From Harriet Bowden to Lourdes Ortega – questions related to scoring:

I've been enjoying using the EI task with my participants. I have a few questions that have arisen repeatedly in coding the task using your criteria, however, and I wondered if these came up for you also, and if so, if you remember and have time to let me know how you dealt with them:   
  
1. Beginning to respond before the tone -- do you “count off” for that?   
2. Self-corrections -- for example “Me gustaría que el precio de la ca...de las casas bajara.” Assuming the second is right, do you treat it as if the first part was never produced? In the case of an otherwise perfect repetition, would this reduce the score to 3? It seems like it might only matter in the case of distinguishing a 3 and a 4.   
3. Hesitations -- pauses in the sentence -- again, seems like it maybe only comes into play when the repetition is otherwise perfect. Did you count a sentence with a pause in it as non-perfect (3 rather than 4)?  
4. False starts -- for example “La cantidad de personas que fuman ha dis disminuido”.   
  
Responses from Lourdes regarding scoring:

1-We did not get any cases of folks responding before the ring tone, although we did get a few people who may have begin to respond latching against the ring tone for the first few sentences. We didn't penalize that behavior because it seemed to be more a matter of getting used to the ring, and it wasn't pervasive at all across items or individuals. In other words, after a few stimuli, those people who were “rushing” got into the habit of waiting for the ring tone.

2,3,4: Self-corrections, hesitations, and false starts didn't count against people in our scoring. If someone self-corrected or hesitated but managed to repeat the stimulus as provided, we gave them a 4. The same was true for the other scoring levels, it was all based on their best final performance on the stimulus. Our thinking was that memory is not perfect, but their grammatical knowledge to parse a given stimulus is in place if they can reconstruct meaning and or form or both, even with difficulty (which is traceable in self-corrections, hesitations, or false starts).