



Mapping the *TOEIC* *Bridge*® Test on the CEFR

Mapping the *TOEIC Bridge*® Test on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Background

The Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment provides a common basis for describing the skills needed to reach different levels of language proficiency and is used by language instructors, educators, curriculum designers and agencies working in the field of language development. The CEFR describes language proficiency in listening, reading, speaking and writing on a six-level scale:

- A1–A2 (Basic User)
- B1–B2 (Independent User)
- C1–C2 (Proficient User)

The CEFR provides a descriptive context that may be used to interpret the meaning and practical significance of scores on language tests. If a test score can be one of the levels of the CEFR, what that score means and what candidates with at least that score are likely to be able to do becomes clear.

ETS's Goal

One of the purposes of this mapping study was to identify the minimum scores on the *TOEIC Bridge*® test corresponding to CEFR levels A1, A2 and B1. Minimum scores were identified separately for listening and reading.

- The *TOEIC Bridge* test measures the emerging receptive skills (listening and reading comprehension) at beginning to lower-intermediate proficiency levels in the context of everyday life.

Standard-setting Study

Standard setting is the process by which a panel of informed experts makes score requirement recommendations that correspond with the level of knowledge, skill, proficiency, mastery or readiness candidates need in order to be placed in a certain category. The end result of standard setting is a recommended minimum score requirement, or cut score. The minimum scores for each CEFR level in this particular study are presented as lower limits of the level for each modality.

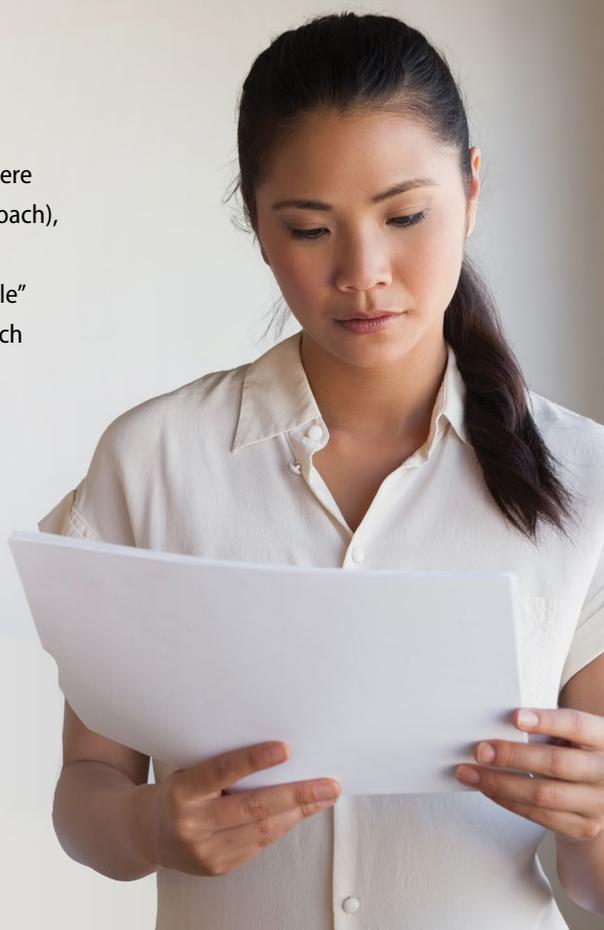
For this study, the panel consisted of 22 experts (English-language instructors, administrators or directors of language programs, and language testing experts) from 10 different European countries.

Results

The expert panel was asked to recommend minimum test scores (cut scores) for three CEFR levels (A1, A2 and B1). Panelists' judgments were collected using a well-established procedure (the modified Angoff approach), which involves three rounds of judgments punctuated by feedback and group discussion. Most expert panelists reported being "very comfortable" with the final recommended minimum scores for each test section at each CEFR proficiency level, as presented in the table below.

Interpreting Results

Employers, institutions, English programs and learners can interpret the recommended minimum scores on the TOEIC Bridge test by referring to the score descriptor information on the resource pages of the *TOEIC*® website at www.ets.org/toeic. The results represent the recommendations of informed experts using recognized standard-setting approaches. However, they should be considered guidelines, as ETS does not recommend the use of rigid cut scores.



TOEIC Bridge® Test*				
TOEIC Bridge Test Sections	Score Scale Range	Minimum Score		
		A1	A2	B1
Listening	10 – 90	46	64	84
Reading	10 – 90	46	70	86

*TOEIC Bridge scores are reported in two-point increments. No total score is reported.

Technical Report

This standard-setting study was conducted by ETS researchers Richard J. Tannenbaum, Ph.D., and E. Caroline Wylie.

For information about this study:

Contact your ETS Preferred Network (EPN) office via www.toeicglobal.com/contact or email us at TOEIC@ets.org.

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