

IIT Madras

BSc Degree

Copyright and terms of use

IIT Madras is the sole owner of the content available in this portal - onlinedegree.iitm.ac.in and the content is copyrighted to IIT Madras.

- Learners may download copyrighted material for their use for the purpose of the online program only.
- Except as otherwise expressly permitted under copyright law, no use other than for the purpose of the online program is permitted.
- No copying, redistribution, retransmission, publication or exploitation, commercial or otherwise of material will be permitted without the express permission of IIT Madras.
- Learner acknowledges that he/she does not acquire any ownership rights by downloading copyrighted material.
- Learners may not modify, publish, transmit, participate in the transfer or sale, create derivative works, or in any way exploit, any of the content, in whole or in part.

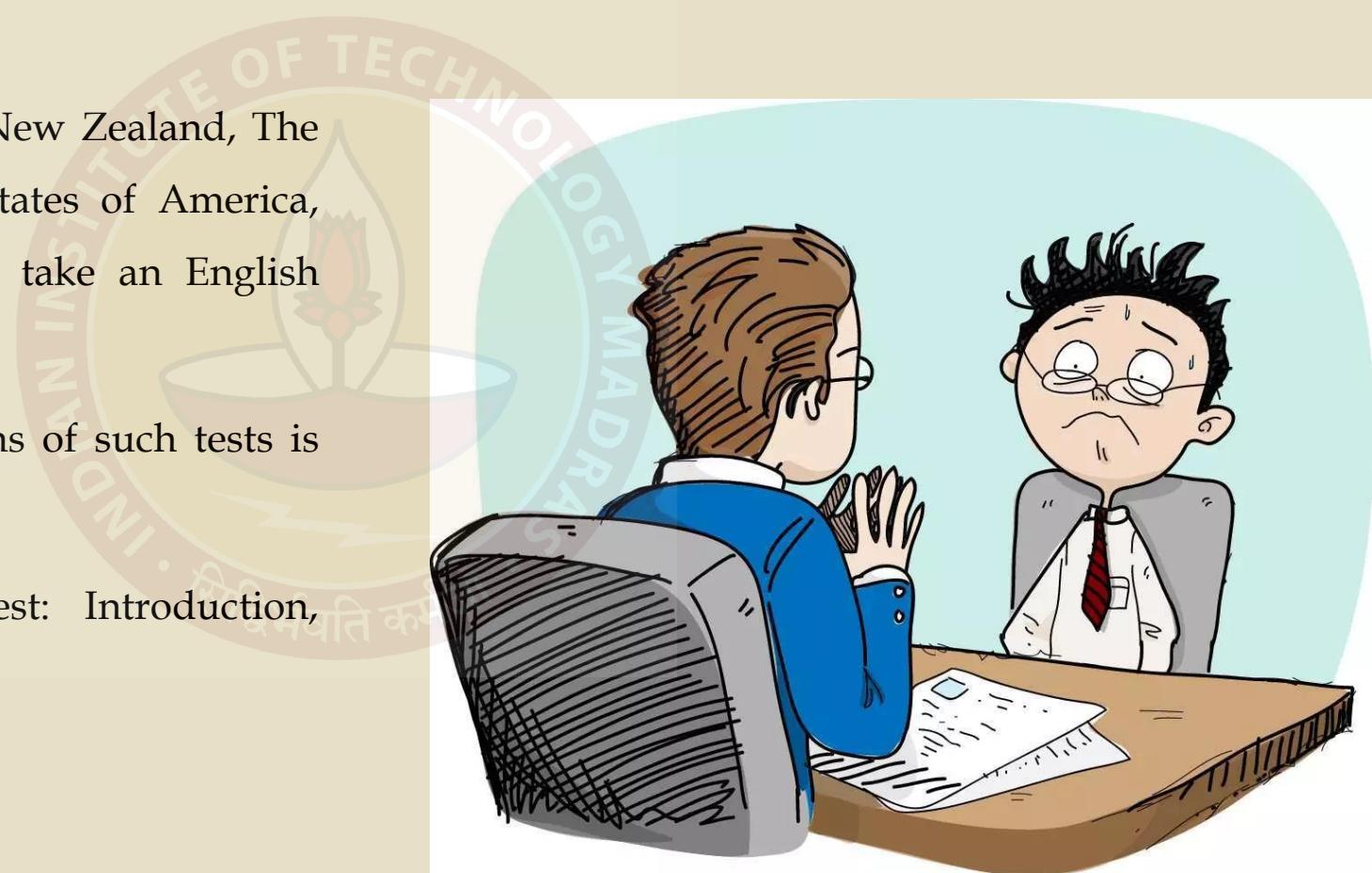


HOW TO ACE IN SPEAKING TESTS?

KARTHIKA SATHYANATHAN

SPEAKING TEST - THINGS TO KNOW

- To work or study in Australia, New Zealand, The United Kingdom, The United States of America, Ireland, and Canada, one must take an English language proficiency test.
- One of the most dreaded sections of such tests is the speaking test.
- Components of a speaking test: Introduction, General topic, and Conversation.



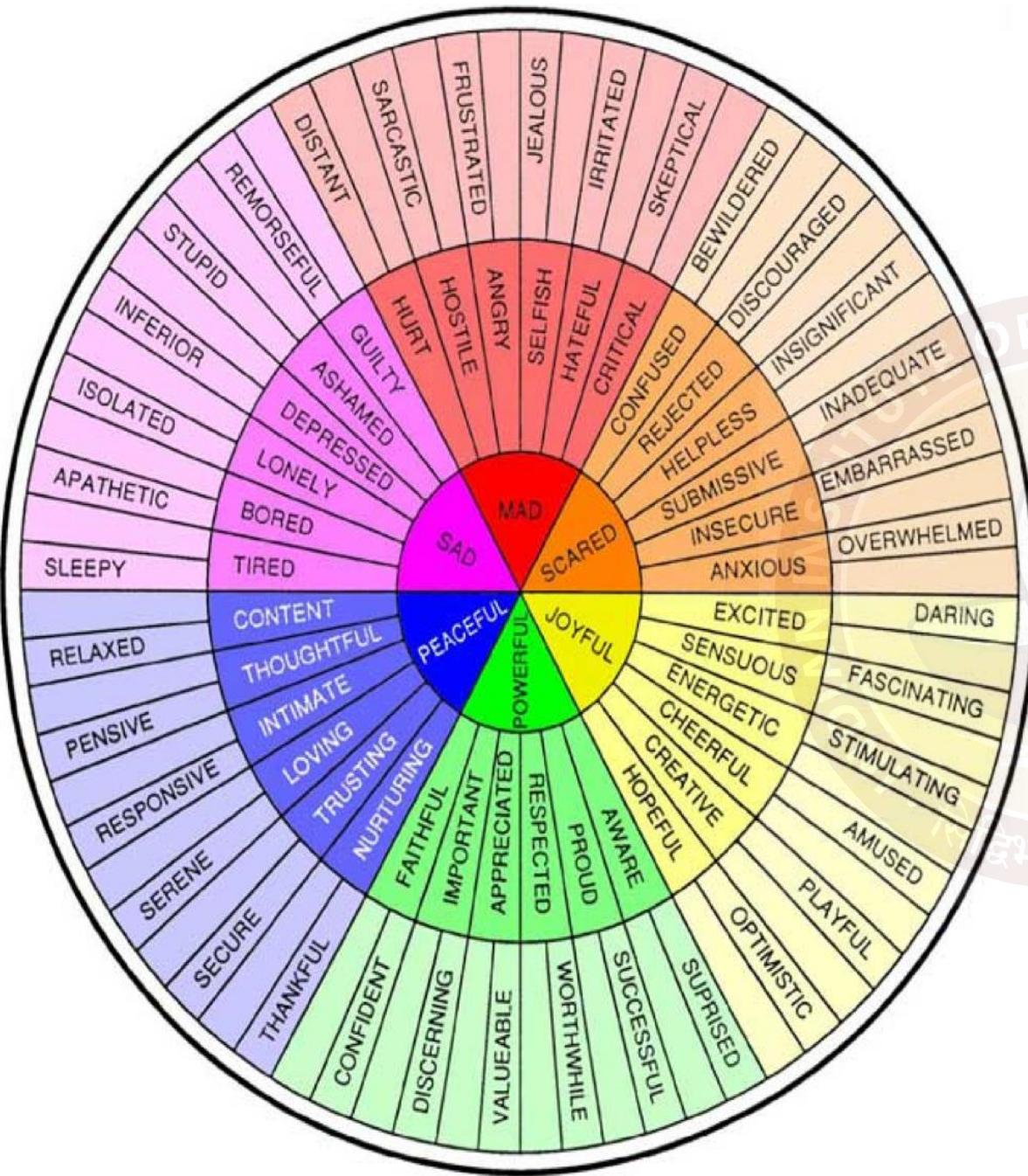
SPEAKING TEST – THINGS TO KNOW

- Part 1 - Introduction (4 to 5 minutes) – Questions on family, work interests, movies and music you like, hobbies, etc.
- Part 2 – General Topic (3 to 4 minutes) - Topic card and one minute for preparation. The topics don't test your knowledge of the topic or current affairs. Examples: Your last vacation with family, your favorite celebrity or sportsperson, your ideal life, etc.
- Part 3 – Conversation between you and the examiner (4 to 5 minutes) – Examiner will ask questions related to the topic.
- Total duration of the speaking test – 15 to 20 minutes.
- The four parameters –
 - a) Fluency (Your ability to form complete sentences)
 - b) Vocabulary (How vast is your vocabulary?)
 - c) Grammar (Are the sentences grammatically accurate?)
 - d) Pronunciation (Rhythm with correct pronunciation)

Please note that the Indian accent doesn't necessarily work against your favor.

HOW TO PREPARE BEFORE THE TEST?

- What to avoid in your speech?
 - a) Redundancy or repetition of words/ideas.
 - b) Use of cliched words (very, awesome)
 - c) Use of slang (chill, stud, dude, LoL)
 - d) Use of cuss words (shit, damn etc)
 - e) Memorise sentences
 - f) Local words/ regional language words (roti, biriyani, dahi)
- Know your speaking style (record yourself and analyse your speech).
- Develop your vocabulary: Use a dictionary and find out the synonyms of the words you commonly use. E.g. breath-taking, astonishing, impressive, etc instead of using the word awesome. (The more words you use, the better your band score will be)
- Learn to express your feelings better. (Instead of using the word happy, use a relevant emotion such as hopeful, optimistic, loving, powerful, joyous, etc.)



Feelings Chart

“Feeling” descriptions for the 4 main categories of emotional disturbance.

<u>ANGER</u>	<u>SADNESS</u>	<u>FEAR</u>	<u>SHAME</u>
Agitated	Distraught	Jittery	Disgust
Annoyed	empty	Afraid	Violated
Bitter	Heartsick	Anxious	Horrified
Confrontational	Heavy	Distracted	Used
Argumentative	Hopeless	Stunned	Ugly
Infuriated	Lost	Powerless	Terrible
Vindictive	Loveless	Trapped	Mixed up
Aggressive	Weak	Terrified	Confused
Annoyed	Crushed	Threatened	Embarrassed
Hostile	Defeated	Uncontrollable	Nasty
Furious	Depressed	Troubled	Worthless
Fed Up	Deprived	Checked out	Untouchable
Resentful	Devastated	Vulnerable	Betrayed
Steamed	Grief stricken	Worried	Unwanted
Jealous	Gloomy	Frantic	Trashed
Frustrated	Rejected	Gutless	Stupid
Spiteful	Hurt	Forced	Grave
Livid	Overwhelmed	Impulsive	Hopeless
Mad		Abandoned	

SUD Scale





- Do not memorise your answers (especially the introduction part). The examiner can easily identify it and give you zero or less marks if the answer looks prepared.
- Know the English equivalent of your local words. The examiner might not know them. Instead of saying I love roti, replace the word roti with wheat bread or flat bread. Another example: “I am from Chennai, a metro city in the southern part of India”. The examiner would comprehend better.
- Speak as much as you can in English. Talk to your friends in English or find a group where you can speak in English.

WHAT TO REMEMBER DURING THE TEST

- Avoid repetition . Eg: My city is awesome. The people are also awesome here. The food is again awesome. Instead use “ My city is magnificent. People are so warm and welcoming. The food here is delicious. These are simple words but they show variety.
- In part 2, when you are given a topic, and one minute to prepare, write down bullet points related to that topic during that one minute. For example : Topic: Your favourite sportsperson and why? Bullet points will give a nice structure to the talk. It also helps you act as a guide in case you go blank while you speak.
- Maintain a steady pace. Do not talk too fast or too slow. Because then we sound nervous, make mistakes or pronounce words incorrectly. You may slightly speed up or slow down in a few places especially if you are narrating/telling a story.
- Do not give one word answers. (I like badminton because ... give details: Why do you like it? Whom do you play with? How does it make you feel?). The examiner wants to know if you can speak in English fluently. So speak up.
- Realx: Don’t think of an examiner as an examiner. Think of them as your friend. Because then you will focus on the content and language instead of worrying about how they are going to judge you or what band score they will give.