

Speaking Test Overview

The *TOEFL Primary* Speaking test measures young learners' ability to communicate orally in routine social situations related to their daily lives. Test questions are administered via computer or tablet, and a headset is provided to students for listening to prompts and speaking their responses. The communication goals assessed in the Speaking test are:

- Giving simple descriptions
- Expressing basic emotions, feelings, and opinions
- Making simple requests
- Asking questions
- Giving directions
- Explaining and sequencing simple events

The recorded responses are scored by trained raters at ETS.

The Speaking test starts by asking students some basic questions about themselves to make sure their headsets work properly. Then, students are introduced to a storyline and characters who guide them through the test questions. The first prompt is an unscored practice question that gives students a chance to become more comfortable with the computer setup and the format of the test. Test prompts include audio, picture, and video elements. Each question has a time limit, and the time limit varies by question type. The longest amount of time allotted for a response is 30 seconds.

Students can practice sample questions for the Speaking test online at https://www.ets.org/toefl_primary/prepare.

Test Structure

The *TOEFL Primary* Speaking test has between 7 and 10 questions, and it takes about 20 minutes to complete.

Test	Number of Questions	Time
Speaking	7–10	20 minutes

Task Types

The following task types are scored using a 3-point rubric:

- **Description:** The student will see a picture and a character will ask the student to describe things that look strange in the picture.
Response time: 20 seconds
- **Expression:** A character will present some pictures and ask the test taker to choose 1 and express some thoughts or opinions about it.
Response time: 15 seconds
- **Requests:** A character will ask the test taker to make a request of another character in the story.
Response time: 5–15 seconds
- **Questions:** A character will present an object and invite the test taker to ask 3 questions about it.
Response time: 30 seconds

The following task types are scored using a 5-point rubric:

- **Directions:** Either a video or a sequence of pictures appearing one by one will show a character performing an activity. Afterwards, the test taker will be asked to explain how to do the activity that was shown.
Response time: 30 seconds
- **Narration:** The test taker will watch a video or view a sequence of pictures. After watching the animation or seeing the pictures, test takers will be asked to tell a story based on what they saw in the animation or pictures.
Response time: 30 seconds

The Speaking test may also include some unscored questions used for warm-up or research purposes.