

# UNDERSTANDING YOUR ITP SCORES

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The information in this section will help you understand your scores when you receive them. For this reason, you should keep this handbook and refer to it when you get your scores. You will receive no other information about interpreting your scores.

## How Your Scores Are Reported

Test scores include three section scores and a total score. Each correct answer counts equally toward the score for that section. There is no penalty for wrong answers. The total number of correct answers is called the “raw score.” (NOTE: Some of the questions in the test may not count toward the section or total scores.)

The raw score for each section is converted by statistical means to a number on a scale. ITP TOEFL section scores are reported as scaled scores that can range from 31 to 68; total scores are reported on a scale that can range from 310 to 677. Because the Pre-TOEFL test contains less difficult questions than the ITP TOEFL test, and because it is shorter, it provides effective measurement in the 20-50 score range for each section and in the 200-500 score range for the total score. For Pre-TOEFL, 50 and 500 are the maximum obtainable scores. The scaled scores are the ones that appear on score reports.

Scores on the ITP TOEFL and Pre-TOEFL tests are comparable in the 310 to 500 range. Pre-TOEFL does not report scores above 500; ITP TOEFL does not report scores below 310.

The scaled score for each section is simply an indication of the examinee's performance on that section. It is neither the number nor the percentage of questions he or she answered correctly.

The process used to convert your raw scores to scaled scores is called score equating. Score equating ensures that test scores are equal for persons of equal proficiency regardless of the difficulty level of the particular test taken. Scaled scores are equated by methods based on item response theory.

To obtain the total score, add the scaled scores for each section and multiply by ten thirds. The example shows how the three scaled section scores are used to obtain the total score.

	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3		
<b>Example:</b>	46	+	54	+	50 = 150
	$(150 \times 10) \div 3 = 500$				

Test scores cannot be perfectly precise. A person's score can vary just by chance from one test administration to another, even when there is no change in the person's true proficiency. The standard error of measurement is the index that describes the degree of precision in a measurement. In the case of the ITP TOEFL test, the standard error of measurement of the total score is approximately 14 scaled score points. This means that if an examinee's "true" proficiency score — the score the person would earn if the test could measure his or her ability with perfect precision — is, for example, 560, the chances are about two out of three that the person's observed score will be somewhere between 546 and 574 (560 plus or minus 14).

## Scores Obtained on Different Editions of the Test

Although every effort is made to keep the level of difficulty of each edition of the test the same, slight differences in difficulty do occur. However, the method of scoring the test takes even these minor differences into account. As an example, a total score of 500 on one edition of the test represents the same level of English proficiency — as measured by the test — as a score of 500 on another edition.

## Acceptable Scores

Each institution determines for itself what scores, or ranges of scores, are acceptable. These vary from institution to institution, depending on such factors as field of study and level of study (graduate or undergraduate). In general, a total score of 600 or above is considered excellent and a score below 400 inadequate. However, an acceptable score depends entirely on the requirements of the institution. There is no specific passing or failing score for the ITP TOEFL or Pre-TOEFL test.

If you have questions about how your scores have been interpreted, contact the institution that administered the test.

## Interpreting Your ITP TOEFL Scores

The table below provides information about candidates who took the international TOEFL test in 1998-1999. Please note that since the ITP program uses older forms of the international TOEFL test and is administered separately from the international TOEFL test, scores on the ITP test cannot be represented as official TOEFL scores. The table is for your general guidance only.

To illustrate the use of the table, let us assume that your total score is 500. Your section scores are 46 on Section 1 (Listening Comprehension), 54 on Section 2 (Structure and Written Expression), and 50 on Section 3 (Reading Comprehension).

First, look at the area in the table labeled "Total Score." Then, in the column under "Your Score," find the score 500. In the "Percentile Rank" column, opposite the 500, is the number 30. This number means that you achieved a higher score on the total test than approximately 30 percent of all people who took it from July 1998 through June 1999.\*

Now, look at the area labeled "Section Scores." For Section 1, look for 46 under "Your Score." The next column, "Percentile Rank," shows that you achieved a higher score on Section 1 than approximately 20 percent of all who took the test. For Section 2, find the score of 54 under "Your Score." By reading across, you can see that you achieved a higher score than approximately 49 percent of the examinees on Section 2. For Section 3, the table shows you that, with a score of 50, you achieved a higher score than approximately 26 percent of all those who took the test.

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\*The percentile rank for each score point is defined as the percentage of examinees scoring below, plus one-half of the percentage of examinees who achieved that score.

**TOEFL SCORE COMPARISON TABLE**

(based on the scores of 340,223 examinees  
who took the test from July 1998 – June 1999)

<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>		<b>SECTION SCORES</b>					
		<b>Section 1</b>		<b>Section 2</b>		<b>Section 3</b>	
<b>Your Score</b>	<b>Percentile Rank</b>	<b>Your Score</b>	<b>Percentile Rank</b>	<b>Your Score</b>	<b>Percentile Rank</b>	<b>Your Score</b>	<b>Percentile Rank</b>
660	99	66	99	66	96	66	99
640	97	64	97	64	91	64	94
620	92	62	95	62	87	62	88
600	86	60	90	60	80	60	80
580	77	58	84	58	70	58	70
560	66	56	75	56	60	56	58
540	54	54	65	54	49	54	47
520	42	52	54	52	39	52	36
500	30	50	41	50	30	50	26
480	21	48	30	48	21	48	19
460	14	46	20	46	15	46	13
440	9	44	12	44	10	44	9
420	5	42	6	42	6	42	6
400	3	40	4	40	4	40	4
380	1	38	2	38	2	38	3
360	1	36	1	36	1	36	2
340		34		34		34	1
320							