

Michigan English Language Assessment Battery

Speaking Test Rating Scale Reference Sheet

Rating

Overall Spoken English Descriptors

<p>4</p> <p>4-</p>	<p>EXCELLENT SPEAKER</p> <p>The examinee is a highly fluent user of the language, is a very involved participant in the interaction, and employs native-like prosody, with few hesitations in speech.</p> <p>The examinee takes a very interactive role in the construction of the interaction, and sustains topic development at length. Prosody is native-like though may be accented. Idiomatic, general, and specific vocabulary range is extensive. There is rarely a search for a word or an inappropriate use of a lexical item. The examinee employs complex grammatical structures, rarely making a mistake.</p>
<p>3+</p> <p>3</p> <p>3-</p>	<p>GOOD SPEAKER</p> <p>The examinee is quite fluent and interactive but has gaps in linguistic range and control.</p> <p>Overall, the examinee communicates well and is quite fluent. Accent does not usually cause intelligibility problems, though there may be several occurrences of deviations from conventional pronunciation. The examinee is usually quite active in the construction of the interaction and is able to elaborate on topics. Vocabulary range is good, but lexical fillers are often employed. There are some lexical mistakes and/or lack of grammatical accuracy, usually occurring during topic elaboration.</p>
<p>2+</p> <p>2</p> <p>2-</p>	<p>MARGINAL/FAIR SPEAKER</p> <p>Talk is quite slow and vocabulary is limited.</p> <p>Overall, the pace of talk is slow with numerous hesitations, pauses, and false starts, but fluency may exist on limited topics. Although talk may be highly accented, affecting intelligibility, the examinee can usually convey communicative intent. However, the discourse flow is impeded by incomplete utterances. Also, the examinee does not always understand the examiner. Vocabulary knowledge is limited; there are usually many occurrences of misused lexical items. Basic grammatical mistakes occur.</p>
<p>1+</p> <p>1</p>	<p>POOR/WEAK SPEAKER</p> <p>Talk consists mainly of isolated phrases and formulaic expressions, and there are many communication breakdowns between the examiner and examinee.</p> <p>The examinee's abilities are insufficient for the interaction. Some basic knowledge of English exists and some limited responses to questions are supplied. Utterances may not consist of syntactic units, and it is often difficult to understand the communicative intent of the examinee. The examinee also frequently does not understand the examiner. Accent may be strong, making some of the examinee's responses unintelligible. Vocabulary is extremely limited and sparse.</p>

Salient features are on the next page . . .

Salient Features

SPEECH	Fluency	rate of speech, pausing/hesitation, prosody (stress, rhythm, intonation)
	Intelligibility	accent, articulation, delivery
INTERACTION	Conversational Development	interactional facility (responsiveness), topic development (elaboration)
	Conversational Comprehension	mutual comprehension (examinee comprehensibility and examiner speech adjustment)
LANGUAGE	Vocabulary	lexical range (general, specific, idiomatic), use of lexical fillers
	Grammar	utterance length, utterance complexity, syntactic control, morphology

English Language Institute, Testing and Certification Division, University of Michigan

revised for MELAB, July 2001