

About the Test





The TOEFL Primary® Writing test provides information about the English-language proficiency of young English learners in countries where English is not typically used in daily life. The information on the score report indicates their current level of English writing proficiency. This information can be used by teachers and parents to place learners in the appropriate English class, inform English instruction and monitor progress in learning English. TOEFL Primary scores do not predict future scores on other TOEFL® tests.

Levels and Scores

Score reports include both levels and scores. Writing levels are shown as ribbons. Proficiency descriptors and next steps for learning are provided for each level. The descriptors and next steps are appropriate for typical students at that level but may not apply to all students. Student ability includes skills at that level and levels below.

Scores are shown at the bottom of the score report. The score range is 0–17. Scores can help show student progress within a level. See the chart below for more information about the relationship between levels and scores:

TOEFL Primary Writing Scores

Level	Score	CEFR
Typical students at this level:		
 Produce short, coherent texts with details and mostly accurate language use	17	B1
	16	
 Describe familiar situations and begin to connect ideas in narratives	15	A2
	14	
	13	
	12	
	11	
 Describe some objects, places, and routines and begin to write narrative texts	10	A1
	9	
	8	
	7	
 Describe familiar situations using words and phrases	6	Below A1
	5	
	4	
	3	
	2	
	1	
	0	

CEFR Levels

The Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) is a widely used tool for understanding different stages of language development and proficiency. The CEFR provides descriptors of language performance across a broad range of tasks. CEFR descriptors that reflect young language learner ability are used to evaluate both TOEFL Primary test content and sample student written responses to determine the student's proficiency level according to the CEFR. Large age differences should be kept in mind when comparing CEFR levels across different assessments.

Recommended Score Validity — One Year

It is recommended that scores not be used beyond one year due to rapid development of English proficiency by younger learners. Scores can be considered valid beyond one year if the student has provided evidence of having maintained the same level of English-language learning.