

ECCE SPEAKING SCORE LEVELS

In the speaking section of the ECCE, you will meet individually with a speaking examiner at the local test center. The center may schedule the speaking test before or after you sit for the other sections of the ECCE.

The speaking test consists of four stages:

Stage 1: You answer general personal questions.

Stage 2: You are presented with a prompt that includes short text and pictures about a problem or situation. You ask the speaking examiner questions in order to get information to make a decision.

Stage 3: You present a solution or opinion about the problem or situation that has been discussed in Stage 2 with an explanation about why that solution or opinion is best. Examiners will also ask why the other solution or option was not chosen.

Stage 4: You answer further questions that are related to the topic introduced by the prompt.

The speaking test is scored by the speaking examiner who administered the speaking test. You are rated only on stages 2, 3, and 4 of the speaking test.

A passing score on the test is a rating of C or higher on an A to E scale. The chart below summarizes examinee performance at each of the five ECCE speaking score levels.

ECCE Speaking Score Levels	
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicates ideas and viewpoint comprehensibly and is able to include details (including complex ones) to support those ideas. Is an independent speaker in interactions, not relying on the other person to clarify or support him/her; can understand speech at a normal pace. Is a highly interactive participant who may still have minor errors in grammar, but these do not interfere with effective communication; has enough vocabulary to convey ideas even though there may still be some imprecision in the way the words are used; expresses ideas smoothly. Speaks at a reasonable rate; pronunciation rarely creates misunderstandings.
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicates ideas and viewpoint comprehensibly and includes supporting details for ideas. Is an independent speaker in interactions who usually does not need clarification or support; can understand speech at a normal pace. Is an active participant who has errors in grammar or misuse of vocabulary, and while these create awkwardness, they often don't lead to misunderstandings. Speaks at a reasonable rate; usually pronunciation does not create misunderstandings.
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicates ideas and viewpoint comprehensibly, though may struggle a bit to communicate these ideas, and the ideas shared may not have many supporting details. Is an independent speaker in interactions, though the other person may occasionally have to summarize or clarify ideas that are expressed at length; is able to understand speech at a normal pace but may need to clarify the details of ideas shared. Is an active participant who remains generally comprehensible, in spite of errors in grammar and vocabulary and awkwardness of expression. Speaks at a reasonable rate; usually pronunciation does not create misunderstandings.
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally communicates ideas, but details are difficult to express clearly. Is often not independent in an interaction and relies on the other person for interpretation, restatement of ideas, and clarification; may have difficulty at times understanding speech. Is a somewhat interactive participant who is able to use basic grammar and vocabulary to communicate. Sometimes speaks at a reasonable rate, but sometimes speaks much more slowly; pronunciation may need to be clarified.
E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicating ideas can take time; often has difficulty in expressing his/her ideas. Is rarely independent in an interaction, relying on the other person to provide clarification and support; has difficulty understanding speech even when it is slowed or simplified. Is not an interactive participant and has such a high number of errors in grammar and vocabulary that s/he is difficult to understand. Speaks slowly and pronunciation can interfere in being understood.