TOEFL iBT™ Update
CGS Summer Workshop

Kathy Pruner
Global Client Relations
The TOEFL® Test Today

- The TOEFL Internet-based test (iBT)
  - 95% of all TOEFL testing
- The TOEFL Paper-based test (PBT)
  - Used in countries where TOEFL iBT™ is not yet available
  - Supplements TOEFL iBT in a limited number of areas
- The TSE® (Test of Spoken English™)
  - Available upon request in PBT locations
- All TOEFL scores are valid for two years
- The TOEFL Computer-based test (CBT)
  - Discontinued September 2006
  - Scores no longer valid or reported
TOEFL® Internet-based Test (iBT)

- Tests all four skills: Reading, Listening, Speaking, Writing
- 100% academic
- Emphasizes communicative English – focuses on how well students use English, not just what they know about it
- Integrated questions require students to combine skills to formulate responses
  - Indicate whether students can summarize, evaluate, compare and synthesize information from multiple sources
- Integrated questions:
  - Read + Listen > Speak in response
  - Read + Listen > Write in response
  - Listen > Speak in response
Research and Development

• Strong research foundation
  – 143 research reports
  – *Building a Validity Argument for the TOEFL® Test (Test of English as a Foreign Language™)* – edited by Carol A. Chapelle, Mary K. Enright, Joan M. Jamieson

Rigorous Security

– Identification requirements stringently enforced
– State of the art encryption software for delivery of the test to the center and return of test-taker responses to ETS
– Announced and unannounced observations
– Unlike other tests, ETS separates the testing center from the scoring process to maintain the integrity of the scores
– Ongoing Internet search for item dissemination
Scoring You Can Trust

- Fair testing with unbiased, objective scoring
  - Raters see and hear worldwide responses – not just from one country
  - Raters do not know the examinee
  - Three to six raters anonymously score Speaking responses
  - Four ratings for Writing responses
- Highly trained Raters
  - New raters must complete training and pass a certification test
  - Take calibration test each time they begin scoring or change to a different question type
  - Review exemplar responses after a break to refocus attention
  - Continually monitored by Scoring Leaders
  - Scoring Leaders > Content Scoring Leaders > ETS Expert
Innovation in Scoring

In July 2009 the TOEFL® program will begin to use the e-rater® automated scoring engine in a limited and responsible way for Writing

– Integrated writing task
  • Two human raters

– Independent writing task
  • One human rater + one automated rating
Why not only use all automated scoring?

• The kinds of test questions designed for automated scoring only, are more coachable and promote rote learning, not practice of real communication skills

• Integrated questions from the TOEFL test don’t lend themselves to automated scoring

• Combines judgment of human scoring for content and meaning and the consistency of automated scoring for linguistic features
New in 2009

• Faster score turnaround
  – Scores are now available to test takers in two weeks or less
  – Further reductions planned

• Speech samples available to score users
  – Scored speech sample from integrated speaking task
  – One minute in length
  – Available online free of charge to score users
  – Register with ETS and sign confidentiality statement
  – Available for those testing June 24, 2009 onward
New in 2009

Which spoken response to give?

• Best performance? Worst?
• **Median** performance from one of the four integrated speaking tasks
  – Listen > Read > Speak
  OR
  – Listen > Speak
• Some responses may be stronger, others may be weaker, than the one you will hear online
Reviewing TOEFL iBT™
Score Requirements
Considering the use of Section Scores

Many possible ways to achieve a total score of 80:

**Student A**
- Reading – 20
- Listening – 20
- Speaking – 20
- Writing – 20

**Student B**
- Reading – 27
- Listening – 26
- Speaking – 13
- Writing – 14

Score scales: 0 - 30 for Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing sections; 0 - 120 for total score.
Resources for Reviewing Score Requirements

Available on the TOEFL website [www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl)

- TOEFL Score Comparison Tables
- Peer institution requirements
  - Percentile Data
  - Score means listed by total population, native language, native country, gender, and purpose for taking the test (i.e., Undergraduate, Graduate, or Professional License)

Available today or by request from [TOEFLNews@ets.org](mailto:TOEFLNews@ets.org)

- Standard-setting manual on CD-ROM
Comparing Score Requirements to Percentiles and Mean Scores
Graduate Level Example with 2008 Data

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<tr>
<th>Total Score</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentile Equivalent</th>
<th>Mean</th>
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2008 Student Performance
TOEFL iBT™
## TOEFL iBT™ 2008 Total Population

### Scaled Section and Total Score Means

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<tr>
<th>Section</th>
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TOEFL iBT™ 2008 Total Population

Score Means by Test-Taker Purpose

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
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<th>Speaking</th>
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# TOEFL iBT™ 2008

## Total Population Score

Means by Sample Countries

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<th>Native Country</th>
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Services for Score Users
Promote Your Institution

• Record a brief video testimonial about your institution and the TOEFL® test at [www.ets.org/toefl/video](http://www.ets.org/toefl/video)
• Your video will be viewed by more than a million students each month – valuable exposure at no charge

**TOEFL® Channel on the YouTube® Website**

([www.youtube.com/TOEFLtv](http://www.youtube.com/TOEFLtv)) TOEFL and YouTube invites teachers and students to send short videos with tips on:

– Learning English
– Preparing for the TOEFL test
– Studying abroad
TOEFL® Information & Contacts

- TOEFL Website: [www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl)
- Write to us at: [TOEFLNews@ets.org](mailto:TOEFLNews@ets.org)
- TOEFL iBT™ Help Line: 1-609-683-2008
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