

| Band | Fluency and coherence | Lexical resource | Grammatical range and accuracy | Pronunciation |
|------|---|--|---|---|
| 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • speaks fluently with only rare repetition or self-correction; any hesitation is content-related rather than to find words or grammar • speaks coherently with fully appropriate cohesive features • develops topics fully and appropriately | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses vocabulary with full flexibility and precision in all topics • uses idiomatic language naturally and accurately | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses a full range of structures naturally and appropriately • produces consistently accurate structures apart from 'slips' characteristic of native speaker speech | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses a full range of pronunciation features with precision and subtlety • sustains flexible use of features throughout • is effortless to understand |
| 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • speaks fluently with only occasional repetition or self-correction; hesitation is usually content-related and only rarely to search for language • develops topics coherently and appropriately | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses a wide vocabulary resource readily and flexibly to convey precise meaning • uses less common and idiomatic vocabulary skilfully, with occasional inaccuracies • uses paraphrase effectively as required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses a wide range of structures flexibly • produces a majority of error-free sentences with only very occasional inappropriacies or basic/non-systematic errors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses a wide range of pronunciation features • sustains flexible use of features, with only occasional lapses • is easy to understand throughout; L1 accent has minimal effect on intelligibility |
| 7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • speaks at length without noticeable effort or loss of coherence • may demonstrate language-related hesitation at times, or some repetition and/or self-correction • uses a range of connectives and discourse markers with some flexibility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses vocabulary resource flexibly to discuss a variety of topics • uses some less common and idiomatic vocabulary and shows some awareness of style and collocation, with some inappropriate choices • uses paraphrase effectively | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses a range of complex structures with some flexibility • frequently produces error-free sentences, though some grammatical mistakes persist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shows all the positive features of Band 6 and some, but not all, of the positive features of Band 8 |
| 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is willing to speak at length, though may lose coherence at times due to occasional repetition, self-correction or hesitation • uses a range of connectives and discourse markers but not always appropriately | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has a wide enough vocabulary to discuss topics at length and make meaning clear in spite of inappropriacies • generally paraphrases successfully | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses a mix of simple and complex structures, but with limited flexibility • may make frequent mistakes with complex structures, though these rarely cause comprehension problems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses a range of pronunciation features with mixed control • shows some effective use of features but this is not sustained • can generally be understood throughout, though mispronunciation of individual words or sounds reduces clarity at times |
| 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • usually maintains flow of speech but uses repetition, self-correction and/or slow speech to keep going • may over-use certain connectives and discourse markers • produces simple speech fluently, but more complex communication causes fluency problems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • manages to talk about familiar and unfamiliar topics but uses vocabulary with limited flexibility • attempts to use paraphrase but with mixed success | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • produces basic sentence forms with reasonable accuracy • uses a limited range of more complex structures, but these usually contain errors and may cause some comprehension problems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shows all the positive features of Band 4 and some, but not all, of the positive features of Band 6 |
| 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cannot respond without noticeable pauses and may speak slowly, with frequent repetition and self-correction • links basic sentences but with repetitious use of simple connectives and some breakdowns in coherence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is able to talk about familiar topics but can only convey basic meaning on unfamiliar topics and makes frequent errors in word choice • rarely attempts paraphrase | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • produces basic sentence forms and some correct simple sentences but subordinate structures are rare • errors are frequent and may lead to misunderstanding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses a limited range of pronunciation features • attempts to control features but lapses are frequent • mispronunciations are frequent and cause some difficulty for the listener |
| 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • speaks with long pauses • has limited ability to link simple sentences • gives only simple responses and is frequently unable to convey basic message | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses simple vocabulary to convey personal information • has insufficient vocabulary for less familiar topics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attempts basic sentence forms but with limited success, or relies on apparently memorised utterances • makes numerous errors except in memorised expressions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shows some of the features of Band 2 and some, but not all, of the positive features of Band 4 |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pauses lengthily before most words • little communication possible | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • only produces isolated words or memorised utterances | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cannot produce basic sentence forms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • speech is often unintelligible |
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no communication possible • no rateable language | | | |
| 0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not attend | | | |