

Analytic criteria – Speaking test

CEFR Levels	Below B1	B1	B2.1	B2.2	Above B2				
Fluency and coherence	Can make him/herself understood in short exchanges on familiar topics.	Can keep going and remain comprehensible.	Can produce stretches of language with a fairly even pace.	Can communicate spontaneously, with noticeable fluency and ease of expression.	Expresses him/herself fluently and spontaneously, almost effortlessly.				
	Pauses, false starts and noticeable hesitation are very evident.	Pauses for grammatical and lexical repair are evident, especially in longer stretches.	May hesitate to search for patterns and expressions, with a few noticeably long pauses.	May hesitate to search for patterns and expressions only in longer complex stretches of speech.	Only a conceptually difficult subject can hinder a natural, smooth flow of language.				
	Uses the most frequently occurring connectors to link simple sentences.	Links a series of shorter, discrete simple elements into a connected, linear sequence of points.	Uses a limited number of cohesive devices to link text into clear, coherent discourse. However, there might be some disconnected sentences in a long contribution.	Uses a variety of linking words efficiently to clearly mark the relationship between ideas.	Produces clear, smoothly flowing, well-structured speech showing controlled use of cohesive devices.				
Vocabulary range and control	Sufficient vocabulary for basic communicative needs and everyday transactions. Uses memorised phrases and formulaic expressions. Frequent misunderstanding in non-predictable situations.	Sufficient range of vocabulary on most topics pertinent to everyday life. Repetition is evident.	Sufficient range of vocabulary for matters connected to his/her field, and most general topics, with some confusion and incorrect usage. Some repetition.	Good range of vocabulary for matters connected to his/her field, and most general topics. Varies formulation to avoid frequent repetition.	Broad range of language on any topic. Command of idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms.				
	Control of a narrow repertoire of vocabulary only on concrete everyday needs.	Good control of elementary vocabulary. However, major errors still occur when expressing more complex thoughts or when dealing with unfamiliar topics and situations.	Good control of vocabulary. However, some major errors occur when expressing more complex thoughts.	Lexical accuracy is generally high, though some confusion; incorrect word choice does occur but without hindering communication.	Occasional minor slips, but no significant vocabulary errors.				
	Can use an inadequate word and use gesture to clarify what he/she wants to say.	Use of circumlocutions due to lexical limitations is apparent. Can <i>foreignise</i> an L1 word and ask for confirmation.	Use of circumlocutions to overcome lexical gaps. Can define the features of something concrete if he/she cannot recall the exact word.	Lexical gaps can cause imprecision and circumlocution without much sign of having to restrict what he/she wants to say.	Lexical gaps can be readily overcome with little sign of avoidance strategies.				
Grammatical range and accuracy	Sentence structures are simple and limited.	Sentence structure is generally simple, with little variety. Only occasional use of more complex sentence structure.	Uses some complex structures.	Uses a range of complex sentence structures.	Uses a very good variety of structures.				
	Uses some simple structures correctly but still systematically makes basic mistakes.	Generally good control of basic structures with noticeable L1 influence.	Relatively high degree of grammatical control.	Good grammatical control, with occasional slips or non-systematic errors. Can monitor him/herself if mistakes lead to misunderstanding.	High degree of grammatical accuracy. Errors are rare and difficult to spot.				
Pronunciation, Intonation, and Intelligibility	Pronunciation is generally clear enough to be understood, but it can sometimes impede communication or understanding of individual words or phrases.	Pronunciation is clearly intelligible, even if an L1 accent is sometimes evident. Occasional mispronunciations occur.	Pronunciation is generally clear and natural.	Pronunciation is clear and natural.	Pronunciation is clear and precise.				
	Stress and intonation based on L1 patterns.	Stress and intonation make speech sound relatively natural at sentence level.	Stress and intonation are fairly natural.	Stress and intonation used relatively successfully to emphasise meaning and attitude.	Stress and intonation used very successfully to emphasise meaning and attitude.				
	Frequent misunderstandings possible, but can eventually be understood with repetition or rephrasing.	Misunderstandings may require repetition or rephrasing, but candidate can generally be understood.	Occasional misunderstandings may require repetition or rephrasing, but candidate can be understood.						
Score	2	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5	5	5.5	6

The evaluation of the speaking test is based on four independent assessment criteria:

- Fluency and coherence
- Vocabulary range and control
- Grammatical range and accuracy
- Pronunciation, intonation and intelligibility

These criteria are equally weighted and were developed adapting the following descriptors from the scales and subscales of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR):

- Overall oral production, p. 58
- Overall spoken interaction, p. 74
- Conversation, p. 76
- Spoken fluency, p. 129
- Coherence and Cohesion, p. 125
- General Linguistic Range, p. 110
- Vocabulary Range, p. 112
- Vocabulary Control, p. 112
- Grammatical Accuracy, p. 114
- Phonological Control, p. 117