# Mapping Table

# **TOEIC**\* **LISTENING AND READING**TEST SCORES AND THE CEFR LEVELS\*



1 IDENTIFY THE TOTAL MINIMUM SCORE NEAREST TO THE ACHIEVED SCORE

TRANSLATE THE ACHIEVED SCORE INTO THE CORRESPONDING CEFR LEVEL<sup>2</sup>

3 FIND THE GENERAL DESCRIPTION RELATED TO THE ACHIEVED SCORE

TOTAL
MINIMUM
SCORE
FREQUENTLY
REQUIRED BY
HIGHER
EDUCATION
AND
COMPANIES

	TOTAL MINIMUM SCORES <sup>1</sup> (10 TO 990 PTS)	TOEIC® LISTENING MINIMUM SCORE	TOEIC® READING MINIMUM SCORE	CEFRLEVELS		CEFR GENERAL DESCRIPTION		
I LLY BY N N	945 pts	490	<b>455</b> ³	Proficient user - Effective Operational Proficiency	<b>C</b> 1	Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organizational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.		
	785 pts	400	385	Independent user - Vantage	B2	Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialization. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.		
	550 pts	275	275	Independent user - Threshold	B1	Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.		
	225 pts	110	115	Basic user - Waystage	A2	Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.		
	120 pts	60	60	Basic user - Breakthrough	<b>A</b> 1	Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. Can introduce him/herself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has. Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.		

relevant cut scores from the Listening and Reading test section CEFR mappings. Whenever possible, ETS encourages score users to consider CEFR levels separately for Listening and Reading rather than using a single overall estimate based on the total score. This approach is more precise and considers a test taker's language profile, which may differ between listening and reading comprehension.

N.B: For A1 to B1 levels ETS advises to take the TOEIC Bridge® tests. TOEIC Listening and Reading scores are reported in 5-point increments.

The benchmarking study of the TOEIC Listening and Reading scores to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) was conducted by Tannenbaum, R.J., & Wylie, E.C-2006. The results of the standard setting are recommended minimum score requirements, or cut scores. The mapping of TOEIC test scores to each CEFR level in this particular study are presented as guidelines for minimum thresholds for each level. ETS does not recommend to use the minimum cut scores strictly. For more information about this study please contact us at contact-emea@etsglobal.org.

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ascending series of common reference levels for describing learner proficiency. This CEFR describes both knowledge and skills in positive "can-do" statements at six levels of proficiency for different language skills from A1 level (Basic User - Breakthrough) to C2 level (Proficient User - Mastery). For more information see https://www.ets.org/pdfs/toeic/toeic-mapping-cefr-reference.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> TOEIC® Reading C1 minimum score is based on 45 percent of the panellists.

MINIMUM
SCORE
FREQUENTLY
REQUIRED BY
HIGHER
EDUCATION
AND
COMPANIES

# Mapping Table

# **TOEIC**° **SPEAKING AND WRITING** TESTS SCORES AND THE CEFR LEVELS\*



	IDENTIFY THE MINIMUM COORE NEADECT TO THE ACHIEVED COORE
1	IDENTIFY THE MINIMUM SCORE NEAREST TO THE ACHIEVED SCORE
	IDENTIFY THE MINIMON SCORE REPREST TO THE ACTUE FED SCORE

TRANSLATE THE ACHIEVED SCORE INTO THE CORRESPONDING CEFR LEVEL\*

3 FIND THE GENERAL DESCRIPTION RELATED TO THE ACHIEVED SCORE

	TOEIC® SPEAKING TOEIC® WRITING MINIMUM SCORE MINIMUM SCORE		CEFR LEVELS		CEFR GENERAL DESCRIPTION		
	<b>180</b> <sup>1</sup>	<b>180</b> <sup>1</sup>	Proficient user - Effective Operational Proficiency	<b>C</b> 1	Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.		
LY BY N	160	150	Independent user - Vantage	B2	Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.		
	120	120 Independent user - Threshold		B1	Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.		
	<b>90 70</b> Ba		Basic user - Waystage	A2	Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.		
	<b>30</b> Basic user - Breakthrough		<b>A</b> 1	Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. Can introduce him/herself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has. Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.			

<sup>\*</sup> CEFR: The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages outlines an ascending series of common reference levels for describing learner proficiency. This CEFR describes both knowledge and skills in positive "can-do" statements at six levels of proficiency for different language skills from A1 level (Basic User - Breakthrough) to C2 level (Proficient User - Mastery). For more information see https://www.ets.org/pdfs/toeic/toeic-mapping-cefr-reference.pdf

N.B: For A1 to B1 levels ETS advises to take the TOEIC Bridge® tests.

TOEIC Speaking and Writing scores are reported in 10-point increments. No total score is reported.

The benchmarking study of the TOEIC Speaking and Writing scores to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) was conducted by Tannenbaum, R.J., & Wylie, E.C-2006. The results of the standard setting are recommended minimum score requirements, or cut scores. The mapping of TOEIC test scores to each CEFR level in this particular study are presented as guidelines for minimum thresholds for each level. ETS does not recommend to use the minimum cut scores strictly.

For more information about this study please contact us at contact-emea@etsglobal.org.

For more information about the TOEIC Speaking and Writing tests: Visit www.etsglobal.org • Email contact-emea@etsglobal.org







<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> These cut scores were adjusted from the recommended study values.

# **TOEIC**° LISTENING AND READING TEST SCORE DESCRIPTORS



the words in the spoken text.

### TOTAL TOEIC Listening and Reading score (from 10 to 990 points) =

Listening part + Reading part

requested information is heard in the middle of the text. They do not understand

paraphrased information or difficult grammatical constructions.



• They understand only a limited range of vocabulary.

• They are often unable to connect information even within a single sentence.

• They do not understand even easy grammatical constructions when other language features, such as difficult vocabulary or the need to connect information, are also



		(from 5 to 495 points)		▼ (from 5 to 495 points)			
LEVEL	STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	LEV	/EL	STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	
≈400 points	TEST TAKERS WHO SCORE AROUND 400 TYPICALLY HAVE THE FOLLOWING STRENGTHS:  • They can infer the central idea, purpose, and basic context of short spoken exchanges across a broad range of vocabulary, even when conversational responses are indirect or not easy to predict.  • They can infer the central idea, purpose, and basic context of extended spoken texts across a broad range of vocabulary. They can do this even when the information is not supported by repetition or paraphrase and when it is necessary to connect information across the text.  • They can understand details in short spoken exchanges, even when negative constructions are present, when the language is syntactically complex, or when difficult vocabulary is used.  • They can understand details in extended spoken texts, even when it is necessary to connect information across the text and when this information is				TEST TAKERS WHO SCORE AROUND 450 TYPICALLY HAVE THE FOLLOWING STRENGTHS:  They can infer the central idea and purpose of a written text, and they can make inferences about details.  They can read for meaning. They can understand factual information, even when it is paraphrased.  They can connect information across an entire text, and they can make connections between two related texts.  They can understand a broad range of vocabulary, unusual meanings of common words, and idiomatic usage. They can also make distinctions between the meanings of closely related words.  They can understand rule-based grammatical structures. They can also understand difficult, complex, and uncommon grammatical constructions.	TEST TAKERS WHO SCORE AROUND 450 TYPICALLY HAVE WEAKNESSES ONLY WHEN THE INFORMATION TESTED IS PARTICULARLY DENSE OR INVOLVES DIFFICULT VOCABULARY.	
≈300 points	not supported by repetition. They can understand details when the information is paraphrased or when negative constructions are present.  TEST TAKERS WHO SCORE AROUND 300 TYPICALLY HAVE THE FOLLOWING STRENGTHS:  They can sometimes infer the central idea, purpose, and basic context of short spoken exchanges, especially when the vocabulary is not difficult.  They can understand the central idea, purpose, and basic context of extended spoken texts when this information is supported by repetition or paraphrase.  They can understand details in short spoken exchanges when easy or medium-level vocabulary is used.	TEST TAKERS WHO SCORE AROUND 300 TYPICALLY HAVE THE FOLLOWING WEAKNESSES:  They have difficulty understanding the central idea, purpose, and basic context of short spoken exchanges when conversational responses are indirect or difficult to predict or when the vocabulary is difficult.  They do not understand the central idea, purpose, and basic context of extended spoken texts when it is necessary to connect information within the text or when difficult vocabulary is used.  They do not understand details in short spoken exchanges when language is syntactically complex or when difficult vocabulary is used. They do not usually understand details that include negative constructions.  They do not understand details in extended spoken texts when it is necessary to connect information across the text or when the information is not supported by repetition. They do not understand most paraphrased information or difficult grammatical constructions.	≈3 poii	nts	TEST TAKERS WHO SCORE AROUND 350 TYPICALLY HAVE THE FOLLOWING STRENGTHS:  • They can infer the central idea and purpose of a written text, and they can make inferences about details.  • They can read for meaning. They can understand factual information, even when it is paraphrased.  • They can connect information across a small area within a text, even when the vocabulary and grammar of the text are difficult.  • They can understand medium-level vocabulary. They can sometimes understand difficult vocabulary in context, unusual meanings of common words, and idiomatic usage.  • They can understand rule-based grammatical structures. They can also understand difficult, complex, and uncommon grammatical constructions.	TEST TAKERS WHO SCORE AROUND 350 TYPICALLY HAVE THE FOLLOWING WEAKNESSES:  They do not connect information across a wide area within a text.  They do not consistently understand difficult vocabulary, unusual meanings of common words, or idiomatic usage. They usually cannot make distinctions between the meanings of closely related words.	
	<ul> <li>They can understand details in extended spoken texts when the information is supported by repetition and when the requested information comes at the beginning or end of the spoken text. They can understand details when the information is slightly paraphrased.</li> </ul>		≈ 25 poin	<ul> <li>FOLLOWING STRENGTHS:</li> <li>They can make simple inferences based on a limited amount of text.</li> <li>They can locate the correct answer to a factual question when the language of the text matches the information that is required. They can sometimes answer a factual question</li> </ul>	TEST TAKERS WHO SCORE AROUND 250 TYPICALLY HAVE THE FOLLOWING WEAKNESSES:  They do not understand inferences that require paraphrase or connecting information. They have a very limited ability to understand factual information expressed as a paraphrase using difficult vocabulary. They often depend on finding words and phrases		
≈ 200 points	TEST TAKERS WHO SCORE AROUND 200 TYPICALLY HAVE THE FOLLOWING STRENGTHS:  • They can understand short (single-sentence) descriptions of the central idea of a photograph.  • They can sometimes understand the central idea, purpose, and basic context of extended spoken texts when this information is supported by a lot of repetition and easy vocabulary.  • They can understand details in short spoken exchanges and descriptions	FOLLOWING WEAKNESSES:  They do not understand the central idea, purpose, or basic context of short spoken exchanges, even when the language is direct and no unexpected information is supported by a lot of extended spoken texts when it is necessary to connect information across the			when the answer is a simple paraphrase of the information in the text.  They can sometimes connect information within one or two sentences.  They can understand easy vocabulary, and they can sometimes understand medium-level vocabulary.  They can understand common, rule-based grammatical structures. They can make correct grammatical choices, even when other features of language, such as difficult vocabulary or the need to connect information, are present.	in the text that match the same words and phrases in the question.  They usually do not connect information beyond two sentences.  They do not understand difficult vocabulary, unusual meanings of common words, or idiomatic usage. They usually cannot make distinctions between the meanings of closely related words.  They do not understand more-difficult, complex, or uncommon grammatical constructions.	
	of photographs when the vacabulary is easy and when there is only a small amount of text that must be understood.  They can understand details in extended spoken texts when the requested information comes at the beginning or end of the text and when it matches	They do not understand details in <i>short</i> spoken exchanges when somewhat difficult vocabulary is used or when the language is syntactically complex. They do not understand details that include negative constructions.  They do not understand details in <i>extended</i> spoken texts when the	≈ I poii		FOLLOWING STRENGTHS:  • They can locate the correct answer to a factual question when not very much reading is necessary and when the language of the text matches the information that is required.  • They can understand easy vocabulary and common phrases.	FOLLOWING WEAKNESSES:  They cannot make inferences about information in written texts.  They do not understand paraphrased factual information. They rely on matching words and phrases in the text to answer questions.	

not very much reading is necessary.

• They can understand the most-common, rule-based grammatical constructions when

# **SPEAKING**

## TOEIC® SPEAKING AND WRITING TESTS PROFICIENCY LEVEL DESCRIPTORS

## 190-200 Level 8

SCALED SCORE

160-180

Level 7

SCALED SCORE

130-150

Level 6

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.

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

plicated request. However, at least part of the time, the reasons

for or explanations of the opinion are unclear to a listener This

•unclear pronunciation or inappropriate intonation or stress

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

#### 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 guestions and give basic information. When reading aloud, test

takers at Level 7 are highly intelligible.

Typically, test takers at Level 6 are able to create a relevant re- mistakes in grammar sponse when asked to express an opinion or respond to a com-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.

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 creat-

ing language, their pronunciation, intonation and stress may be

SCALED SCORE 110-120 Level 5

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

may be because of the following:

when the speaker must create language

• limited expression of ideas and connections between ideas

SCALED SCORE 80-100 Level 4

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

**SCALED SCORE** 60-70 Level 3

**SCALED SCORE** 

40-50

Level 2

0-30

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 guestions and give basic information. Typically, test takers at Level 3

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 guestions and giving basic information, test takers at Level 2

**SCALED SCORE** Typically, test takers at Level 1 leave a significant part of the unot have the listening or reading skills in English necessary to TOEIC® Speaking Test unanswered. Test takers at Level 1 may Level 1

severely limited vocabulary

a limited range of 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."

have insufficient vocabulary or grammar skills to create simple

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."

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."

understand the test directions and/or questions.

#### **LEVEL PRONUNCIATION** INTONATION AND STRESS When reading aloud, use of intonation and stress is highly High When reading aloud, pronunciation is highly intelligible. When reading aloud, pronunciation is generally intelligible with When reading aloud, use of intonation and stress is generally Medium some lapses When reading aloud, use of intonation and stress is generally not Low When reading aloud, pronunciation is not generally intelligible.

### 200 Level 9

140-160

Level 7

SCALED SCORE

110-130

Level 6

90-100

Level 5

SCALED SCORE

70-80

Level 4

SCALED SCORE

50-60

Level 3

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

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

SCALED SCORE Typically, test takers at Level 8 can communicate straightforward information effectively and use reasons, examples or explanations to support an 170-190 Level 8

When giving straightforward information, asking guestions, giving instructions or making requests, their writing is clear, coherent and effective. When using reasons, examples or explanations to support an opinion,

SCALED SCORE Typically, test takers at Level 7 can effectively give straightforward information, ask questions, give instructions or make requests but are only partially

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

> 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 guestions, giving instructions or making requests, their message omits important information or is partly unintelligible.

SCALED SCORE 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

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

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

Typically, test takers at Level 3 have limited ability to express an opinion and to give straightforward information. When giving straightforward infor- mation, asking guestions, 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

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

- frequent grammatical mistakes or incorrect word choices

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.

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

When attempting to explain an opinion, their writing presents relevant ideas and some support. Typical weaknesses at this level include:

- successful when using reasons, examples or explanations to support an • not providing enough specific support and development for the main
  - unclear connections between the points that are made
  - grammatical mistakes or incorrect word choices

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
- unclear connections between the points that are made
- grammatical mistakes or incorrect word choices

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

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
- inadeguate 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. 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.

#### SCALED SCORE 40 Level 2

- not including any of the important information
- missing or obscure connections between ideas

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 sen-

SCALED SCORE 0-30 Level 1

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.