

Assessing Speaking

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IELTS

- the world's most popular English language proficiency test for higher education;
- assesses all of English skills — reading, writing, listening and speaking;
- developed by some of the world's leading experts in language assessment, has an excellent international reputation.

IELTS

There are two versions of IELTS to choose from:

- IELTS Academic;
- IELTS General Training.

You should take **IELTS Academic** if you want to study at university at undergraduate or postgraduate level.

You should take **IELTS General Training** if you want to train or study at below degree level.

IELTS

- You cannot fail the test. IELTS is designed to assess English language skills at all levels.
- You will receive IELTS scores based on each for the four skills on a scale of 1 – 9, and you will also be awarded an overall band score.

IELTS band scores

IELTS	CEFR
9.0	
8.5	
8.0	C2
7.5	
7.0	C1
6.5	
6.0	
5.5	
5.0	B2
4.5	
4.0	B1

Speaking test

- a discussion with an examiner. It will be interactive and as close to a real-life situation as a test can get;
- the Speaking test is 11-14 minutes long and is in three parts;
- Part 1 - you will answer questions about yourself and your family;
- Part 2 – you will speak about a topic;
- Part 3 – you will have a longer discussion about the topic introduced in Part 2.

Speaking test part 1 (example): questions

- Part 1 of the test will last 4-5 minutes.

Let's talk about your home town or village:

- what kind of place is it?
- what's the most interesting part of your town/village?
- what kind of jobs do the people in your town/village do?
- would you say it's a good place to live? (why?)

Let's move on to talk about accommodation:

- tell me about the kind of accommodation you live in?
- how long have you lived there?
- what do you like about living there?
- what sort of accommodation would you most like to live in?

Speaking test part 2

- This section of the Speaking test gives the opportunity to speak for longer on a topic;
- You will be given one minute to prepare to talk about the topic on the task card;
- You will have to talk for 1-2 minutes, and then the examiner will ask you one or two questions on the same topic.
- Part 2 takes 3-4 minutes in total.

Speaking test part 2 (example):

Describe something you own which is very important to you. You should say:

- where you got it from;
- how long you have had it;
- what you use it for;
- explain why it is important to you.

You will have to talk about the topic for 1 to 2 minutes.

You have one minute to think about what you're going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

Speaking test part 3

- This part of the test is designed to give you the opportunity to talk about more abstract issues and ideas.
- It is a two-way discussion with the examiner, and will last 4-5 minutes.

Example: Let's consider first of all how people's values have changed.

- What kind of things give status to people in your country?
- Have things changed since your parents' time?

TOEFL

- measures your ability to use and understand English at the university level;
- evaluates how well you combine your reading, listening, speaking and writing skills to perform academic tasks.

Scores

Are based on performance on the questions in the test. You must answer at least 1 question each in the Reading and Listening sections, write at least 1 essay, and complete at least 1 Speaking task to receive an official score. For the TOEFL you will receive 4 scaled section scores and a total score.

Speaking

- Each of 6 tasks is rated from 0 to 4. The sum is converted to a scaled score of 0 to 30;
- ETS-certified test scorers rate responses and evaluate how well you develop your topic and deliver your message in English.

Speaking. Directions:

- In questions 1 and 2, your response will be scored on your ability to speak clearly and coherently about familiar topics;
- In questions 3 and 4, you would first read a short text and then listen to a talk on the same topic;
- In questions 5 and 6, you would listen to part of a conversation or lecture. Then, you would be asked a question about what you have heard.

Questions 1 and 2 (examples):

1. Talk about a pleasant and memorable event that happened while you were in school. Explain why this event brings back fond memories.

- Preparation Time: 15 seconds.
- Response Time: 45 seconds.

2. Some people think it is more fun to spend time with friends in restaurants or cafés. Others think it is more fun to spend time with friends at home. Which do you think is better? Explain why.

- Preparation Time: 15 seconds.
- Response Time: 45 seconds.

Questions 3 and 4 (examples):

3. Read the text and the conversation that follows it. Then, answer the question.

- Preparation Time: 30 seconds.
- Response Time: 60 seconds.

4. Read a passage from a psychology textbook and the lecture that follows it. Then answer the question.

- Preparation Time: 30 seconds.
- Response Time: 60 seconds.

Questions 5 and 6 (examples):

5. Listen to the conversation between two students and then answer the question.

- Preparation Time: 20 seconds.
- Response Time: 60 seconds.

6. Listen to the part of a lecture in a biology course and then answer the question.

Question: Using points and examples from the talk, describe the two different definitions of tools given by the professor.

- Preparation Time: 20 seconds.
- Response Time: 60 seconds.

Pay attention to:

- Language Use;
- Topic Development: Details and Logic;
- Delivery – Pronunciation, Intonation, and Fluency;
- Transition statements.

CPE Speaking Test

- **Duration:** 19 minutes (28 minutes for groups of three at centres where there's an odd number of candidates).
- **Participants:** Candidates are interviewed in pairs. There are two examiners present: one who asks the questions, the other acts as assessor and doesn't speak during the interview.
- **Format:** The oral test consists of three parts.

Part 1 (Interview):

- use of language for social purposes, such as in making introductions, answering questions, giving an opinion.

Example Questions:

- Q: Which place would you recommend a visitor to your country see?
Q: How important is it to speak English in your country?
Q: Do you think young people spend their leisure time usefully?

Part 2 (Collaborative Task):

- use of language to discuss and interpret, to agree, disagree or agree to disagree, negotiate and collaborate, to rank or classify, speculate, evaluate, make decisions etc;
- students should speak about the pictures and discuss them together.

Part 3 (Discussion):

- **Tests ability to:** speak at length coherently, use language to develop a topic, describe, compare and contrast, hypothesise and comment.
- Candidate A is passed a card and has to speak about the topic without interruption, either from the examiner or their partner. When Candidate A has finished the examiner asks Candidate B a brief question about the topic. The roles are then reversed.

Thank you for your attention!