

Cambridge

English Skills Test

Schools

Speaking Assessment Criteria



CAMBRIDGE
English

CEFR	Pronunciation and Fluency	Language Resource	Discourse Management
C1	Pronunciation is intelligible; stress, rhythm, intonation and connected speech are used to express meaning well. Flow of speech is generally effortless with mostly natural hesitation and pauses.	Displays good control of complex language, including a range of vocabulary (e.g. attempts to use idiomatic expressions and collocations) and sophisticated syntactic structures. Lexical and/or grammatical errors, if present, are not intrusive.	Utterances form a clear and well-structured whole which contains a range of cohesive devices and organisational patterns. The relationship between ideas is clearly signalled.
B2	Pronunciation is generally intelligible but L1 features may occasionally interfere; stress, rhythm and intonation are used to express meaning adequately. Some hesitation may be present while searching for language.	Displays good control of simpler language and some control of complex language. Vocabulary range is sufficient to speak on general topics and functional areas (e.g. giving clear descriptions; expressing viewpoints) and with some complex sentence use. Lexical and/or grammatical errors are not intrusive and do not generally impede communication of ideas.	Utterances are linked into clear, coherent discourse. The relationship between ideas is generally clear but may require effort to identify in a longer contribution.
B1	Pronunciation can generally be understood but L1 features may cause strain; attempts to use stress, rhythm and intonation to express meaning are not always successful. Flow of speech is uneven, with some signs of false starts, self-correction, repetition and/or unnatural hesitation.	The range of grammar and vocabulary used is limited to more familiar topics and simpler sentence forms. Utterances using simple language are mostly accurate but inaccuracies and/or hesitations are noticeable when attempting to use more complex language. Lexical and/or grammatical errors may impede communication of ideas.	There is linking between simple elements into a connected sequence of points; however, ideas are not always clearly connected.
A2	Pronunciation of single words and phrases may be intelligible but L1 features may make understanding difficult; attempts to use stress, rhythm and intonation to express meaning are unsuccessful. Utterances are short, with frequent hesitations and pauses.	The range of language is insufficient. Some utterances (e.g. single words or short phrases) may be accurate but inaccuracies in grammar and vocabulary restrict communication of ideas.	There are signs of linking (e.g. but, and, because) but utterances are likely to be short and incomplete.
A1	Pronunciation of individual words may be intelligible but L1 features may cause excessive strain to a listener; little attempt is made to use aspects of stress, rhythm or intonation to express meaning. Utterances are limited to single words or phrases, with excessive hesitations and pauses making speech difficult to follow.	The range of language is very limited. Some accurate language (e.g. pre-packaged utterances) may occur but frequent inaccuracies mean the message is not communicated in these cases.	Utterances are limited to isolated words and pre-packaged phrases.



Flexible, reliable assessment for the decisions you need to make

Cambridge
English
Skills Test

Discover more:
cambridge.org/skillstest



Find out more at
cambridge.org/english

We believe that English can unlock a lifetime of experiences and, together with teachers and our partners, we help people to learn and confidently prove their skills to the world.

Where your world grows