

Use cases for the speaking section of the TOEFL test:

College Admissions - Many universities and colleges in English-speaking countries use the TOEFL speaking section as a criterion for admission, particularly for international students who want to study in English.

Employment Opportunities - Some companies require their employees to have a certain level of English proficiency, and the speaking section of the TOEFL test can demonstrate this.

Scholarships - Some scholarship programs may require a certain level of English proficiency, and the speaking section of the TOEFL test can demonstrate this.

English Language Learning - The speaking section of the TOEFL test can be used as a tool for learners to practice their speaking skills and improve their proficiency.

4. Some experts believe that a strong accent may negatively impact TOEFL speaking scores because it can make it more difficult for listeners to understand the speaker. In this way, a strong accent can interfere with the listener's ability to comprehend the speaker's message, making it harder for the speaker to communicate effectively.

Examples of accents affecting TOEFL speaking scores:

A speaker with a heavy accent may need help to communicate their ideas effectively, leading to a lower score in the speaking section of the TOEFL test.

A speaker with a regional accent may need help making themselves understood by listeners unfamiliar with their pronunciation, leading to a lower score in the speaking section.

A speaker with a strong accent may need help to articulate their words clearly, making it easier for listeners to comprehend their message, leading to a lower score in the speaking section.

Examples of research studies that have explored the impact of accent on TOEFL speaking scores:

A study conducted in 2011 found that speakers with a stronger accent tended to receive lower speaking scores on the TOEFL test compared to speakers with a neutral accent.

A study conducted in 2016 found that speakers with a strong accent did not necessarily receive lower speaking scores on the TOEFL test as long as they could communicate their ideas and messages effectively.

A study conducted in 2018 found that accent had a minimal impact on TOEFL speaking scores and that pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary were the primary factors affecting speaking scores.

Use cases for understanding the impact of accent on TOEFL speaking scores:

College Admissions - Understanding the effect of accents on TOEFL speaking scores may help colleges and universities better evaluate the English proficiency of international students and make more informed admissions decisions.

English Language Learning - Understanding the impact of accents on TOEFL speaking scores may help English language learners focus on the areas that will improve their speaking scores and demonstrate their English proficiency.

8. Some language testers argue that accent can impact scores because it affects how well the test taker is understood by the person rating the response. In this view, if a test taker has a strong accent, it may be easier for the rater to know what they are saying, which can lead to a lower score.