### Pronunciation

- Low – When reading aloud, pronunciation is not generally intelligible.
- Medium – When reading aloud, pronunciation is generally intelligible with some lapses.
- High – When reading aloud, pronunciation is highly intelligible.

### Intonation and Stress

- Low – When reading aloud, use of intonation and stress is generally not effective.
- Medium – When reading aloud, use of intonation and stress is generally effective.
- High – When reading aloud, use of intonation and stress is highly effective.



## TOEIC® Writing Test – Proficiency Level Descriptors

### Level 9 Scale Score 200

Typically, test takers at Level 9 can communicate straightforward information effectively and use reasons, examples or explanations to support an opinion.

When giving straightforward information, asking questions, giving instructions or making requests, their writing is clear, coherent and effective.

When using reasons, examples or explanations to support an opinion, their writing is well-organized and well-developed. The use of English is natural, with a variety of sentence structures and appropriate word choices, and is grammatically accurate.

### Level 8 Scale Score 170-190

Typically, test takers at Level 8 can communicate straightforward information effectively and use reasons, examples or explanations to support an opinion.

When giving straightforward information, asking questions, giving instructions or making requests, their writing is clear, coherent and effective.

When using reasons, examples or explanations to support an opinion, their writing is generally good. It is generally well-organized and uses a variety of sentence structures and appropriate vocabulary. It may also include one of the following weaknesses:

- occasional unnecessary repetition of ideas or unclear connections between ideas
- noticeable minor grammatical mistakes or incorrect word choices

### Level 7 Scale Score 140-160

Typically, test takers at Level 7 can effectively give straightforward information, ask questions, give instructions or make requests but are only partially successful when using reasons, examples or explanations to support an opinion.

When giving straightforward information, asking questions, giving instructions or making requests, their writing is clear, coherent and effective.

When attempting to explain an opinion, their writing presents relevant ideas and some support.

Typical weaknesses at this level include:

- not providing enough specific support and development for the main points
- unclear connections between the points that are made
- grammatical mistakes or incorrect word choices

### Level 6 Scale Score 110-130

Typically, test takers at Level 6 are partially successful when giving straightforward information or supporting an opinion with reasons, examples or explanations.

When giving straightforward information, asking questions, giving instructions or making requests, their message omits important information or is partly unintelligible.

When attempting to explain an opinion, their writing presents relevant ideas and some support.

Typical weaknesses at this level include:

- not providing enough specific support and development for the main points
- unclear connections between the points that are made
- grammatical mistakes or incorrect word choices



## Level 5 Scale Score 90-100

Typically, test takers at Level 5 are at least partially successful when giving straightforward information. However, when supporting an opinion with reasons, examples or explanations, they are mostly unsuccessful.

When giving straightforward information, asking questions, giving instructions or making requests, their message omits important information or is partly unintelligible.

When test takers at this level attempt to explain an opinion, significant weaknesses that interfere with communication occur, such as:

- not providing enough or appropriate examples, explanations or details to support the opinion
- inadequate organization or connection of ideas
- limited development of ideas
- serious grammatical mistakes or incorrect word choices

## Level 4 Scale Score 70-80

Typically, test takers at Level 4 have some developing ability to express an opinion and to give straightforward information. However, communication is limited.

When giving straightforward information, asking questions, giving instructions or making requests, their responses do not successfully complete the task because of one or more of the following:

- missing information
- missing or obscure connections between sentences
- many grammatical mistakes or incorrect word choices

When test takers at this level attempt to explain an opinion, significant weaknesses that interfere with communication occur, such as:

- not providing enough or appropriate examples, explanations or details to support the opinion
- inadequate organization or connection of ideas
- limited development of ideas
- serious grammatical mistakes or incorrect word choices

At Level 4, test takers have some ability to produce grammatically correct sentences but cannot consistently do so.

## Level 3 Scale Score 50-60

Typically, test takers at Level 3 have limited ability to express an opinion and to give straightforward information. When giving straightforward information, asking questions, giving instructions or making requests, they do not successfully complete the task because of one or more of the following:

- missing information
- missing or obscure connections between sentences
- many grammatical mistakes or incorrect word choices

When attempting to explain an opinion, test takers at this level show one or more of the following serious flaws:

- serious disorganization or underdevelopment of ideas
- little or no detail, or irrelevant specifics
- serious and frequent grammatical mistakes or incorrect word choices

At Level 3, test takers have some ability to produce grammatically correct sentences but cannot consistently do so.

## Level 2 Scale Score 40

Typically, test takers at Level 2 have only very limited ability to express an opinion and give straightforward information.

At Level 2, test takers cannot give straightforward information. Typical weaknesses at this level include:

- not including any of the important information
- missing or obscure connections between ideas
- frequent grammatical mistakes or incorrect word choices

When attempting to explain an opinion, test takers at this level show one or more of the following serious flaws:

- serious disorganization or underdevelopment of ideas
- little or no detail, or irrelevant specifics
- serious and frequent grammatical mistakes or incorrect word choices

At Level 2, test takers are unable to produce grammatically correct sentences.

## Level 1 Scale Score 0-30

Typically, test takers at Level 1 leave a significant part of the TOEIC® Writing Test unanswered. Test takers at Level 1 may not have the reading skills in English necessary to understand the test directions and/or questions.

