

IELTS

Speaking Band Descriptors

Please visit [IELTS.org](https://ielts.org) for updates



IELTS Speaking Band Descriptors

Scoring guidance for Academic and General Training tests

Band Score	Fluency and coherence	Lexical resource	Grammatical range and accuracy	Pronunciation
9	<p>Speaks fluently with only rare repetition or self-correction; any hesitation is content-related rather than to find words or grammar</p> <p>Speaks coherently with fully appropriate cohesive features</p> <p>Develops topics fully and appropriately</p>	<p>Uses vocabulary with full flexibility and precision in all topics</p> <p>Uses idiomatic language naturally and accurately</p>	<p>Uses a full range of structures naturally and appropriately</p> <p>Produces consistently accurate structures apart from 'slips' characteristic of native speaker speech</p>	<p>Uses a full range of pronunciation features with precision and subtlety</p> <p>Sustains flexible use of features throughout</p> <p>Is effortless to understand</p>
8	<p>Speaks fluently with only occasional repetition or self-correction; hesitation is usually content-related and only rarely to search for language</p> <p>Develops topics coherently and appropriately</p>	<p>Uses a wide vocabulary resource readily and flexibly to convey precise meaning</p> <p>Uses less common and idiomatic vocabulary skilfully, with occasional inaccuracies</p> <p>Uses paraphrase effectively as required</p>	<p>Uses a wide range of structures flexibly</p> <p>Produces a majority of error-free sentences with only very occasional inappropriacies or basic/non-systematic errors</p>	<p>Uses a wide range of pronunciation features</p> <p>Sustains flexible use of features, with only occasional lapses</p> <p>Is easy to understand throughout; L1 accent has minimal effect on intelligibility</p>
7	<p>Speaks at length without noticeable effort or loss of coherence</p> <p>May demonstrate language-related hesitation at times, or some repetition and/or self-correction</p> <p>Uses a range of connectives and discourse markers with some flexibility</p>	<p>Uses vocabulary resource flexibly to discuss a variety of topics</p> <p>Uses some less common and idiomatic vocabulary and shows some awareness of style and collocation, with some inappropriate choices</p> <p>Uses paraphrase effectively</p>	<p>Uses a range of complex structures with some flexibility</p> <p>Frequently produces error-free sentences, though some grammatical mistakes persist</p>	<p>Shows all the positive features of Band 6 and some, but not all, of the positive features of Band 8</p>
6	<p>Is willing to speak at length, though may lose coherence at times due to occasional repetition, self-correction or hesitation</p> <p>Uses a range of connectives and discourse markers but not always appropriately</p>	<p>Has a wide enough vocabulary to discuss topics at length and make meaning clear in spite of inappropriacies</p> <p>Generally paraphrases successfully</p>	<p>Uses a mix of simple and complex structures, but with limited flexibility</p> <p>May make frequent mistakes with complex structures, though these rarely cause comprehension problems</p>	<p>Uses a range of pronunciation features with mixed control</p> <p>Shows some effective use of features but this is not sustained</p> <p>Can generally be understood throughout, though mispronunciation of individual words or sounds reduces clarity at times</p>

IELTS Speaking Band Descriptors

Scoring guidance for Academic and General Training tests

Band Score	Fluency and coherence	Lexical resource	Grammatical range and accuracy	Pronunciation
5	<p>Usually maintains flow of speech but uses repetition, self correction and/or slow speech to keep going</p> <p>May over-use certain connectives and discourse markers</p> <p>Produces simple speech fluently, but more complex communication causes fluency problems</p>	<p>Manages to talk about familiar and unfamiliar topics but uses vocabulary with limited flexibility</p> <p>Attempts to use paraphrase but with mixed success</p>	<p>Produces basic sentence forms with reasonable accuracy</p> <p>Uses a limited range of more complex structures, but these usually contain errors and may cause some comprehension problems</p>	<p>Shows all the positive features of Band 4 and some, but not all, of the positive features of Band 6</p>
4	<p>Cannot respond without noticeable pauses and may speak slowly, with frequent repetition and self-correction</p> <p>Links basic sentences but with repetitious use of simple connectives and some breakdowns in coherence</p>	<p>Is able to talk about familiar topics but can only convey basic meaning on unfamiliar topics and makes frequent errors in word choice</p> <p>Rarely attempts paraphrase</p>	<p>Produces basic sentence forms and some correct simple sentences but subordinate structures are rare</p> <p>Errors are frequent and may lead to misunderstanding</p>	<p>Uses a limited range of pronunciation features</p> <p>Attempts to control features but lapses are frequent</p> <p>Mispronunciations are frequent and cause some difficulty for the listener</p>
3	<p>Speaks with long pauses</p> <p>Has limited ability to link simple sentences</p> <p>Gives only simple responses and is frequently unable to convey basic message</p>	<p>Uses simple vocabulary to convey personal information</p> <p>Has insufficient vocabulary for less familiar topics</p>	<p>Attempts basic sentence forms but with limited success, or relies on apparently memorised utterances</p> <p>Makes numerous errors except in memorised expressions</p>	<p>Shows some of the features of Band 2 and some, but not all, of the positive features of Band 4</p>
2	<p>Pauses lengthily before most words</p> <p>Little communication possible</p>	<p>Uses simple vocabulary to convey personal information</p> <p>Has insufficient vocabulary for less familiar topics</p>	<p>Attempts basic sentence forms but with limited success, or relies on apparently memorised utterances</p> <p>Makes numerous errors except in memorised expressions</p>	<p>Shows some of the features of Band 2 and some, but not all, of the positive features of Band 4</p>
1	<p>No communication possible</p> <p>No rateable language</p>			
0	<p>Does not attend</p>			