

1 Michael Buckhoff's 7 Step System to Pass the TOEFL iBT Copy and paste link into your browser for an audio explanation of this document: <http://www.bettertoefl.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/explanation-of-your-independent-speaking-score.wma>

Score	Scaled Score	General Description	Delivery	Language Use	Topic Development	Suggested Lessons
4.00	30	You have completely answered the question, and it is very easy to understand what you are saying. You speak with sustained, coherent speech and do all of the following:	You speak clearly with a fluid expression of ideas with minor pauses and difficulties with pronunciation or intonation patterns. However, these minor problems do not affect your overall intelligibility.	You use effective grammar and vocabulary with natural sounding expressions and structures. You have good control of basic and complex grammatical structures, although you have minor or systematic errors which do not affect the meaning of your ideas.	Your response does not include too many awkward pauses and is sufficient to the speaking task; moreover, you have a well-developed and organized response in that it is easy to understand the relationship of your ideas.	None.
3.83	29	You have appropriately addressed the speaking task, but you have not fully developed your ideas. Your speech is mostly understandable, with some fluidity of expression, but you have some awkward pauses as you express your ideas. Your response is characterized by at least two of the following:	Your speech is mostly clear with some fluidity of expression, but you have some minor difficulties with pronunciation, intonation, or pacing, which are noticeable and require listener effort at times. However, your overall intelligibility is not significantly affected.	Your response displays fairly natural sounding grammar and vocabulary and fairly coherent expression of ideas connected to the task. However, sometimes, your response demonstrates imprecise or incorrect use of vocabulary or grammar structures or you are limited in the range of structures used in that you have a tendency to use basic grammar. Some of these problems affect your overall fluency, but these problems do not affect the	Your response is mostly coherent and conveys relevant information to the task. However, the development of your response is limited in that you need to more fully explain your ideas and use more specific details to support your generalizations. Sometimes, relationships between your ideas are not immediately clear.	Pronun Lessons 41-48
3.66	28		Speaking Lessons 2.1, 7			
3.50	27					
3.33	26					
3.16	24					
3.00	23					

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				communication of your ideas		
2.83	22	Your response is connected to the task, but you are missing important information.	Although your speech is basically understandable, listener effort is needed because of unclear articulation, awkward intonation, or choppy, fragmented, telegraphic, and frequent pauses and hesitations.	Your response demonstrates limited range and control of grammar and vocabulary, and these limitations prevent you from fully expressing your ideas. Avoiding the more complex structures, you usually use basic grammar and sentence structures accurately. You express mainly simple and unclear connections among your ideas (serial listing, conjunction, juxtaposition).	Your response is connected to the task, but the ideas you discuss are limited. In fact, you mostly express basic ideas with limited details and support. At times, you communicate your ideas very unclearly and repetitously. Connections of ideas are unclear in parts of your response.	Vocabulary Lesson 4
2.66	20	You have some understandable speech but, because of problems with intelligibility and overall connectedness of ideas, your meaning is obscured. Your response has at least two of the following weaknesses:				Pronun Lessons 26-40
2.50	19					Grammar Lessons 1-2
2.33	18					Grammar Lesson 7: focus on writing exercises
2.16	17					
2.00	15					Speaking Lesson 2

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1.83	14	Your response is very limited in what you say, and you have NOT organized your ideas around the speaking task. For the most part, I can not understand what you are saying. Your response has at least two of the following problems:	Throughout your response, you have problems with stress, and intonation difficulties make it difficult to understand you. How you give your response is choppy, fragmented, or telegraphic, meaning that the leave out prepositions, determiners, and helping verbs. You have frequent pauses and hesitations.	Your range and control of vocabulary and grammar is so severely limited that these limitations prevent you from fully expressing your ideas. Additionally, you do not connect the different parts of your response very well. You may rely heavily on memorized expressions or templates that you have practiced.	Your response has limited relevant content except the expression of some very basic ideas. You are unable to use sustained speech, and you rely heavily on repeating the prompt a lot without providing specific details to support your generalizations	Vocabulary Lesson 3
1.66	13					Pronun Lessons 1-24
1.50	11					Grammar Lesson 7: focus on grammar and ESL exercises
1.33	10					
1.16	9					
1.00	8					Speaking Lesson 1
0.83 0.66 0.50 0.33 0.16	6 5 4 3 1	You have made no	attempt to respond to	the task, or your response	is unrelated to the topic.	None.
0.0	0	You have not said	anything in your	response.		None.