

What 152,218 TOEFL Listen and Repeat Attempts Taught Us

Runtian He, CEO, LingoLeap · Published 2 September 2026 · Version 1.0

THREE FINDINGS

- 1 Longer sentences lose more of the prompt. On sentences of six words or fewer, learners reproduced 78.8% of the sentence on average; at sixteen words or more, 50.0%. Pronunciation accuracy barely moved (84.8 to 84.5 of 100).
- 2 One sound stands out. /θ/, the "th" in "thin", scored lowest at 61.6 of 100, and 37.6% of its 17,575 measured occurrences fell below the 60-point line.
- 3 Small endings disappear. Word-final -s was missing on 11.4% of the 237,757 words that carry it, which turns "closes" into "close" and "weekends" into "weekend".

CLASSROOM DRILL

Where does my sentence break?

10 minutes, pairs

1. The teacher reads three sentences: one of about 6 words, one of about 10, one of about 14.
2. Student A repeats each one straight away; Student B listens only to the last three words and to every -s and -ed ending, and ticks what survived.
3. Swap roles. Each student notes the first length at which the ending was lost: that is the length to practise next, one chunk at a time.

READ THIS BEFORE YOU USE IT

152,218 scored sentence attempts from 23,390 LingoLeap practice sessions, January to September 2026. Sentence scores (0-5) are LingoLeap AI scores and pronunciation comes from automatic speech assessment; neither is an ETS score. An attempt is not a person, and the data is observational: it shows patterns, not their causes.

Source: lingoleap.ai/research/listen-and-repeat · Data: CC BY 4.0 (aggregate numbers only)

Cite: He, R. (2026, September 2). What 152,218 TOEFL Listen and Repeat attempts taught us (Version 1.0). LingoLeap.
<https://lingoleap.ai/research/listen-and-repeat>