

Speaking Band Descriptors

Score band	Fluency and coherence	Lexical resource	Grammatical range and accuracy	Pronunciation
9	<p>Fluent with only very occasional repetition or self-correction.</p> <p>Any hesitation that occurs is used only to prepare the content of the next utterance and not to find words or grammar.</p> <p>Speech is situationally appropriate and cohesive features are fully acceptable.</p> <p>Topic development is fully coherent and appropriately extended.</p>	<p>Total flexibility and precise use in all contexts.</p> <p>Sustained use of accurate and idiomatic language.</p>	<p>Structures are precise and accurate at all times, apart from 'mistakes' characteristic of native speaker speech.</p>	<p>Uses a full range of phonological features to convey precise and/or subtle meaning.</p> <p>Flexible use of features of connected speech is sustained throughout.</p> <p>Can be effortlessly understood throughout.</p> <p>Accent has no effect on intelligibility.</p>
8	<p>Fluent with only very occasional repetition or self-correction.</p> <p>Hesitation may occasionally be used to find words or grammar, but most will be content related.</p> <p>Topic development is coherent, appropriate and relevant.</p>	<p>Wide resource, readily and flexibly used to discuss all topics and convey precise meaning.</p> <p>Skilful use of less common and idiomatic items despite occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation.</p> <p>Effective use of paraphrase as required.</p>	<p>Wide range of structures, flexibly used.</p> <p>The majority of sentences are error free.</p> <p>Occasional inappropriacies and non-systematic errors occur.</p> <p>A few basic errors may persist.</p>	<p>Uses a wide range of phonological features to convey precise and/or subtle meaning.</p> <p>Can sustain appropriate rhythm.</p> <p>Flexible use of stress and intonation across long utterances, despite occasional lapses.</p> <p>Can be easily understood throughout.</p> <p>Accent has minimal effect on intelligibility.</p>

7	<p>Able to keep going and readily produce long turns without noticeable effort. Some hesitation, repetition and/or self-correction may occur, often mid-sentence and indicate problems with accessing appropriate language.</p> <p>However, these will not affect coherence.</p> <p>Flexible use of spoken discourse markers, connectives and cohesive features.</p>	<p>Resource flexibly used to discuss a variety of topics.</p> <p>Some ability to use less common and idiomatic items and an awareness of style and collocation is evident though inappropriacies occur.</p> <p>Effective use of paraphrase as required.</p>	<p>A range of structures flexibly used.</p> <p>Error-free sentences are frequent.</p> <p>Both simple and complex sentences are used effectively despite some errors.</p> <p>A few basic errors persist.</p>	<p>Displays all the positive features of band 6, and some, but not all, of the positive features of band 8.</p>
6	<p>Able to keep going and demonstrates a willingness to produce long turns.</p> <p>Coherence may be lost at times as a result of hesitation, repetition and/or self-correction.</p> <p>Uses a range of spoken discourse markers, connectives and cohesive features though not always appropriately.</p>	<p>Resource sufficient to discuss topics at length.</p> <p>Vocabulary use may be inappropriate but meaning is clear.</p> <p>Generally able to paraphrase successfully.</p>	<p>Produces a mix of short and complex sentence forms and a variety of structures with limited flexibility.</p> <p>Though errors frequently occur in complex structures, these rarely impede communication.</p>	<p>Uses a range of phonological features, but control is variable.</p> <p>Chunking is generally appropriate, but rhythm may be affected by a lack of stress-timing and/or a rapid speech rate.</p> <p>Some effective use of intonation and stress, but this is not sustained.</p> <p>Individual words or phonemes may be mispronounced but this causes only occasional lack of clarity.</p> <p>Can generally be understood throughout without much effort.</p>
5	<p>Usually able to keep going, but relies on repetition and self-correction to do so and/or on slow speech.</p>	<p>Resource sufficient to discuss familiar and unfamiliar</p>	<p>Basic sentence forms are fairly well controlled for accuracy.</p>	<p>Displays all the positive features of band 4, and some, but not all, of the positive features of band 6.</p>

	<p>Hesitations are often associated with mid-sentence searches for fairly basic lexis and grammar.</p> <p>Overuse of certain discourse markers, connectives and other cohesive features.</p> <p>More complex speech usually causes disfluency but simpler language may be produced fluently.</p>	<p>topics but there is limited flexibility.</p> <p>Attempts paraphrase but not always with success.</p>	<p>Complex structures are attempted but these are limited in range, nearly always contain errors and may lead to the need for reformulation.</p>	
4	<p>Unable to keep going without noticeable pauses.</p> <p>Speech may be slow with frequent repetition.</p> <p>Often self-corrects. Can link simple sentences but often with repetitious use of connectives.</p> <p>Some breakdowns in coherence.</p>	<p>Resource sufficient for familiar topics but only basic meaning can be conveyed on unfamiliar topics.</p> <p>Frequent inappropriacies and errors in word choice.</p> <p>Rarely attempts paraphrase.</p>	<p>Can produce basic sentence forms and some short utterances are error-free.</p> <p>Subordinate clauses are rare and, overall, turns are short, structures are repetitive and errors are frequent.</p>	<p>Uses some acceptable phonological features, but the range is limited.</p> <p>Produces some acceptable chunking, but there are frequent lapses in overall rhythm.</p> <p>Attempts to use intonation and stress, but control is limited. Individual words or phonemes are frequently mispronounced, causing lack of clarity.</p> <p>Understanding requires some effort and there may be patches of speech that cannot be understood.</p>
3	<p>Frequent, sometimes long, pauses occur while candidate searches for words.</p> <p>Limited ability to link simple sentences and go beyond simple responses to questions.</p>	<p>Resource limited to simple vocabulary used primarily to convey personal information.</p> <p>Vocabulary inadequate for unfamiliar topics.</p>	<p>Basic sentence forms are attempted but grammatical errors are numerous except in apparently</p>	<p>Displays some features of band 2, and some, but not all, of the positive features of band 4.</p>

	Frequently unable to convey basic message.		memorised utterances.	
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