

Foundation English Test

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# Speaking Practice Test – Marking Scales

January 2024



# Speaking Practice Test

## Part One

**Areas assessed:** task fulfilment and communicative competence

<b>3: (above A1)</b>	Fully intelligible responses for all five questions. Test taker completely achieves the task.
<b>2: A1.2</b>	Three or four of the responses are intelligible. Errors impede understanding in one or two responses.
<b>1: A1.1</b>	One or two of the responses are intelligible. Errors impede understanding in two or three responses.
<b>0: A0</b>	No intelligible responses.

## Part Two

**Areas assessed:** task fulfilment / topic relevance, grammatical range & accuracy, vocabulary range & accuracy, pronunciation, fluency.

<b>5: B1 (or above)</b>	Likely to be above A2 level.
<b>4: A2.2</b>	<p>Responses to all three questions are on topic and show the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some simple grammatical structures used correctly but basic mistakes systematically occur.</li> <li>• Vocabulary is sufficient to respond to the questions, although inappropriate lexical choices are noticeable.</li> <li>• Mispronunciations are noticeable and frequently place a strain on the listener.</li> <li>• Frequent pausing, false starts and reformulations but meaning is still clear.</li> </ul>
<b>3: A2.1</b>	<p>Responses to two questions are on topic and show the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some simple grammatical structures used correctly but basic mistakes systematically occur.</li> <li>• Vocabulary is sufficient to respond to the questions, although inappropriate lexical choices are noticeable.</li> <li>• Mispronunciations are noticeable and frequently place a strain on the listener.</li> <li>• Frequent pausing, false starts and reformulations but meaning is still clear.</li> </ul>
<b>2: A1.2</b>	<p>Responses to at least two questions are on topic and show the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grammatical structure is limited to words and phrases. Errors in basic patterns and simple grammar structures impede understanding.</li> <li>• Vocabulary is limited to very basic words related to personal information.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pronunciation is mostly unintelligible except for isolated words.</li> <li>• Frequent pausing, false starts and reformulations impede understanding.</li> </ul>
<b>1: A1.1</b>	<p>Response to one question is on topic and shows the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grammatical structure is limited to words and phrases. Errors in basic patterns and simple grammar structures impede understanding.</li> <li>• Vocabulary is limited to very basic words related to personal information.</li> <li>• Pronunciation is mostly unintelligible except for isolated words.</li> <li>• Frequent pausing, false starts and reformulations impede understanding.</li> </ul>
<b>0: A0</b>	No meaningful language or all responses are completely off-topic (e.g. memorised script, guessing).

## Part Three

**Areas assessed:** task fulfilment / topic relevance, grammatical range & accuracy, vocabulary range & accuracy, pronunciation, fluency.

<b>5: B1 (or above)</b>	Likely to be above A2 level.
<b>4: A2.2</b>	<p>Responses to all three questions are on topic and show the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some simple grammatical structures used correctly but basic mistakes systematically occur.</li> <li>• Vocabulary is sufficient to respond to the questions, although inappropriate lexical choices are noticeable.</li> <li>• Mispronunciations are noticeable and frequently place a strain on the listener.</li> <li>• Frequent pausing, false starts and reformulations but meaning is still clear.</li> </ul>
<b>3: A2.1</b>	<p>Responses to two questions are on topic and show the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some simple grammatical structures used correctly but basic mistakes systematically occur.</li> <li>• Vocabulary is sufficient to respond to the questions, although inappropriate lexical choices are noticeable.</li> <li>• Mispronunciations are noticeable and frequently place a strain on the listener.</li> <li>• Frequent pausing, false starts and reformulations but meaning is still clear.</li> </ul>
<b>2: A1.2</b>	<p>Responses to at least two questions are on topic and show the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grammatical structure is limited to words and phrases. Errors in basic patterns and simple grammar structures impede understanding.</li> <li>• Vocabulary is limited to very basic words related to personal information.</li> <li>• Pronunciation is mostly unintelligible except for isolated words.</li> <li>• Frequent pausing, false starts and reformulations impede understanding.</li> </ul>
<b>1: A1.1</b>	Response to one question is on topic and shows the following features:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grammatical structure is limited to words and phrases. Errors in basic patterns and simple grammar structures impede understanding.</li> <li>Vocabulary is limited to very basic words related to personal information.</li> <li>Pronunciation is mostly unintelligible except for isolated words.</li> <li>Frequent pausing, false starts and reformulations impede understanding.</li> </ul>
<b>0: A0</b>	No meaningful language or all responses are completely off-topic (e.g. memorised script, guessing).

## Part Four

**Areas assessed:** task fulfilment / topic relevance, grammatical range & accuracy, vocabulary range & accuracy, pronunciation, fluency and cohesion.

<b>5: B2 (or above)</b>	Likely to be above B1 level.
<b>4: B1.2</b>	<p>Responses to all three questions are on topic and show the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.</li> <li>Sufficient range and control of vocabulary for the task. Errors occur when expressing complex thoughts.</li> <li>Pronunciation is intelligible but inappropriate mispronunciations put an occasional strain on the listener.</li> <li>Some pausing, false starts and reformulations.</li> <li>Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.</li> </ul>
<b>3: B1.1</b>	<p>Responses to two questions are on topic and show the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.</li> <li>Sufficient range and control of vocabulary for the task. Errors occur when expressing complex thoughts.</li> <li>Pronunciation is intelligible but inappropriate mispronunciations put an occasional strain on the listener.</li> <li>Some pausing, false starts and reformulations.</li> <li>Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.</li> </ul>
<b>2: A2.2</b>	<p>Responses to at least two questions are on topic and show the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses some simple grammatical structures correctly but systematically makes basic mistakes.</li> <li>Vocabulary will be limited to concrete topics and descriptions. Inappropriate lexical choices for the task are noticeable.</li> <li>Mispronunciations are noticeable and put a strain on the listener.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Noticeable pausing, false starts and reformulations.</li><li>• Cohesion between ideas is limited. Responses tend to be a list of points.</li></ul>
1: A2.1	<p>Response to one question is on topic and shows the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Uses some simple grammatical structures correctly but systematically makes basic mistakes.</li><li>• Vocabulary will be limited to concrete topics and descriptions. Inappropriate lexical choices for the task are noticeable.</li><li>• Mispronunciations are noticeable and put a strain on the listener.</li><li>• Noticeable pausing, false starts and reformulations.</li><li>• Cohesion between ideas is limited. Responses tend to be a list of points.</li></ul>
0	<p>Performance below A2, or no meaningful language or the responses are completely off-topic (e.g. memorised script, guessing).</p>