

Overall Spoken English Descriptors

Excellent Speaker	
4	The test taker is a highly fluent user of the language, is a very involved participant in the interaction, and employs native-like prosody, with few hesitations in speech.
4-	The test taker takes a very interactive role in the construction of the interaction, and sustains topic development at length. Prosody is native-like though may be accented. Idiomatic, general, and specific vocabulary range is extensive. There is rarely a search for a word or an inappropriate use of a lexical item. The test taker employs complex grammatical structures, rarely making a mistake.
Good Speaker	
3+	The test taker is quite fluent and interactive but has gaps in linguistic range and control.
3	Overall, the test taker communicates well and is quite fluent. Accent does not usually cause intelligibility problems, though there may be several occurrences of deviations from conventional pronunciation. The test taker is usually quite active in the construction of the interaction and is able to elaborate on topics. Vocabulary range is good, but lexical fillers are often employed. There are some lexical mistakes and/or lack of grammatical accuracy, usually occurring during topic elaboration.
3-	
Marginal/Fair Speaker	
2+	Talk is quite slow and vocabulary is limited.
2	Overall, the pace of talk is slow with numerous hesitations, pauses, and false starts, but fluency may exist on limited topics. Although talk may be highly accented, affecting intelligibility, the test taker can usually convey communicative intent. However, the discourse flow is impeded by incomplete utterances. Also, the test taker does not always understand the examiner. Vocabulary knowledge is limited; there are usually many occurrences of misused lexical items. Basic grammatical mistakes occur.
2-	
Poor/Weak Speaker	
1+	Talk consists mainly of isolated phrases and formulaic expressions, and there are many communication breakdowns between the examiner and test taker.
1	The test taker's abilities are insufficient for the interaction. Some basic knowledge of English exists and some limited responses to questions are supplied. Utterances may not consist of syntactic units, and it is often difficult to understand the communicative intent of the test taker. The test taker also frequently does not understand the examiner. Accent may be strong, making some of the test taker's responses unintelligible. Vocabulary is extremely limited and sparse.

Salient Features

Speech	Fluency Intelligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rate of speech, pausing/hesitation, prosody (stress, rhythm, intonation) • accent, articulation, delivery
Interaction	Conversational Development Conversational Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interactional facility (responsiveness), topic development (elaboration) • mutual comprehension (test taker comprehensibility and examiner speech adjustment)
Language	Vocabulary Grammar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lexical range (general, specific, idiomatic), use of lexical fillers, utterance length, utterance complexity, syntactic control, morphology