



## Cambridge English: Advanced Speaking How is my speaking assessed?

### The examiners

Examiners are experienced teachers who have successfully completed examiner training. They update their training every year, and are monitored regularly to make sure they are examining and assessing in the right way.

In the Speaking test there are two examiners: the interlocutor and the assessor. The interlocutor asks you questions and tells you what you have to do in each part of the test. The assessor doesn't speak but listens to what you say and thinks about what mark to award you for different areas of your performance.

### How the examiners assess speaking

Throughout the test you are assessed on your language skills, not on your personality, intelligence or knowledge of the world. The assessor awards marks for these areas of your performance:

- **Grammatical Resource.** This refers to the accurate use of a range of grammatical forms.
- **Lexical Resource.** This refers to the use of a range of appropriate vocabulary, to talk about a range of topics.
- **Discourse Management.** This refers to the extent, relevance and coherence of your contributions. You should be able to construct clear stretches of speech which are easy to follow. The length of your contributions should be appropriate to the task, and what you say should be related to the topic with clearly organised ideas.
- **Pronunciation.** This refers to the intelligibility of contributions at word and sentence levels. You should be able to produce utterances that can easily be understood, and which show control of intonation, stress and individual sounds to help convey meaning.
- **Interactive Communication.** This refers to the ability to use language to achieve meaningful communication. You should be able to initiate and respond appropriately according to the task and conversation, and also to use interactive strategies to maintain and develop the communication whilst negotiating towards an outcome.

The interlocutor thinks about one area of performance:

- **Global achievement.** This is a general view of how you speak. How well are you speaking about the topics you're given? Are your answers clear without too much hesitation? Are you able to use short and long answers to complete the different tasks? Are you using a range of language that is right for the level?

### Marks and results

The examiners give you marks between 0 and 5 for each of the areas listed above, and the marks of each examiner are then combined. The examiners give you marks for what you do over the whole Speaking test, not for each part of the test. They don't compare you with the other candidate. It is OK to make mistakes; you don't have to be perfect to get a good mark

The marks that the examiners give you for the Speaking test are added to your marks from the other parts of the exam (Reading, Writing, Use of English and Listening). You are given a final grade based on the total of these marks. Your Statement of Results does not say the marks the examiners gave you for Speaking, but it does show you if your speaking was Exceptional, Good, Borderline or Weak for *Cambridge English: Advanced*.

### Feedback from your teacher

Cambridge ESOL provides resources to help teachers prepare students for the Speaking test, and getting feedback on your speaking from a teacher is very valuable. However, teachers do not complete examiner training, so if your teacher gives you comments on your speaking (for example using Online Speaking Practice for *Cambridge English: Advanced*) this may be different from how your performance would be assessed by a trained examiner.