



## EF SET PLUS CORRELATION STUDY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

---

### I. Introduction

Upon launching the EF SET in September, 2014, EF invited Professor Richard M. Luecht of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro to conduct a correlation study investigating the statistical association between EF SET PLUS, IELTS, and TOEFL iBT scores. Professor Luecht designed this independent psychometric study with the following objectives:

- To compare the reliability of EF SET PLUS scores to TOEFL iBT and IELTS scores
- To investigate the correlation between EF SET PLUS scores and TOEFL iBT and IELTS scores

This executive summary presents the main findings. The full reports are available at [www.efset.org](http://www.efset.org).

### II. Summary of Findings

**EF SET PLUS scores are as reliable as TOEFL and IELTS scores.** EF SET PLUS has two sections: reading and listening. The charts below report the comparable reliability coefficients of reading and listening scores for one group of test takers who took both EF SET PLUS and TOEFL iBT, and a separate group of test takers who took EF SET PLUS and IELTS.

a. Higher overall section reliability coefficients compared to TOEFL iBT:

	Reading	Listening
EF SET PLUS	0.95	0.94
TOEFL iBT <sup>1</sup>	0.85	0.85

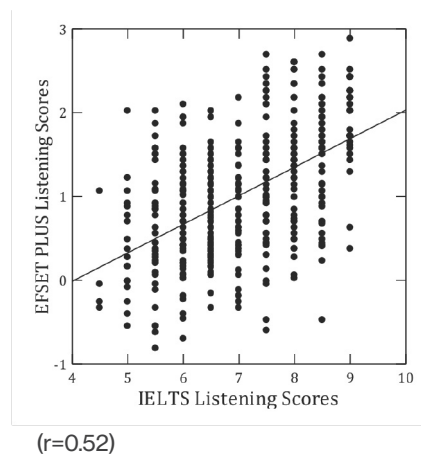
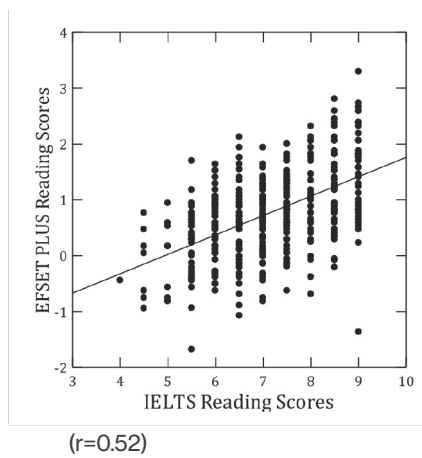
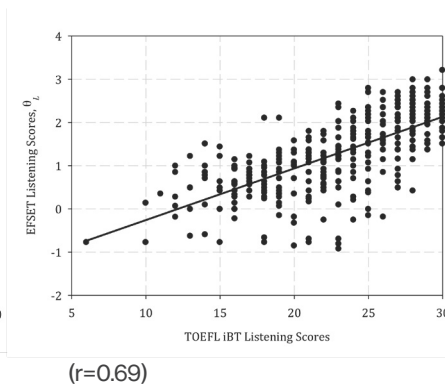
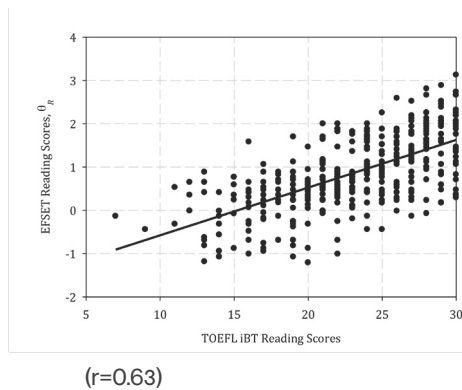
b. Highly comparable section reliability coefficients compared to IELTS:

	Reading	Listening
EF SET PLUS	0.90	0.88
IELTS <sup>2</sup>	0.91	0.90

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.ets.org/s/toefl/pdf/toefl\\_ibt\\_research\\_s1v3.pdf](https://www.ets.org/s/toefl/pdf/toefl_ibt_research_s1v3.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.ielts.org/researchers/analysis\\_of\\_test\\_data/test\\_performance\\_2013.aspx](http://www.ielts.org/researchers/analysis_of_test_data/test_performance_2013.aspx)

**EF SET PLUS is positively correlated with TOEFL and IELTS.** These correlations provide compelling evidence that EF SET PLUS, TOEFL, and IELTS are converging toward measuring common reading and listening proficiency traits.



**EF SET PLUS scores are highly reliable across the entire score scale.** EF SET PLUS measures all language levels, from beginner (A1) to proficient (C2). To learn more about EF SET's score scale, visit: [www.efset.org/english-score](http://www.efset.org/english-score). EF SET PLUS scores' reliability across the EF scale (0-100) is a direct outcome of the adaptive multi-stage testing design.

### III. Scale Comparisons: Total Score

EF SET PLUS	CEFR Level	TOEFL <sup>3</sup>	IELTS <sup>4</sup>
1 - 30	A1 Beginner	N/A	N/A
31 - 40	A2 Elementary	N/A	N/A
41 - 50	B1 Intermediate	42 - 71	4.0 - 5.0
51 - 60	B2 Upper Intermediate	72 - 94	5.5 - 6.5
61 - 70	C1 Advanced	95 - 120	7.0 - 8.0
71 - 100	C2 Proficient	N/A	8.5 - 9.0

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ets.org/toefl/institutions/scores/compare/>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.ielts.org/researchers/common\\_european\\_framework.aspx](http://www.ielts.org/researchers/common_european_framework.aspx)

The comparison table is illustrative and should be used as estimation only.

### IV. About The EF SET PLUS

**The EF SET PLUS is an online standardized English language test developed by EF Education First.** The EF SET PLUS uses the computer multi-stage adaptive test design, whereby the difficulty level of the test content is adjusted real time according to the test taker's unique pattern of correct and incorrect answers. Pegged to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), the EF SET PLUS score scale ranges from 1 to 100, covering all language levels from beginner (A1) to proficient (C2). The test consists of a reading section and a listening section. Maximum time allowed per section is 60 minutes.

Please visit [www.efset.org](http://www.efset.org) for the full research reports, as well as the EF SET Academic and Technical Development Report.