

Frequently Asked Questions about the Test of Spoken English (TSE)

The Test of Spoken English measures the ability of nonnative speakers of English to communicate orally in English. The test is approximately 20 minutes long.

Your performance on the Test of Spoken English indicates how your oral language ability might affect your ability to communicate successfully in an academic or professional environment. TSE scores are used by many North American institutions of higher education to select international teaching assistants, sometimes called ITAs. The scores also are used for selecting and certifying health professionals, such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists, and veterinarians.

The test requires you to demonstrate your ability to communicate in English by responding orally on tape under timed conditions to a variety of printed and recorded information.

On the day of the test, an interviewer on tape will ask you questions. The questions will be printed in the test book, and the time you will have to answer each one is printed in parentheses after the questions.

While most of the questions on the test may not appear to be directly related to your academic or professional field, each question is designed to tell the raters how well you communicate in English.

Important: While the TSE test is given at some TOEFL test locations, it is NOT administered as part of the TOEFL test. It is administered separately.

TSE Test Fee

For the period of July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003, the TSE test fee is US\$125 for all persons. See [TSE Testing and Service Fees](#) for acceptable forms of payment.

You will find all of this information plus more in-depth information @ www.toefl.org

The TSE is one of the examinations that you will need to pass to complete your Visa screen. Most nurses will put the spoken test off till the end. Most nurses find this to be the most difficult test to take. It is best to study hard for this test and get it behind you. You can purchase study materials from the online store at the TOEFL website and it is not expensive.

Testing and Reporting Schedule Outside the United States and Canada

Test Date ⁽¹⁾	Registration Deadline Date ⁽²⁾	Score Report Mailing Date ⁽³⁾
July 13, 2002	May 27, 2002	August 21, 2002
August 24, 2002	July 8, 2002	October 2, 2002
September 14, 2002	July 29, 2002	October 23, 2002
October 19, 2002	September 2, 2002	November 27, 2002
November 16, 2002	September 30, 2002	December 27, 2002
December 13, 2002	October 28, 2002	January 22, 2003
January 18, 2003	December 2, 2002	February 26, 2003
February 15, 2003	December 30, 2002	March 26, 2003
March 14, 2003	January 27, 2003	April 23, 2003
April 12, 2003	February 24, 2003	May 21, 2003
May 10, 2003	March 24, 2003	June 18, 2003
June 6, 2003	April 21, 2003	July 16, 2003

The registration fee for the Test of Spoken English through June 2003 is US\$125.

⁽¹⁾ Not all test centers are open on all dates. Check the **Information Bulletin for the Test of Spoken English** for the center of your choice.

⁽²⁾ This is the date when your registration form must be received by the TSE office for your country or area. Many test centers fill up quickly. To ensure the center of your choice has space for you, register early. To register for one of the above test dates, you **must** use the registration form in the Information Bulletin.

⁽³⁾ [Score reports](#) will be mailed approximately five weeks after the day of the test. Under no circumstances can score reports be **mailed** any earlier.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Test of Spoken English (TSE)

1. What is the Test of Spoken English?

The Test of Spoken English is a standardized test that measures the ability of nonnative speakers of English to communicate orally in North American English. The test is approximately 20 minutes long and is delivered via audio-recording equipment and a test book. An interviewer on the test tape leads the examinee through the test; the examinee responds into a microphone, and the responses are recorded on an answer tape. A complete 12-question [sample test](#) is available for review.

2. How are TSE scores used?

TSE scores are used by many intensive English programs and North American institutions of higher education to select international teaching assistants. The scores also are used for selecting and certifying education professionals, such as bilingual teachers and overseas beginning teachers of English, as well as health professionals, such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists, and veterinarians.

3. What do the registration categories TSE-A and TSE-P mean?

Although the test itself is the same, there are two separate TSE registration categories: TSE-A (academic) and TSE-P (professional).

TSE-A is for teaching and research assistant applicants who have been asked to take the TSE test by the admissions office or department chair of an academic institution. TSE-A is also for other undergraduate or graduate school applicants.

TSE-P is for all other individuals, such as those who are taking the test to obtain licensure or certification in a professional or occupational field.

4. Where is the test given?

The test is administered 12 times a year at centers around the world under strict, standardized procedures designed to protect the security of the test. The test can be taken once a month on either [Friday or Saturday](#). Check the [test center list](#) to see where the test is being given. Every test center is open to every properly registered person regardless of race, color, creed, or national origin.

5. How can I register?

Complete the registration form contained in the center of the Information Bulletin for the Test of Spoken English and return it by the [appropriate registration date](#) .

6. How much does the test cost?

US\$125

7. **What will I need to be admitted to the test center?**

You'll need an admission ticket or official authorization, your official [identification document](#), and a completed photo file record with a recent photo attached.

8. **When will I receive my admission ticket?**

About two weeks before the test. If you have not received it five days before the test date, Call [TOEFL/TSE Services](#) -- Princeton, or if you are testing in India, Korea, or Taiwan, contact your local [TSE representative](#).

9. **Once I take the test, how long will it take for me to get my scores?**

Score reports will be mailed approximately four weeks after the day of the test. Under no circumstances can score reports be **mailed** any earlier.

10. **What is the best way for me to prepare?**

To familiarize yourself with the format of the test, the time frames, and the type of questions that are asked, you should review the [sample test](#). Since you will be required to record your answers on an audiocassette, you might want to record your practice responses on tape, and then listen to hear how your speech sounds. It is important to speak clearly and to answer all the questions as completely as possible since the raters of the speech sample will need to evaluate the proficiency level based on what is recorded. There are no official test preparation materials for the TSE, and the program does not operate, license, endorse, or recommend any schools or study materials that claim to prepare people for the test in a short time or that promise them high scores on the test.

11. **How can I contact TOEFL/TSE Services?**

by Mail:

TOEFL/TSE Services
PO Box 6151
Princeton, NJ 08541-6151, USA

by Telephone:

1-609-771-7000, Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., New York time