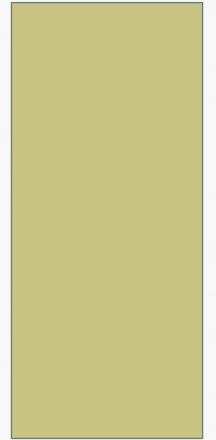


IELTS SPEAKING

GRADING TIPS AND INFORMATION



GRADE CRITERIA

Examiners look at five different things in order to determine a candidate's score:

1. Pronunciation
2. Grammar
3. Vocabulary
4. Fluency and Coherence

SCORING

If the average score is not a whole number or a 0.5 number, for example, 5.5, the examiner goes down to the next whole number or 0.5 number.

Example 1

Pronunciation	5
Grammar	4
Vocabulary	5
Fluency & Coherence	5

Average = $19/4 = 4.75$

= **Band 4.5**

Example 2

Pronunciation	6
Grammar	5
Vocabulary	6
Fluency & Coherence	5

Average = $22/4 = 5.5$

= **Band 5.5**

Example 3

Pronunciation	7
Grammar	7
Vocabulary	8
Fluency & Coherence	7

Average = $29/4 = 7.25$

= **Band 7.0**

PRONUNCIATION ADVICE

- Overall, clear and understandable pronunciation is the main thing.
- Secondly, the correct use of the following features will determine the pronunciation grade:
 1. basic word pronunciation;
 2. linked speech sounds;
 3. correct and appropriate sentence stress (i.e., which word or words in a sentence are stressed more than others); and,
 4. appropriate use of intonation (rising and falling) to emphasize

GRAMMAR ADVICE

- Grammar Advice
 - Basic grammar, especially the verb tenses. Know how to make the tenses and use them correctly.
 - Complex sentences: Don't just use simple sentences all the time. Instead, often use sentences composed of parts that are joined together with conjunctions and other linking words. (This is a "must" for a Band 6 or above in this sub-score.)
 - Complex structures: Show that you have some knowledge of higher level grammar.

VOCABULARY ADVICE

- Show a wide range of vocabulary.
- Use words suitably – don't try to impress with 'impressive' words you are not sure of.
- Make sure you correctly pronounce words – don't just learn the written form of new words.

FLUENCY ADVICE

- Speed – push yourself to speak a little faster but only if your pronunciation is good.
- Continuity – avoid unnaturally long pauses especially in Part 2.
- Smoothness – use linked pronunciation and use contractions.

COHERENCE ADVICE

- Expand your answers with a suitable amount of relevant extra information (detail).
- Use connectives to link sentences especially when expressing more complex ideas. (This is a "must" for a Band 6 or above in this sub-score.)
- Answer questions directly.
- Add extra relevant details in suitable amounts after *first* answering the key point of the question.
- Link your answers to the questions by using *the same* verb tense.
- Try to ensure that your answers to questions are suitable for the *real* meaning of the questions.
- Show knowledge of the 'short form' of answer for 'Yes/No' questions.