

THE REVIEW QUALITY POST

A NEWSLETTER FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN OUR CERTIFICATION
EXAMS



2 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



En este número:

- Noticias
- nuestra comunidad
- pronunciation
- How is the TOEIC Speaking Test scored
- English, what you may not know yet

TOEIC.
ETS authorized
provider

QUIÉNES SOMOS/WHO WE ARE/QUI NOUS SOMMES

- En Review Quality somos responsables de distribuir y aplicar el portafolio de exámenes TOEIC.
- Nuestros instrumentos son los más utilizados en el mundo para evaluar el nivel de dominio de inglés internacional para el trabajo.
- Nuestra página tiene una gran cantidad de información y recursos para formadores, los invitamos a visitarnos:



TOEIC Test México



TOEIC Test México



TOEIC TEST MÉXICO | Review Quality



TOEIC TEST MÉXICO | Review Quality

News Noticias

1



Estamos felices y orgullosos de haber alcanzado un segundo aniversario y vamos por más. Agradecemos a nuestros lectores y a las personas que han colaborado con nosotros, generosamente dedicando unas palabras a nuestra comunidad, sin esperar más que el gusto de expresar opiniones, experiencias y puntos de vista.

2

En el número anterior de nuestra publicación, prometimos compartir con nuestros lectores los criterios de evaluación por medio de los cuales se obtienen los scores de los exámenes TOEIC en sus versiones Speaking y Writing. En este número, cumplimos compartiendo los criterios para The TOEIC Speaking Test, en los próximos números compartiremos los criterios para TOEIC Bridge y para Writing.



BY TERRY SLOANE, INDEPENDENT TOEIC FACILITATOR

Many readers ask us about the way that the productive tests are scored, and we are happy to explain. First, there is a series of descriptors and Can do statements that have been presented by the Common European Framework of Reference and are available for anyone who reads their website: CEFR Descriptors - Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)



HOW IS THE TOEIC SPEAKING TEST SCORED?

Content Editor, RQP

Many readers ask us about the way that the productive tests are scored, and we are happy to explain. First, there is a series of descriptors and Can do statements that have been presented by the Common European Framework of Reference and are available for anyone who reads their website: [CEFR Descriptors - Common European Framework of Reference for Languages \(CEFR\)](#).

These are the bases for the guidelines used by expert raters who follow strict guidelines to grade the TOEIC productive skills tests (Speaking and Writing) to guarantee fair and consistent scoring. They evaluate the recordings and texts that are produced during test administration.

Here are the scoring guides for the TOEIC Speaking Test.

The tables and directions have been retrieved from the “TOEIC Speaking Test Examinee Handbook, available at:

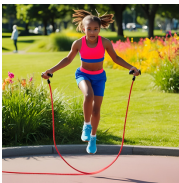
<https://www.toEIC.mx/examen/toEIC-r-speaking-and-writing>

1 - 2: Read a Text Aloud

The directions and Read-a-Text-Aloud text will appear on your screen.

You will hear the directions being read by the narrator. After 45 seconds, you will hear “Begin reading aloud now.” Then you will read the text, and your response will be recorded. An example is below.

Discover our new club, featuring a roofed swimming pool, tennis, padel, and pickleball courts, a fully equipped fitness area for cardio and weightlifting, beautiful gardens, a dog training club, handicrafts room, and a barbecue area. Join us for an open house the last weekend of next month to explore our facilities and be among the lucky neighbors who will receive a 25% discount on their subscription fee. Don't miss this chance to become part of our vibrant community and enjoy top-notch amenities!



Practice

Scoring Guide for Questions 1–2: Pronunciation

SCORE	RESPONSE DESCRIPTION
3	Pronunciation is highly intelligible, though the response may include minor lapses and/or other language influence.
2	Pronunciation is generally intelligible, though it includes some lapses and/or other language influence.
1	Pronunciation may be intelligible at times, but significant other language influence interferes with appropriate delivery of the text.
0	No response OR no English in the response OR response is completely unrelated to the test.

Scoring Guide for Questions 1–2: Intonation and Stress

SCORE	RESPONSE DESCRIPTION
3	Use of emphases, pauses, and rising and falling pitch is appropriate to the text.
2	Use of emphases, pauses, and rising and falling pitch is generally appropriate to the text, though the response includes some lapses and/or moderate other language influence.
1	Use of emphases, pauses, and rising and falling pitch is not appropriate, and the response includes significant other language influence.
0	No response OR no English in the response OR the response is completely unrelated to the test.

Test Prep Essentials:

- Use a pronunciation app to clarify any phonetic doubts.
- Use any text-to-speech tool to model your pronunciation and intonation.
- Keep in mind that intonation is key, practice correct intonation patterns to excel in the test.
- Practice reading aloud and recording yourself.
- Instructors and teachers can share these tips with their classes and/or practice oral skills in every lesson.

3: Describe a Picture

There is one Describe-a-Picture question on the TOEIC Speaking Test. The directions and the picture will appear on your screen. You will hear the directions read by the narrator. After 30 seconds, you will hear “Begin speaking now.” Then you will describe the picture, and your response will be recorded. An example is below.



Test Prep Essentials:

- Train directed attention, so that it is easy to understand the task.
- Train selecting images into static and dynamic.
- Observe the different plains in the image: in the front, in the middle, in the background.
- Improve vocabulary, work on idiomatic expressions, collocations, and phrasal verbs.
- Practice requesting any AI tool to generate images following your instructions.
- Practice writing descriptions of images and then requesting any AI image to check the descriptions for correctness.
- Practice idea organization using diagrams as outlines.
- Practice categorization of ideas and order.

Scoring Guide for Questions 3:

SCORE	RESPONSE DESCRIPTION
3	<p>The response describes the main features of the picture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The delivery may require some listener effort, but it is generally intelligible.• The choice of vocabulary and use of structures allows coherent expression of ideas.
2	<p>The response is connected to the picture, but meaning may be obscured in places.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The delivery requires some listener effort.• The choice of vocabulary and use of structures may be limited and may interfere with overall comprehensibility.
1	<p>The response may be connected to the picture, but the speaker’s ability to produce intelligible language is severely limited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The delivery may require significant listener effort.• The choice of vocabulary and use of structures is severely limited OR significantly interferes with comprehensibility.
0	<p>No response OR no English in the response OR the response is completely unrelated to the test.</p>



4, 5, 6: Respond to Questions

Questions 4–6 are three short questions about a single topic. The directions will appear on your screen, and you will hear the directions read by the narrator. Then the introduction and question 4 will appear on your screen and you will hear them read by the narrator. After the narrator reads question 4, you will hear a beep. Then you will have 15 seconds to answer. Your response will be recorded. Then, question 5 will appear on your screen and be read by the narrator. After the beep you will have 15 seconds to answer. Your response will be recorded. Then question 6 will appear on your screen and be read by the narrator. After the beep you will have 30 seconds to answer. Your response will be recorded. Examples of questions 4, 5, and 6 are below.

Imagine that you are a realtor and that you are showing a house to a potential client. The home is suitable for a middle-class family with kids and pets. The neighborhood is safe and quiet. Answer the following questions:

1. We have two dogs; do you think the house is suitable for them?
2. As soon as we move in, we want to celebrate our daughter's birthday with a barbecue. Do you think this could be possible?
3. In your opinion, what are the pros and cons of this property?

Test Prep Essentials:

- Your opinions will not be of consequence as long as they are socially correct, respond to the question, and follow the prompt.
- Your speech is articulated and easy to follow.
- Your volume is sufficient for the raters to hear your response.
- Your answers are well-organized, cohesive, and coherent.
- Both your pronunciation and intonation are clear.
- Make sure you are surrounded by English stimuli as much as possible.

7, 8, 9: Respond to Questions Using Information Provided

Questions 7–9 are three short questions based on a schedule of events. The directions will appear on your screen, and you will hear the directions read by the narrator. Then the schedule will appear on your screen.

You will have 30 seconds to study the schedule. Then, you will hear the beginning of a telephone call. The call includes questions about the information in the schedule.

After the caller's first question, you will hear a beep. You will have 15 seconds to answer the question as if you were speaking on the telephone. Then the caller will ask a second question. The question will be followed by a beep, and you will have 15 seconds to answer the question.

**BOOST YOUR TEACHING
USING AI TOOLS**

Date: March 1st
Location: The Andorran Institute

Opening: 9 am.
Fear them or Use Them (Talk): 10 am
Teaching with AI (workshop): 11 am
Lunch: 12 pm
Closing: 1 pm

Fee: \$100 (Includes morning coffee break and lunch)
Save your spot: training@andorran.com

Bring your own device: Tablet or Cellphone

Hello, I'm calling about a conference on March 1st that I saw advertised in the newspaper. It's about teaching with AI tools. I was hoping you could give me some information.

(Go to next page)

(from previous page)

7. Could you tell me what time the course starts and how long it will last?
8. How much does the course attendance cost?
9. Do I need to bring my laptop or will it be in a computer lab?

SCORE	RESPONSE DESCRIPTION
3	<p>The response is a full, relevant, socially appropriate reply to the question. In the case of Questions 7–9, information from the prompt is accurate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The delivery requires little listener effort. • The choice of vocabulary is appropriate. • The use of structures fulfills the demands of the task.
2	<p>The response is a partially effective reply to the question, but is not complete, fully appropriate, or in the case of Questions 7–9, fully accurate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The delivery may require some listener effort but is mostly intelligible. • The choice of vocabulary may be limited or somewhat inexact, although overall meaning is clear. • The use of structures may require some listener effort for interpretation. • In the case of Questions 7–9, the speaker may locate the relevant information in the prompt but fail to distinguish it from irrelevant information or fail to transform the written language so a listener can easily understand it.
1	<p>The response does not answer the question effectively. Relevant information is not conveyed successfully.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The delivery may impede or prevent listener comprehension. • The choice of vocabulary may be inaccurate or rely on repetition of the prompt. • The use of structures may interfere with comprehensibility.
0	<p>No response OR no English in the response OR the response is completely unrelated to</p>

10 Propose a Solution

There is one Propose-a-Solution question on the TOEIC Speaking Test. The directions will appear on your screen, and you will hear the directions read by the narrator. Then you will hear a telephone message. The message will last 30–45 seconds. The message will describe a problem.

You will respond as if you are the person receiving the message. After the message, you will have 30 seconds to prepare. Then you will hear “Begin speaking now.” You will have 60 seconds to respond. Your response will be recorded. An example is below.

Respond as if you work at the store.

In your response, be sure to

- show that you recognize the problem, and
- propose a way of dealing with the problem.

Now listen to the voice message.

Hello, I'm calling regarding an issue with an order I placed two weeks ago through your app. I purchased a food processor, and the payment was successfully withdrawn from my bank account. The advertisement mentioned that the item would arrive within three days, but it hasn't arrived yet. Additionally, the item doesn't appear in the "soon to be delivered" section of my account, and the purchase number seems to be non-existent. I have a screenshot of my bank balance showing that the payment was made. This food processor was intended as a present for a bridal shower, which will take place in five days. Could you please assist me in resolving this issue? You can reach me at 555-523-4060 or via email at kim.jun@emailservice.com. Thank you for your help.

ENGLISH: WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW YET

BY JAVIER LICEA

Chief Editor, RQP

The Risks and Opportunities of Using AI to Learn English

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing the way people learn languages, particularly English, which is the global lingua franca for business, technology, and education. AI-powered tools, such as chatbots, language learning apps, and virtual tutors, offer personalized, efficient, and accessible ways to acquire language skills. However, despite these advantages, there are also risks associated with relying on AI for language learning. This essay explores both the opportunities and challenges of using AI to learn English.



Opportunities of Using AI for Learning English

1. Personalized Learning

AI-driven platforms like Duolingo, Babbel, and ChatGPT can tailor lessons to individual learners based on their progress and weaknesses. Unlike traditional classroom settings, where teachers must cater to a diverse group, AI can provide customized exercises, adjust difficulty levels, and offer targeted feedback, making learning more efficient.

2. 24/7 Accessibility

AI tools are available anytime and anywhere, making English learning more flexible. Learners can practice speaking, listening, reading, and writing at their convenience, eliminating the need for scheduled classes or live instructors. This is particularly beneficial for busy professionals and students with varying schedules.

3. Immediate Feedback and Error Correction

AI-powered language platforms can instantly correct grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary mistakes. Apps like Grammarly and Speechling analyze written and spoken English, providing real-time suggestions. This immediate feedback allows learners to identify and correct errors on the spot, reinforcing proper usage.

4. Engagement and Motivation

AI tools use gamification techniques—such as rewards, leaderboards, and interactive exercises—to keep learners engaged. This makes language learning more enjoyable and helps maintain motivation, which is crucial for long-term success.

5. Cost-Effective Learning

Hiring private tutors or attending language schools can be expensive, whereas many AI-based tools are free or available at a lower cost. This democratizes English learning, making it accessible to people regardless of their financial background.

Risks of Using AI for Learning English

1. Lack of Human Interaction

Language is deeply tied to culture and human communication. AI lacks the ability to provide the social and emotional nuances of conversation. Relying solely on AI may result in learners struggling with real-life interactions, where factors like tone, body language, and cultural context play a crucial role.

2. Inaccuracy and Bias

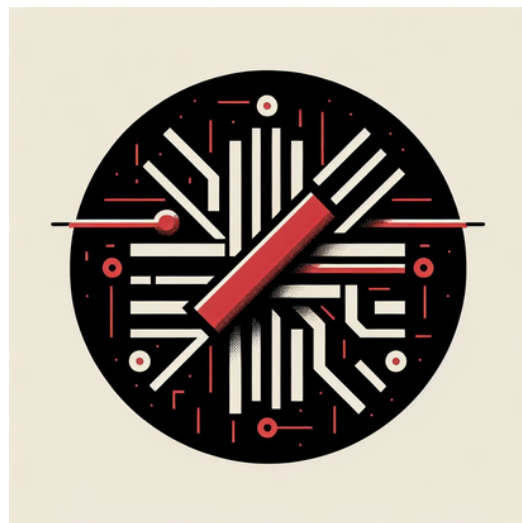
AI systems are not always perfect. They can provide incorrect translations, misinterpret context, or reinforce biases present in training data. Over-reliance on AI-generated responses can lead to misunderstandings and the adoption of unnatural phrasing.

3. Limited Creativity in Language Use

AI is excellent at teaching grammar rules and vocabulary, but it may struggle with the creative and expressive aspects of language. Learning a language involves humor, idioms, and abstract thinking, which AI may not fully grasp or teach effectively.

4. Over-Dependence on Technology

Some learners may become overly reliant on AI tools and neglect traditional language learning methods, such as speaking with native speakers, reading books, or writing essays. This can hinder deeper language acquisition and comprehension.



5. Data Privacy Concerns

Many AI-based language learning platforms collect user data to improve their algorithms. However, there is a risk of personal information being misused or exposed to cyber threats. Learners must be cautious about which platforms they trust with their data.

Conclusion

AI offers significant opportunities for learning English, including personalized education, accessibility, instant feedback, and cost-effective solutions. However, it also presents risks such as lack of human interaction, inaccuracies, and privacy concerns. To maximize the benefits, learners should use AI as a supplement rather than a replacement for traditional language learning methods. A balanced approach that includes AI tools, real-world practice, and cultural immersion will lead to more effective and natural English language proficiency.

THE REVIEW QUALITY POST

REVIEW QUALITY, S.A. de C.V.

Gauss No. 9, Int 103 - C

Colonia Anzures

Ciudad de México C.P 11590

55 5540 35 55 / 55 55 40 39 59

info@toeic.mx

Edición de Contenido y Asesoría Académica:

María Esther Pavón Solana

mestherpavon@toeic.mx

Editor en Jefe:

Javier Licea