

# Reading and Listening Tests Overview

## Assessing Abilities

The *TOEFL Primary* Reading and Listening tests are offered in 2 levels: Step 1 and Step 2. The following describes the difference between the Step 1 and Step 2 tests. It will help you decide which step is best for your students.

<b><i>TOEFL Primary Reading</i></b> Test questions that specifically assess the ability to:	<b>Step 1</b>	<b>Step 2</b>
recognize simple words	√	
understand simple sentences	√	
understand a paragraph of about 75 words on an everyday topic	√	√
understand 2–4 simple sentences about a topic	√	√
find information in menus, schedules and posters	√	√
locate and connect information within a sentence or a paragraph	√	√
interpret information in menus, schedules or posters	√	√
understand sentences that are more complex and include less familiar vocabulary		√
understand a paragraph on an academic subject		√
understand a sequence of instructions		√
understand a story of about 250 words		√
connect information throughout a text		√
infer and draw conclusions		√

<b><i>TOEFL Primary Listening</i></b> Test questions that specifically assess the ability to:	<b>Step 1</b>	<b>Step 2</b>
recognize simple words	√	
comprehend commonly used expressions and phrases	√	
identify details in short social conversations	√	√
understand simple directions heard at home and at school	√	√
understand the purpose of phone messages and classroom announcements of about 50 words	√	√
understand conversations and messages that contain less familiar vocabulary		√
understand stories and simple academic texts of about 250 words		√
connect information within teacher instructions, messages, stories, dialogues, conversations, and simple academic texts		√
infer and draw conclusions from spoken texts		√

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## Question Types

The following describes the question types represented on the Step 1 and Step 2 tests. You can find examples of the types of questions that students will experience on pages 11–17.

<b>TOEFL Primary Reading</b> Contains the following question types:	<b>Step 1</b>	<b>Step 2</b>
<b>Match picture to text</b> – Students see a picture and 3 written options. Students select the option that matches the picture.	√	
<b>Sentence clues</b> – Students read a short description and select the option that matches what is described.	√	√
<b>Reading sets</b> – Students read a passage (correspondence, telegraphic, instructional, narrative, expository) and answer 2-4 questions about the passage.		
The passage may be <i>a single</i> paragraph or may be of another type (menu, schedule, poster, set of directions, etc.).	√	√
The passage may be <i>more than 1</i> paragraph in the form of a narrative or an informational text.		√

<b>TOEFL Primary Listening</b> Contains the following question types:	<b>Step 1</b>	<b>Step 2</b>
<b>Listen and match to a picture</b> – Students see 3 pictures and listen to a sentence. Students select the picture that matches the sentence they heard.	√	
<b>Listen to directions</b> – Students see 3 pictures and hear some directions. Students select the picture that shows the person(s) who followed the directions they heard.	√	√
<b>Basic conversations</b> – Students hear 3 versions of a 2-turn conversation. Only 1 of the 3 versions makes sense. Students select the correct version of the conversation.	√	
<b>Details in conversations</b> – Students listen to a conversation and answer a question about a detail in the conversation. The question and answer choices are both spoken on the audio track and shown in the test book.	√	√
<b>Messages</b> – Students listen to a message and answer a question about the message. The question and answer choices are both spoken on the audio track and shown in the test book.	√	√
<b>Listening sets</b> – Students listen to an academic or narrative passage and answer 3-4 questions about the passage. The questions are both spoken on the audio track and printed in the test book.		√