

660

TECS[®]

Test of English Communication Skills

Speaking section examiner

Training

2015 V 2.0

ILTO

International Language Testing Organization

The speaking section of the **TECS**

- ✓ Timing: 10 to 30 minutes.
- ✓ Progressive difficulty from A1 to C1 level according to the CEFR
- ✓ Skills assessed:
 - ❖ The ability to answer simple, everyday life questions related to the present.
 - ❖ The ability to speak comprehensively about different topics using appropriate language and express ideas coherently.
 - ❖ The ability to speculate about issues, using appropriate vocabulary .

- ✓ Assessment Criteria:
 - ❖ Pronunciation
 - ❖ Accuracy
 - ❖ Language structure
 - ❖ Use of vocabulary resources
 - ❖ Fluency
 - ❖ Cohesion
 - ❖ Coherence

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Pronunciation:

- ✓ Listen for clearly articulated words.
- ✓ Appropriate pronunciations of unusual spelling words.
- ✓ Contractions in suitable places.
- ✓ Listen for intonation.
- ✓ Are test takers using the correct inflection for the types of sentences they are saying?
- ✓ Listen for these pronunciation skills and determine into which level your test taker falls.

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Vocabulary :

- ✓ Vocabulary comprehension and vocabulary production are always two separate banks of words in the mind of a speaker.
- ✓ You should encourage the test taker to have a large production vocabulary and assess an even larger recognition vocabulary.
- ✓ Are they using vocabulary appropriate to the contexts in which they are speaking?
- ✓ Listen for the level of vocabulary the test takers are able to produce and then decide how well they are performing in this area..

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Language structure :

- ✓ Listen for the grammatical structures and tools you have taught them.
- ✓ Are they able to use multiple tenses?
- ✓ Is word order correct in the sentence?

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✓ **Communication :**

- ✓ Assessing communication means looking at the creative use of the language.
- ✓ Test takers do know to make their points understood.
- ✓ A test taker with a low level of vocabulary and grammar may have excellent communication skills if he or she is able to make you understand her/him.
- ✓ An advanced test taker who is tied to manufactured dialogues may not be able to be expressive with language and would therefore have low communication skills.

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RUBRICS

	Language	Fluency	Accuracy	Interaction	Coherence
Above average (50%)	Uses an adequate range of syntax and vocabulary. Produces some complex structures.	Keeps going comprehensibly usually without pausing for grammatical and lexical planning throughout.	Has a good control of basic vocabulary and syntax. Errors in complex structures do not impede communication.	Initiates, maintains, and closes face-to-face conversations. Contributes effectively to topic development on familiar topics and topics of personal interest.	Uses simple linking devices to link sentences successfully. Ideas in longer contributions may not always be connected successfully.
Average	Has enough language to get by, with sufficient vocabulary to express himself/ herself with some hesitations and circumlocutions on topics such as family, hobbies and interests, work, travel, and current events, but lexical limitations cause repetition and even difficulty with formulation at times.	Can keep going comprehensibly, even though pausing for grammatical and lexical planning and repair is very evident, especially in longer stretches of free production.	Uses reasonably accurately a repertoire of frequently used 'routines' and patterns associated with more predictable situations. Generally good control though with noticeable mother tongue influence. Errors occur, but it is clear what examinee is trying to express	Can initiate, maintain, and close simple face-to-face conversation on topics that are familiar or of personal interest. Can repeat back part of what someone has said to confirm mutual understanding. Can perform and respond to basic language functions, such as information exchange and requests and express opinions and attitudes in a simple way. Is aware of politeness conventions	Can link a series of shorter, discrete simple elements into a connected, linear sequence of points.
Below Average (50%)	Uses a very limited range of vocabulary and syntax. Uses the same language repeatedly.	Has trouble sustaining talk in both simple and longer stretches of free production. Communication breakdowns frequent throughout.	Makes very basic errors throughout, such errors impede communication. Frequent use of sentence fragments makes it difficult to follow speech.	May sustain minimum interaction by answering "yes" or "no" without elaborating.	Connection between sentences may impede communication

CEFR LEVELS DESCRIPTION

Level	Spoken Interaction	Spoken Production
A1	I can interact in a simple way provided the other person is prepared to repeat or rephrase things at a slower rate of speech and help me formulate what I'm trying to say. I can ask and answer simple questions in areas of immediate need or on very familiar topics.	I can use simple phrases and sentences to describe where I live and people I know.
A2	I can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar topics and activities. I can handle very short social exchanges, even though I can't usually understand enough to keep the conversation going myself.	I can use series of phrases and sentences to describe in simple terms my family and other people, living conditions, my educational background and my present or most recent job.
B1	I can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst traveling in an area where the language is spoken. I can enter unprepared into conversation on topics that are familiar, of personal interest or pertinent to everyday life (e.g. family, hobbies, work, travel and current events).	I can connect phrases in a simple way in order to describe experiences and events, my dreams, hopes and ambitions. I can briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans. I can narrate a story or relate the plot of a book or film and describe my reactions.
B2	I can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible. I can take an active part in a discussion in familiar contexts, accounting for and sustaining my views.	I can present clear, detailed descriptions on a wide range of subjects related to my field of interest. I can explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.
C1	I can express myself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. I can use language flexibly and effectively for social and relate my contribution skillfully to those of other speakers.	I can present clear, detailed descriptions of complex subjects integrating sub-themes, developing particular points and rounding off with an appropriate conclusion.

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Conclusions

- ✓ The speaking section is made of a total of 30 questions.
- ✓ These questions assess the speaking interaction and speaking production according to the CEFR - Common European Framework Languages.
- ✓ The speaking section may take 5 to 30 minutes according to the proficiency of the candidate.
- ✓ The proficiency level increases every 6 questions.
- ✓ Do not approve or correct the candidate's answer, simply click on percentage of proficiency according to the rubrics.
- ✓ Do not provide any feedback to the candidate.
- ✓ Read the questions loud and clearly.
- ✓ Encourage the candidate to answer the questions as completely as possible.
- ✓ Repeat each question only once, if requested word it differently but keeping the sense of the question.

Any question?

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Thank you!

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