

English Speaking Proficiency Descriptors

Level	Description
Very Advanced/Skilled	<p data-bbox="624 432 759 465">You can</p> <ul data-bbox="624 510 1385 1317" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="624 510 1385 633">◆ converse with ease and skill in extended discourses in a range of academic and non-academic settings<li data-bbox="624 678 1385 801">◆ use sentence structures and vocabulary with the range, skill and accuracy of native speakers<li data-bbox="624 846 1385 1014">◆ convey and reinforce meaning by using native-like intonation and stress, making spoken English expressive and easy to follow<li data-bbox="624 1059 1385 1182">◆ summarize, explain, and express a position, and convey concrete and abstract ideas using coherent, organized language<li data-bbox="624 1227 1385 1317">◆ communicate audibly, clearly and convincingly

Advanced

You can

- ◆ initiate, respond to and sustain extended discourses for specific purposes and audiences in conversations
- ◆ use idiomatic language and varied structures effectively
- ◆ communicate with fluency and clarity to deal with a wide variety of topics with very little difficulty
- ◆ convey and reinforce meaning by using appropriate intonation and stress, making your spoken English generally easy to follow and understand; rare minor errors do not impede communication
- ◆ speak effectively on a wide range of academic and non-academic issues, with extensive lexical resources and syntactic structures; there are some minor lapses, but these do not impede communication
- ◆ summarize, explain, and express a position, and convey concrete and abstract ideas using coherent, organized language; minor errors may occur but do not affect overall clarity

High Intermediate

You can

- ◆ speak actively and fluently without many hesitations in specified social and academic settings
- ◆ reinforce meaning by use of appropriate intonation and stress, making your spoken English relatively easy to follow and understand; though there are some errors, the meaning is usually clear
- ◆ speak sufficiently on a variety of academic and non-academic topics with a range of lexical resources and syntactic structures; there are some lapses, but these do not usually impede communication.
- ◆ summarize, explain, and express a position, and convey concrete and abstract ideas using generally coherent, organized language; some errors are noticeable but they do not interfere with overall clarity

Intermediate

You can

- ◆ express ideas of your own in a variety of social and academic contexts but with hesitations and noticeable errors
- ◆ convey and handle discourses on new topics but have difficulty with the use of more complex structures
- ◆ make yourself understood when discussing academic or less common issues. Some pauses occur when expressing more demanding ideas. Some lapses in pronunciation or intonation occasionally make the meaning difficult to understand
- ◆ produce answers on a variety of academic and non-academic topics using a range of lexical resources and some complex syntactic structures; occasional inaccuracies and imprecisions may make the meaning unclear.
- ◆ summarize, explain, and express a position with sufficient accuracy of expression, but certain ideas may not be adequately developed or explained; some errors may make ideas incomplete and therefore unclear at times

Low Intermediate

You can

- ◆ converse about some topics but cannot sustain verbal interactions; exhibit frequent hesitations and errors in pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary that may sometimes impede the expression of meaning
- ◆ use a limited range of vocabulary, phrases, or memorized statements and structures in English
- ◆ communicate and speak about general or familiar topics relying on slow speech or hesitation; longer pauses occur when discussing academic or uncommon topics, and the pronunciation may not be very clear
- ◆ produce short answers to general topics with a limited range of lexical resource, but ideas may not be clear at times; basic syntactic structures are used, and though more complex structures are attempted, these generally contain errors and lapses
- ◆ express some ideas but in an inaccurate or insufficient manner. There may be incoherence in longer stretches of speech, especially when discussing more complex topics

Basic

You can

- ◆ converse about simple topics but cannot sustain verbal interactions; exhibit quite frequent hesitations and errors in pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary that impede the expression of meaning
- ◆ use a very limited range of vocabulary, phrases, or memorized statements and structures in English
- ◆ communicate limited information about everyday or familiar topics in slow, intermittent speech with pauses and hesitation
- ◆ speech may not be understood at times due to mispronunciations
- ◆ produce short answers with a very limited range of grammatical resources; simple structures predominate
- ◆ express some limited ideas about everyday topics, but main points and specific information are inadequate or not presented

<p>Below Basic</p>	<p>You</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ have insufficient English for meaningful participation in spoken communication◆ can barely respond to simple questions and statements◆ show frequent errors and breakdowns in spoken communication◆ speak with very noticeable pauses; mispronunciations predominate and speech is mostly unintelligible◆ produce answers that are not connected; grammatical and lexical resources are very limited◆ attempt to express ideas that are off-topic or incomprehensible
<p>Unclassified</p>	<p>You have not attempted the task in any way, do not demonstrate proficiency at the Below Basic level, or have not attended the test.</p>