

English Language Proficiency Score Comparison Table

Australian Migration Law defines four benchmark language proficiency levels for skilled, work and business/Investment visas. The table below sets out the minimum scores for each of the four test components. In points based migration, points are only given for Proficient and Superior English.

	Vocational	Competent	Proficient	Superior
International English Testing System (IELTS)				
- Speaking	5	6	7	8
- Reading	5	6	7	8
- Writing	5	6	7	8
- Listening	5	6	7	8
Occupational English Test (OET)				
- Speaking	B	B	B	A
- Reading	B	B	B	A
- Writing	B	B	B	A
- Listening	B	B	B	A
Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet based (TOEFL iBT)**				
- Speaking	14	18	23	26
- Reading	4	13	24	29
- Writing	14	21	27	30
- Listening	4	12	24	28
Pearsons Test Of English (PTE) Academic				
- Speaking	36	50	65	79
- Reading	36	50	65	79
- Writing	36	50	65	79
- Listening	36	50	65	79

Cambridge Advanced English Test				
- Speaking	154	169	185	200
- Reading	154	169	185	200
- Writing	154	169	185	200
- Listening	154	169	185	200

Functional English Comparison Table

Functional English is defined in Australian Migration Law for 457 visas and is used for secondary applicant visa application charges, where additional application fees are required for applicants below Functional English.

	Functional*
International English Testing System (IELTS)	
- Speaking	4.5
- Reading	4.5
- Writing	4.5
- Listening	4.5
Occupational English Test (OET)	
- Speaking	N/A
- Reading	N/A
- Writing	N/A
- Listening	N/A
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)**	
- Speaking	Total band score of at least 32
- Reading	
- Writing	
- Listening	
Pearsons Test Of English (PTE) Academic	
- Speaking	Total band score of at least 30
- Reading	
- Writing	
- Listening	
Cambridge Advanced English Test	
- Speaking	

*Functional English testing done within 12 months of visa lodgement date, or during visa application processing; Vocational to Superior testing must have been done within 3 years prior to visa lodgement date.

**TOEFL is an Internet Based Test (TOEFL-IBT)

Functional English can also be achieved through either of the following:

- A positive assessment by an Adult Migrant English Program service provider in Australia that you have functional English.
- Completed all years of primary education and at least three years of secondary education in an educational institution in or outside Australia and all instructions were in English.
- Completed at least five years of secondary education in an institution in or outside Australia and all instructions were in English.
- Successfully completed at least one year of full-time study or equivalent part-time study towards a degree, higher degree, diploma, or associate diploma in an institution in Australia and all instructions were in English.
- Completed a degree, a higher degree, a diploma or a trade certificate that required at least two years of full-time study or training in an institution in or outside Australia and all instructions were in English.
- The functional level of the Australian Assessment of Communicative English Skills (ACCESS) test certified by the relevant testing body. Your test must have been completed within 12 months of visa application lodgement or can be completed during visa application processing.