

TOEFL[®] Essentials[™] Test

Speaking Scoring Guide

READ ALOUD

SCORE	DESCRIPTION
4	<p>The passage is read with ease; speech is fluid and intelligible; units of meaning are clearly marked.</p> <p>A typical response exhibits all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading is fluid, with little hesitation or self-correction, and the rate of speech is appropriate. • Intonation and pausing are used to group words in meaningful phrases. • Speech is highly intelligible; minor mispronunciations or other-language influences may be present that do not impair intelligibility. • The text is fully and accurately reproduced.
3	<p>The passage is read with little difficulty; it may require minor listener effort.</p> <p>A typical response exhibits most of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacing is mostly even, but with minor hesitation/choppiness. • Intonation may be monotone at times, but words are mostly grouped in meaningful phrases. • Intelligibility is generally sustained, although there may be occasional minor lapses. • Occasional mispronunciations may require minor listener effort. • The text is fully reproduced, with no more than minor changes.
2	<p>The passage is read with some difficulty; the content is partially clear.</p> <p>A typical response exhibits one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacing is uneven or slow; frequent or inappropriate hesitations cause noticeable choppiness; sentence-level meanings may be hard to follow. • Intelligibility is repeatedly affected by inaccuracies in pronunciation or intonation. • Intonation is monotone or inappropriate for the meaning; there may be partially effective grouping of words into meaningful phrases. • The text is mostly reproduced; variations (substitutions, omissions) may be present.
1	<p>The passage is read with noticeable difficulty; the content may be mostly unintelligible.</p> <p>A typical response exhibits one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The speaking rate may be very slow, or the text is mostly read in short chunks, or multiple or extended pauses result in speech that is largely staccato. • The response is mostly unintelligible; only isolated words or phrases from the text are understandable. • The text is substantially incomplete, or the response consists of isolated phrases; variations (substitutions, omissions) may be common.
0	<p>No response OR the response is entirely unintelligible OR there is no English in the response OR the test taker does not read the text provided.</p>

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LISTEN AND REPEAT

SCORE	DESCRIPTION
5	<p>The response exactly repeats the prompt.</p> <p>A typical response exhibits the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The response is fully intelligible and is an exact repetition of the prompt.
4	<p>The response captures the meaning expressed in the prompt, but it is not an exact repetition.</p> <p>A typical response exhibits the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor changes in words or grammar are present that do not substantially change the meaning of the prompt. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one or two function words may be missing or changed, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a content word may be missing (in longer stimuli) or replaced with a related word, markers of tense/aspect/number may be missing or incorrect, or two words may be transposed. One or two content words may be ambiguous because of imprecise pronunciation. The speaker may self-correct, but successfully completes the response.
3	<p>The response is essentially full, but it does not accurately capture the original meaning.</p> <p>A typical response exhibits the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The response contains a majority of the content words or ideas in the prompt. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple function words may be changed or missing; one or more content words may be missing or substantively changed. The response is a full sentence. In some cases, intelligibility issues cause occasional difficulty in understanding meaning. The speaker may struggle over a word or phrase or run words together, reducing intelligibility.
2	<p>The response is missing a significant part of the prompt and/or is highly inaccurate.</p> <p>A typical response exhibits the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A large portion of the prompt is missing, and important original meaning is left out. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The speaker may repeat the first part of the sentence. Then the speaker may stop or fill with inaccurate content and/or include the last few words. The response is not a self-standing sentence; meaning is fragmentary. Intelligibility is low; the response would be difficult to understand for a listener unfamiliar with the prompt.
1	<p>The response captures very little of the prompt or is largely unintelligible.</p> <p>A typical response exhibits the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A minimal response of a few words is made; most of the prompt is missing. The response is recognizable as an attempt to repeat the prompt, but it is mostly unintelligible.
0	<p>No response OR the response is entirely unintelligible OR there is no English in the response OR the content is entirely unconnected to the prompt (or consists only of phrases such as “I don’t know”).</p>

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VIRTUAL INTERVIEW

SCORE	DESCRIPTION
5	<p>A fully successful response The response fully addresses the question, and it is clear and fluent.</p> <p>A typical response exhibits the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The response is on topic and well elaborated. • Good conversational speaking pace is maintained with appropriate and natural use of pauses. • Pronunciation is easily intelligible; rhythm and intonation effectively convey meaning. • A range of accurate grammar and vocabulary allows clear expression of precise meanings.
4	<p>A generally successful response The response addresses the question, and it is reasonably clear.</p> <p>A typical response exhibits the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The response is on topic and elaborated, but it may lack effective sentence-level connectors. • Good speaking pace is generally maintained, with some pausing that may minimally affect flow. • Intelligibility and meaning are not impeded by pronunciation, rhythm and intonation, although occasional words/phrases may require minor effort to understand. • Grammar and vocabulary are adequate to express general meanings most of the time.
3	<p>A partially successful response The response addresses the question but with limited elaboration and/or clarity.</p> <p>A typical response exhibits the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The response is generally on topic, but elaboration may be relatively limited. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent or lengthy pauses result in a choppy pace; filler words are frequent. • Intelligibility is sometimes affected by inaccuracies in word-level pronunciation or stress/rhythm. • Limited range and accuracy of grammar and vocabulary noticeably restrict the precision and clarity of meanings.
2	<p>A mostly unsuccessful response The response reflects an attempt to address the question, but it is not supported in a meaningful and/or intelligible way.</p> <p>A typical response exhibits the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The response is minimally connected to the interviewer's question, but it has little or no relevant elaboration or consists mainly of language from the question. • Intelligibility is limited; the speaker's intended meaning is often difficult to discern. • The response shows a very limited range of grammar and vocabulary.
1	<p>An unsuccessful response The response minimally addresses the question, and it may demonstrate very limited control of language.</p> <p>A typical response exhibits the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The response is only vaguely connected to language in the interviewer's question. • The response is mostly unintelligible. • The response consists mainly of isolated words or phrases.
0	<p>No response OR the response is entirely unintelligible OR there is no English in the response OR the content is entirely unconnected to the prompt (or consists only of phrases such as "I don't know").</p>